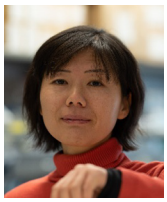
Session Speakers and Keynote Biographies

Alexandre Rodrigues Silva

Veterinarian with Master's and Doctorate in Veterinary Sciences; Full Professor at the Center for Agricultural Sciences of the Federal Rural University of Semi-Arid - UFERSA; Productivity Researcher 1B of the CNPq; Deputy Coordinator of the Veterinary Medicine Area at CAPES; Member-Director of the Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction (CBRA); Member of the Fiscal Council of the Brazilian Association of Animal Andrology (ABRAA); Member of the Advisory Board of the Brazilian Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (ABRAVAS); Vice-President of the Canine Council of the Brazilian Cynological Confederation (CBKC); Coordinator of the Laboratory of Animal Germplasm Conservation (LCGA-UFERSA), where he develops research focused on the Study of Reproductive Physiology and Biotechnologies Applied to Dogs and Wild Animals, specially technologies for gametes and gonadal tissue preservation.

Miki Ebisuya-Matsuda



Miki Ebisuya did her undergraduate and PhD research at Kyoto University, Japan. After getting her PhD in 2008, she became a group leader at Kyoto University in 2009. Her lab moved to RIKEN in 2013, to the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Barcelona in 2018, and finally to Physics of Life (PoL), Technical University Dresden (TU Dresden) in 2023. Her research group focuses on recapitulating developmental processes using the stem cell zoo, a collection of pluripotent stem cells from various mammalian species.

Dominik Fischer

Dominik graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany in 2009. Since then, he is the head veterinarian at the Bird of Prey Center and Wildlife Zoo Hellenthal. From 2009 to 2020 he worked at the Clinic for Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians and Fish of Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany. There he completed his doctoral thesis (Dr. med. vet.) and worked on various scientific projects about infectious diseases and assisted reproduction in birds and reptiles. He earned a German national veterinary specialist status in avian medicine, in reptilian medicine and in zoo & wildlife medicine by examination. Moreover, he successfully completed a 3-years residency training of the European College of Zoological Medicine and earned the EVBS® Specialist status as Diplomate of the ECZM in Wildlife Population Health by examination. In December 2020, Dominik started a position as curator for science and for birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish at Zoo Wuppertal.

Gabriel A. Bo

Professor, National University of Villa María, Argentina. President and Director of Research and Graduate Studies at the Animal Reproduction Institute of Córdoba (IRAC).

He served as President of the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS), the Argentine Embryo Technology Society (SATE), and the Argentine Chamber of Artificial Insemination and Reproductive Biotechnologies (CABIA).

He has published more than 150 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals and book chapters and has given lectures at conferences worldwide. He has received various awards and distinctions for his scientific career and is a Life Member of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS), Honorary Member of the American College of Theriogenologists and the National Academy of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine of Argentina.

He recently received the Simmet Prize, awarded by the International Congress of Animal Reproduction (ICAR) and considered the most prestigious award in the world for a researcher working in Animal Reproduction. Finally, he was considered by Stanford University to be among the 2% of scientists with the greatest international impact in veterinary medicine.

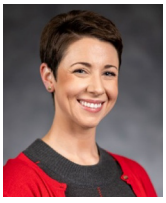
Roberto Sartori

Roberto Sartori received his Veterinary degree and Masters from School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science – São Paulo State University (1992 and 1997, respectively). His Ph.D. degree in Dairy Science was from University of Wisconsin-Madison (2002) in the area of Reproductive Physiology of Dairy Cattle. From 2004 to 2009, Roberto worked as a Researcher at Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology in Brazil. Currently, Dr. Sartori is an Associate Professor at the Department of Animal Science of the University of São Paulo (ESALQ/USP), Piracicaba, SP, Brazil. His main research interests are in physiology of reproduction in Bos taurus and Bos indicus, influence of nutrition on reproduction, reproductive biotechnologies, and reproductive efficiency in beef and dairy cattle. He has published more than 190 peer-reviewed papers with more than 6,600 citations and h-index 38.

Fabio Lima

Fabio Soares de Lima, DVM, MS, PhD, Diplomate ACT, is Associate Professor of Livestock Health and Theriogenology at the University of California, Davis. His research program integrates reproductive physiology, uterine health, microbiome–host interactions, and genetic strategies to optimize fertility and resilience in dairy cattle. With over 130 peer-reviewed publications, an h-index of 45, and leadership on >40 funded projects totaling nearly \$5 million, Dr. Lima has advanced global understanding of how heat stress and postpartum diseases compromise reproductive outcomes, and pioneered technologies—including estrous synchronization, embryo transfer applications, and genomic tools—to mitigate these effects. A recognized educator and mentor, he has trained graduate students and postdoctoral scholars worldwide while serving in leadership roles for the American Dairy Science Association, the Dairy Cattle Reproduction Council, and the American College of Theriogenology. Dr. Lima's keynote will highlight emerging insights and integrated strategies to enhance fertility, disease resistance, and sustainability in dairy herds under the challenges of a warming climate.

