



# St. George's University

## **SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Grenada, West Indies



# WHITE COAT CEREMONY



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Patrick F. Adams Hall  
True Blue Campus, Grenada

# PROGRAM

Grand Marshal ..... **David Marancik, DVM, PhD, CERTAQVET**  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies,  
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Master of Ceremonies ..... **Francesca Ivaldi, DVM '06, MS**  
Associate Professor, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Department,  
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Remarks..... **Glen Jacobs, DEd**  
Provost, St. George's University

Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker ..... **Neil C. Olson, DVM, PhD**  
Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,  
St. George's University

Keynote Speaker ..... **M. Daniel Givens, DVM, PhD, DACVM, DACT**  
Dean, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Virginia Tech

Announcer ..... **Tara Paterson, DVM, MSc**  
Associate Dean, 4th Year Clinical Training,  
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Individual Presentation of White Coats ..... **Dr. M. Daniel Givens,**  
**Dr. Francesca Ivaldi, Dr. Muhammad I. Bhaiyat,**  
**Dr. Rodolfo Bruhl Day, Dr. Narindra Roopnarine,**  
**Dr. Satesh Bidaisee, Dr. Nyoni Winchester,**  
**Dr. Lucian Thomas**

Professional Commitment..... **Christianne Shaw, DVM**  
Assistant Professor, Small Animal Clinic,  
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

M. DANIEL GIVENS, DVM, PhD, DACVM, DACT



Dr. M. Daniel Givens is dean of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. His nearly three-decade veterinary career spans both academia and clinical medicine as a livestock and small animal veterinary medicine practitioner in Campbellsville, KY. In his many roles, he aims to strengthen the college's One Health approach to solving complex health problems.

A diplomate of both the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists and the American College of Theriogenologists, Dr. Givens has conducted critical research on infectious diseases affecting cattle reproduction. This work resulted in the diagnosis of uniquely localized viral infections and assisted in the prevention of viral transmission.

Dr. Givens recently served on the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE) Strategic Planning Steering Committee and currently serves as an accreditation site visitor for the AVMA COE. He is also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

Before becoming the school's dean, his roles at Virginia Tech included faculty member, director of an agricultural experiment station, acting department head, and associate dean for academic affairs.

Dr. Givens completed his residency, a PhD in biomedical science, and his National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded postdoctoral research at Auburn University.

# MASTER OF CEREMONIES

FRANCESCA IVALDI, DVM '06, MS



Dr. Francesca Ivaldi has extensive ties to St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine. After earning her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from SGU in 2006, she joined SVM's faculty to teach the next generation of veterinary medical students.

As an associate professor in SVM's Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, Dr. Ivaldi teaches didactic and clinical courses. She has developed multiple simulated models and material to improve students' acquisition of small animal physical examination and clinical skills.

Dr. Ivaldi has been the coordinator of the surgery and dentistry services within SVM's Small Animal Clinic since 2012—having a strong interest in soft tissue and orthopedics in the respective fields.

Knowing what it is like to be a veterinary medical student at SGU, Dr. Ivaldi serves as a mentor to her students. She is faculty advisor to the student chapter of the SGU SVM Alumni Association and the student chapter of the Foundation for Veterinary Dentistry while also being closely involved with the Feral Cat Project and the Surgery Club.

Dr. Ivaldi is a member of the AOVet Foundation and the Foundation for Veterinary Dentistry and has obtained her Fear Free Certification. As an SVM alumna, she served on the board of the SGU SVM Alumni Association from 2010 to 2018 in the roles of president and vice president.

Dr. Ivaldi earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Michigan, and master's degree in basic medical science from Wayne State University.

# PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS

**K. Paige Carmichael**, DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP (August 2024)

Professor, Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Georgia

**Dean Hendrickson**, DVM, MS, DACVS (January 2024)

Professor, Equine Surgery, Department of Clinical Sciences,  
Colorado State University

**Lisa K. Nolan**, DVM, PhD, MS (September 2023)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

**Lori Teller**, DVM, DABVP (canine/feline), CVJ (January 2023)

President, American Veterinary Medical Association

**Ruby L. Perry**, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVR (August 2022)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University

**Calvin M. Johnson**, DVM, PhD, DACVP (August 2021 - March 2022)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University

**John A. Howe**, DVM, CertAqV (January 2021)

AVMA Past President

**Sarah Ballie**, BSc, BVSc, MSc (IT), PhD, PFHEA, MRCVS (February 2020)

Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Education, University of Bristol

**Willie M. Reed**, DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACPV (August 2019)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University

**Janet D. Donlin**, DVM (February 2019)

Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Veterinary  
Medical Association

**Andrew T. Maccabe**, DVM, MPH, JD (September 2018)

Chief Executive Officer, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

**Ronald K. Cott**, DVM (January 2018)

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, Advancement Consultant,  
College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri

**Kent Hoblet**, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVPM (September 2017)

Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State  
University

## PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

**Douglas A. Freeman**, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT (January 2017)  
Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

**Sheila W. Allen**, DVM, MS (August 2016)  
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

**Trevor Ames**, DVM, MS, DACVIM (January 2016)  
Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

**Clark Fobian**, DVM (August 2015)  
Owner/Veterinarian, Companion Animal Practice,  
Thompson Hills Animal Clinic  
Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association

