



UC DAVIS

One Health Institute

Weill School of Veterinary Medicine

ANNUAL MEETING

May 1, 2026

PANELIST BIOS



Julie Cotton

Co-Manager of Operations, *California Raptor Center*

Julie was born and raised in Washington, D.C., where she spent her childhood enthralled by the urban wildlife that visited her family's yard. While attending Washington University in St. Louis, she began volunteering at Wild Bird Rehabilitation, a local songbird rehabilitation clinic, and she continued her field studies with an internship doing research in a gull colony. She joined the Animal Behavior Graduate Group at UC Davis in 2011 to pursue a graduate degree in animal behavior. Before she even moved to Davis, she knew she wanted to continue volunteering in wildlife rehabilitation, so she contacted Bret Stedman at the California Raptor Center and was lucky enough to begin volunteering in her first quarter of grad school. She earned her Master's Degree in 2014 (while still a CRC volunteer), worked for a year at the Lindsay Wildlife Experience in Walnut Creek as an educational interpreter, and began her official position at the CRC in the beginning of 2017.



Tierra Smiley Evans

Chief Scientific & Veterinary Officer, *Gorilla Doctors*

Tierra Smiley Evans, DVM, PhD, is adjunct faculty at the One Health Institute, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and assistant professor of Emerging Zoonoses at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health with a joint appointment in the department of Integrative Biology. She is an infectious disease epidemiologist and wildlife veterinarian who investigates how anthropogenic forest change and biodiversity loss alter the ecology and evolution of zoonotic viruses. Her research utilizes a transdisciplinary One Health approach to examine the mechanisms of human disease emergence at the forest edge, with a specific focus on how nonhuman primates facilitate spillover. She leads an international research program at UC Berkeley and serves as the Chief Veterinary and Scientific Officer for Gorilla Doctors, where she oversees the scientific strategy and veterinary care for endangered eastern gorillas in Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC.



Robert Figlock

Associate Director of Network Management, *Oiled Wildlife Care Network*

Robert "Bob" Figlock hails from Monterey, CA where he developed an early love and respect for the connection between animals, humans, and the environment. He holds a BA from our very own UC Davis and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Washington.

Bob served for seven years as Senior Manager of Volunteer Engagement at The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC), administering a network of 1,300 responders contributing over 150,000 annual service hours. There he focused on building standardized systems of training and personnel support to promote far-flung teams' sustainability, effectiveness, and accountability. Previous experience includes managing HR and technology systems for HandsOn Bay Area, a nonprofit promoting regional volunteering, and serving 3 years with the Peace Corps in Mongolia including leading a cohort of over 120 volunteers and managing public health and education programs across 21 provinces.

As the Associate Director of Network Management for the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, Bob now brings this experience to bolster the strategic readiness and resilience of our Member Organizations across California.



Joe Gaydos

Science Director, *SeaDoc Society*

Joe Gaydos is a respected and well-known wildlife veterinarian and the Science Director for the SeaDoc Society, a marine conservation program of the UC Davis Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center. He is a bestselling author, a popular and entertaining public speaker, and a sought-after expert voice on wildlife health issues who has advised policymakers from Washington State to Washington D.C.

As a world-traveling wildlife veterinarian, surgeon and research scientist, Joe has studied and cared for animals ranging from bush babies to killer whales. He's been charged by a silverback gorilla, clawed by a cheetah, and bitten by, well, practically everything. He's published more than 50 peer-reviewed science papers and co-written the Nautilus Gold Award-winning *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest* and *Explore the Salish Sea*. He also hosts the YouTube series *Salish Sea Wild*.

For the last two decades, Joe has been working on wildlife and ecosystem conservation in the Pacific Northwest. He's one of the world's few wildlife vets and an expert on diseases that impact both human and wild animal health in species including seabirds, harbor seals, river otters, porpoise, and killer whales.



Deborah Giles

Killer Whale Scientist, *SeaDoc Society*

It was on a road trip to the San Juan Islands from her hometown of Sacramento that she first met endangered Southern Resident killer whales face to face. Today, from an island in the heart of the Salish Sea, Giles carries out her critical research—monitoring the Southern Resident killer whales' health. Her nonprofit, Wild Orca, merged with SeaDoc Society in 2025.

After completing her undergraduate degree, she became a research assistant and began graduate study, specializing in conservation biology and whale behavior, focused primarily on the Southern Resident killer whales. Completing her degree in just 3 years, she pushed on with a Ph.D., all while working as a research scientist with NOAA, and the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington. Today, she is one of only a handful of scientists to have focused almost exclusively on this endangered population, making her a leading expert on these whales. She's an invaluable resource, acting in advisory positions for conservation groups in her island community, as well as state and local government.