Rebecca Poole

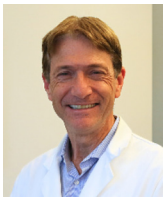


Rebecca "Becky" Poole is an Assistant Professor in Physiology of Reproduction in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. She received a B.S. in Animal Science from North Carolina State University (2014) before earning her M.S. in Animal and Poultry Sciences from Virginia Tech (2016) and Ph.D. in Animal Science from North Carolina State University (2019). She then was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University from 2019 to 2021. During this time, she was awarded a USDA-AFRI Postdoctoral Fellowship focusing on the relationship between hormonal and immunological changes and the microbiome of the reproductive tract in cattle. In 2021, she continued at Texas A&M University as an Assistant Professor and her research program focuses on the reproductive tract microbiome in domestic livestock (e.g., beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine) and the role of these microbial communities in modulating reproductive efficiency. Ultimately, results generated by her research program are advancing the field of reproductive physiology and creating opportunities for meaningful improvements in the fertility of humans and domestic animals.

Kun Zhang

Dr. Zhang Kun is professor of reproductive biology and Head of the Department of Animal Science and Technology and Deputy Director of the Institute of Animal Genetics and Breeding at Zhejiang University. Holding a Ph.D. from the University of Florida (2011) and with postdoctoral experience at UMass Amherst and Michigan State University, he leads research on molecular mechanisms of bovine embryonic development and breeding applications of embryo technology. The long-term research goal of Dr. Zhang's lab is to apply knowledge acquired in understanding physiological, genetic and epigenetic regulation of oogenesis and early embryogenesis to improve fertility in both dairy and beef cattle and increase the efficiency of assisted reproductive technologies in both agricultural animals and human. Dr. Zhang has secured over 10 major grants (including NSFC and National Key R&D projects) and published 30+ papers in leading journals (e.g., Cell Reports, Development). He serves on editorial boards (Animal Reproduction Science, Journal of Zhejiang University) and councils (Chinese Society of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine).

Paolo Rinaudo



Dr. Rinaudo, a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UCSF, specializes in infertility treatment. His research explores how in vitro fertilization (IVF) and embryo culture impact fetal and adult development. His lab developed a mouse model to study long-term health effects of IVF, including growth, blood pressure, glucose tolerance, and fat content. Another focus is on molecular mechanisms like ROS production, mitochondrial function, and epigenetic changes in cultured embryos. The goal is to optimize culture conditions, select the healthiest embryos, and improve outcomes.

Maria Teresa "Maite" Paramio Nieto

Maria Teresa (Maite) Paramio Nieto was born in Valladolid, Spain, and studied Veterinary Medicine at the University of León, graduating in 1979. She completed her Ph.D. at the Department of Animal Production at the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrarias (INIA) in Zaragoza.

She began her academic career at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Murcia, where she collaborated with researchers from both the CSIC and INIA. Since the late 1980s, she has been working at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), where she specialised in the field of in vitro embryo production. She has been a pioneer in this area since leading her first research project as Principal Investigator in 1989.

At UAB, she has held several academic leadership roles, including Head of the Department of Pathology and Animal Production, Delegate of the Rector for Continuing Education, and Deputy Vice-Rector for International Affairs.

Beyond academia, she has actively contributed to international development through her involvement with organizations such as "Veterinarios Sin Fronteras" and "Profesionales para la Cooperación". She also directed the Master's program in Animal Production at Universidad Agraria de Managua (UNAM), Nicaragua, supporting capacity-building in agricultural education in developing countries.

She has served as President of AMIT-Catalunya (Association of Women Scientists and Technologists) and currently holds the position of President of AMIT Spain.

In her personal life, she enjoys reading—particularly 19th-century European literature. She also enjoys walking, practising gym, dancing, and, above all, spending time with friends.

Sean Fair

Professor Fair completed his PhD at University College Dublin in 2006 and after two years at the University of Galway he joined the academic staff at the University of Limerick. He is now Professor of Animal Reproduction, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and Principal Investigator at the Bernal research institute. His research group uses state-of-the-art physiological and molecular approaches to study the complex and multidimensional etiology of subfertility in farm animals. One of the main themes of his work is how sperm interact with the female reproductive tract and its secretions using both in vivo and in vitro models.

David Miller

David Miller was raised on a dairy farm in Minnesota, working on his parents' farm and developing his own small herd of dairy cows. He received his B.S. in Animal Sciences and M.S. in Animal Physiology from the University of Minnesota. After teaching at California Polytechnic and State University in San Luis Obispo, he earned his Ph.D. in Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, advised by Roy Ax. He performed post-doctoral research in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department at the University of Texas-MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX under the tutelage of Barry Shur. He then took an Assistant Professor Position at the Unversity of Illinois in the Department of Animal Sciences. He has risen through the

ranks and is now Professor of Animal Sciences and is also appointed in the Institute for Genomic Biology. He has mentored 45 graduate students and published nearly 100 original research papers. His research has been funded by the USDA-NIFA, NIH, and NSF and he has served on many review panels. He has received several teaching and research awards including the American Society of Animal Science Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Research Award.