**Donald F. Smith**, DVM, Diplomate ACVS (January 2015)  
Professor of Surgery, Austin O. Hooey Dean Emeritus  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University

**Raymond F. Sis**, BS, DVM, MS, PhD (August 2014)  
Dean Emeritus, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

**Theodore J. Cohn**, DVM (January 2014)  
President-Elect, American Veterinary Medical Association

**Lila T. Miller**, BS, DVM (August 2013)  
Vice President, Veterinary Outreach, American Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

**Rene A. Carlson**, DVM (January 2013)  
Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Jan K. Strother**, DVM (August 2012)  
Vice President, American Veterinary Association

**Tim Ogilvie**, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVIM (January 2012)  
Past Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

**Marguerite Pappaioanou**, DVM, MPVM, PhD, DACVPM (August 2011)  
Executive Director, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
(AAVMC)

**Gary Brown**, BS, DVM (January 2011)  
Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

## PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

**Bonnie Beaver**, BS, DVM, MS (August 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**James Cook**, DVM (January 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Alan M. Kelly**, BSc, BVSc, PhD (August 2009)

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean Emeritus and Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

**Gregory S. Hammer**, DVM (January 2009)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Charles M. Hendrix**, DVM, PhD (August 2008)

Professor, Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Larry R. Corry**, DVM (January 2008)

Chair, Executive Board, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Roger K. Mahr**, DVM (August 2007)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Ralph C. Richardson**, DVM (January 2007)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

**Sam H. Ridgway**, DVM, PhD (August 2005)

Professor, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of California

**Oscar J. Fletcher**, DVM, MS, PhD (February 2005)

Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University

**Samuel E. Strahm**, DVM (August 2004)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Richard M. Linnehan**, DVM (January 2004)

Astronaut, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Jack O. Walther**, DVM (August 2003)

President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**J. Stephen Ware**, BVM&S, MRCVS (January 2003)

President, Royal College Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITUS

G. RICHARD OLDS, MD, MACP

It is a great honor to be a part of this University and to welcome you as you take your first step in this noble journey. Today should have special meaning to both you and your families, in that it symbolizes your entry into the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians in training are afforded very special privileges. Taking on the mantle of doctors also carries great responsibilities. Although you may not in the beginning know a great deal about veterinary medicine, you will be expected to hold yourselves to the very highest standards of integrity, honesty, and compassion. Today is but the first step in what I hope is a great career.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CHARLES R. MODICA, JD, DCL (HONORARY)

I welcome all of you to St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine. You have chosen a great and noble career. As you receive these white coats, you pledge an oath of professionalism and service. Professionalism is a commitment to integrity, altruism, competence, and ethics in the service of others.

As you begin your studies for this challenging career, you must weigh opportunity against responsibility. St. George's University will equip you with all the right tools for the job, but how much you take away with you will depend on how you approach the experience and how much effort you invest in it. I wish you every success.



# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

NEIL C. OLSON, DVM, PHD

This White Coat Ceremony is a symbolic representation of your entry into the profession of veterinary medicine and a demonstration of your commitment to upholding the code of professional conduct expected of medical professionals.

It is my privilege to welcome you to St. George's University and your next step along the road to becoming a veterinarian. I request that you honor the sacred trust and privilege that society places in medical professionals, cognizant that the standard is an ideal we must continuously aim to achieve.

The experiences you will have at St. George's University will serve to enrich you personally and professionally. You have all worked diligently to become veterinary medical students, and I wish you every success as you strive to excel in your pursuit of the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary for your career.

## THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

More than 25 years since its inception at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1993, the White Coat Ceremony has become an important ritual symbolizing a student's induction into the veterinary profession. St. George's University embraced the White Coat Ceremony in 2001.

Affirming this oath of commitment to the veterinary medical profession at the beginning of their studies inducts our DVM students into the veterinary profession—and its highest ethical and professional standards—from the very beginning of their career.

The ceremony is significant not just to each incoming class, but for all who attend including: St. George's University faculty; its staff; students' families and friends; and the White Coat Ceremony keynote speakers who, twice a year, inspire first-term students with heartfelt words of wisdom and personal reflections. It is their spoken contributions that we treasure, and are honored to share with past, present, and future generations of St. George's University students.

# HONOR CODE

## ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

As a member of the student body of St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, an institution of higher learning dedicated to a high standard of ethics and academic achievement and recognizing that it is the duty of the University community to nurture responsible, competent, and safe professionals who exhibit maturity and sound moral character, I agree:

- To adhere to the University policy of maintaining a high standard of honor and academic integrity;
- To refrain from violation of these ideals by cheating, plagiarism, lying, and theft; and
- To accept the responsibility of reporting wrong doing upon witness.

It is understood that any breach of this code necessitates disciplinary action, subject to the discretion of University officials.

## PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

Being accepted into the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to further my knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will conduct my studies conscientiously, with dignity and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept my responsibility to assist my colleagues to achieve our mutual goals.

I acknowledge my obligation to adhere to the University's Honor Code and to conduct myself with integrity and in an ethical manner at all times.

It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to become a veterinarian. I will be ever conscious of that privilege and never abuse it.