Briana Hamamoto

Disaster Management Veterinarian, *California Veterinary Emergency Team*

Briana Hamamoto first joined the California Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) as an Operations Specialist and is currently the Large Animal Veterinarian. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine as well as her PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of California Davis in 2022. While in veterinary school Briana was heavily involved with the Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT) as well as the Northern California Association of Equine Practitioners Emergency Response Team. She gained valuable experience through her time with these organizations and responded to multiple major wildfires in Northern California. She also received training in technical animal rescue and became a trainer for local agencies. Following graduation from veterinary school she worked as an Associate Equine Practitioner in Auburn California. She is focused on enhancing veterinary preparedness as well as providing veterinary care to animals in times of disasters.



Jeannie Knuchell

Veterinarian, *Accessible Veterinary Care*

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Jonna Mazet

Founding Executive Director, *One Health Institute*

Jonna Mazet, DVM, MPVM, PhD, was the Vice Provost of Grand Challenges and the Chancellor's Leadership Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and Disease Ecology at the University of California, Davis, where she founded the One Health Institute. Professor Mazet was active in global health problem-solving, especially for emerging infectious disease and conservation challenges. She was the Global Director of the viral emergence early warning project, PREDICT, developed with the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Emerging Pandemic Threats Program. An elected member of the US National Academy of Medicine, she also serves on the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Forum on Microbial Threats, One Health Action Collaborative, and Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats.



Shannon Nodolf

Veterinarian, *Sacramento Zoo*

Shannon Nodolf received her bachelor of science, as well as DVM from UC Davis. Following graduation she completed a rotating small and companion exotic internship in Southern California, she then moved on to complete a clinical zoological medicine internship at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in Indiana. Following her internships Dr. Nodolf worked as the Associate Veterinarian for the Abilene Zoo in Texas, and in 2015 moved back to California to work at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo and eventually lead the healthcare team there as the Chief Veterinary Officer.

When the opportunity came up to move back home to join the UC Davis One Health Institute and provide clinical care to the Sacramento Zoo that she grew up with, and that helped shaped her mindset that a zoo veterinarian actually was a career, she knew it was time to come home. Shannon has enjoyed being part of the One Health Institute as the associate veterinarian for zoological medicine since the end of 2022.

Dr. Nodolf enjoys most all things outdoors, she has a bit of crazy horse person inside and dabbles in three day eventing, amateur apiaries, and always finding time to spend with family, furred and otherwise.



Maggie Rea

Director of Student Wellness & Resident Wellness, *UC Davis School of Medicine & UC Davis Health*

Margaret Rea, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist. For over 25 years, she has worked in various hospital and academic settings providing clinical services and conducting research on mental health treatment. Since joining UC Davis, she has become a leader in our community around the issue of well-being and has worked throughout the medical school and hospital providing various resources and interventions around maintaining personal well-being.

Dr. Rea has been responsible for providing the wellness services for the UCDMC residents and fellows which includes counseling, group facilitation and educational programming about physician well-being. Dr. Rea is also a member of our Academic and Staff Assistance Program which provides counseling, consultation and referral services to all UC Davis/UC Davis Health System faculty, staff and families and she serves on the UC Davis Medical Staff Well-Being Committee.



Claudia Sonder

President, *Napa Community Animal Response Team*

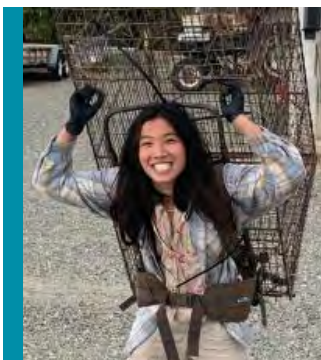
Claudia Sonder, DVM is a 1995 graduate of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. She served as the Director of the Center for Equine Health at UC Davis from 2012-2016, and worked to improve Disaster Preparedness for horse owners and veterinarians during her tenure, in collaboration with IAWTI and BARTA. Dr. Sonder is an owner at Napa Valley Equine and has practiced in the Napa Valley since 1997. She sits on several boards serving equine welfare, and has responded to multiple large scale disasters.



Fabiola Vidrio

West Co-Site Director, *Peregrine School*

Fabiola “Fabi” graduated from UC Davis in 2006, where her passion for working with children was born. She was one of Peregrine’s founding teachers, and has sixteen years experience working with young children; she truly enjoys their view of the world and feels we can learn much from their creativity, purity, and drive! Fabi has been with Peregrine since Day One and her continued dedication to young children at Peregrine School stems from her belief that every child is unique and can thrive through hands-on learning.



Lina Vu

Field Biologist, *California Carnivores Program*

Lina grew up in the city of Santa Ana in Orange County, less than 30 miles out from the Santa Ana mountains, but had no clue these mountains were so close and full of wildlife like mountain lions. She went to school at UC Santa Cruz to study Neuroscience only to end up exposed to nature and joining the Santa Cruz Puma Project. After graduation, she chose to travel and take seasonal field jobs like researching flat tailed horned lizards in Ocotillo Wells and studying the relationship between wildlife and cow grazing in eastern Oregon. Lina started working with Dr. Winston Vickers on mountain lions in the Santa Anas in 2021 and hopes to continue her career in southern California to protect her hometown lions for as long as possible.