Eckhard Wolf

Eckhard Wolf is Head of the Institute for Molecular Animal Breeding and Biotechnology and of the Center for Innovative Medical Models (CiMM; www.lmu.de/cimm/), LMU Munich. His lab is specialized in the generation, characterization and implementation of genetically engineered pigs as disease models (diabetes mellitus, rare monogenic diseases) and as organ donors for xenotransplantation. He leads the large animal platform in the German Center for Diabetes Research and was Spokesperson of the DFG CRC-TR 127 "Biology of xenogeneic cell, tissue and organ transplantation – from bench to bedside". E.W. is Member of the German National Academy of Sciences – Leopoldina, Corresponding Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and Diplomate of the European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Pietro Baruselli

Pietro Baruselli is a Professor of Animal Reproduction at the University of São Paulo in Brazil. He holds an undergraduate degree in Veterinary Medicine (1985), a Master's degree (1992), and a PhD in Animal Reproduction (1997) from São Paulo University. He was president of the Brazilian Embryo Technology Society (SBTE/2012-2014), a member of the Executive Committee of the International Congress of Animal Reproduction (ICAR/2012-2022), and chair of the 45th Annual Conference of the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) in New Orleans, USA (2019). Professor Baruselli´s research and teaching focus on controlling follicular dynamics and ovulation for self-appointed artificial insemination and embryo transfer in cattle (Bos indicus and Bos taurus) and buffalo (Bubalus bubalis). He has authored over 300 scientific publications and presented more than 700 abstracts at scientific congresses on a wide range of topics, including the physiology of reproduction, ovulation synchronization, reproductive biotechnology, and reproductive management. He has supervised 70 completed Master's and PhD candidatures and has extensive international experience.

Milo Wiltbank

Dr. Milo Wiltbank joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1991 in the Department of Dairy Science and is currently Professor of Animal and Dairy Sciences and Endocrinology-Reproductive Physiology. He has done research in reproductive physiology throughout his career. He currently has >250 scientific, peer-reviewed manuscripts in a number of research areas including interactions of nutrition and reproduction, the physiological basis for anovular cows, and hormonal regulation of the ovary. From a practical standpoint, he is probably best known for the development, validation, and modification of timed AI protocols such as Ovsynch and Double-Ovsynch. From a basic perspective, he has provided substantial new insights into the mechanisms involved in the regression of the corpus luteum (CL) and mechanisms involved in the selection of a single dominant follicle in cattle.

Paul Fricke

Dr. Paul M. Fricke was raised on his family's row crop and dairy farm located near Papillion, Nebraska where his family continues to farm today. After receiving a B.S. degree in Animal Science in 1988 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Paul went on to complete an M.S. degree in 1992 and a Ph.D. degree in 1996 in Reproductive Physiology from the Department of Animal Sciences at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. In 1996, Paul accepted a position as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Dairy Science and the Department of Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Paul joined

the faculty in the Department of Dairy Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on July 1, 1998, and he was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2004 and to Full Professor in 2009. His current appointment is split between extension and research in dairy cattle reproduction.

Dr. Fricke's research program is focused on understanding the biology underlying the many reproductive problems presented by modern dairy cattle. Dr. Fricke has authored or co-authored 110 peer-reviewed journal publications, 145 abstracts, and 6 book chapters. He has mentored 16 M.S. and 7 Ph.D. students, and his research program has attracted $4.5 million in extramural research grants, contracts, and gifts. In 2014, Dr. Fricke was awarded a research sabbatical as a visiting scientist at the Teagasc Moorepark Animal & Grassland Research Innovation Centre in Fermoy, Co. Cork, Ireland.

The goal of Dr. Fricke's extension program is to improve reproductive efficiency of dairy cattle by applying knowledge gained through scientific research to develop practical management strategies and assess new reproductive technologies, and to disseminate that information throughout Wisconsin, the United States, and the world. Dr. Fricke is a sought-after speaker for dairy farmer, industry, and veterinary audiences. Since 1997, Paul has spoken to over 600 audiences in Wisconsin and has presented talks at conferences in 36 U.S. states and 6 Canadian provinces. In addition, Paul has been an invited speaker for international meetings in 28 foreign countries spanning 6 continents around the world.

Dr. Fricke is the recipient of several campus and national awards in recognition of his innovative applied dairy research and extension programs. In 2006, Dr. Fricke received the Midwest Section ASAS/ADSA Outstanding Young Extension Specialist Award and the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Pound Extension Award. In 2008, Paul received the De Laval Dairy Extension Award from the National American Dairy Science Association honoring the top dairy extension specialist in the United States. In 2010, Paul received the Wisconsin Association of County Agriculture Agents Second Mile Award in recognition of his work with county agricultural extension agents in Wisconsin. In 2011, Paul was inducted into the Papillion – La Vista Schools (Nebraska) Foundation Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2023, Paul received the UW-Extension Ag Institute Traveler award.

Paul lives in Waunakee, Wisconsin with his wife, Carol. They have three grown children.

Gina Della Togna

Dr. Gina Della Togna is a conservationist and researcher currently serving as the Executive Director of the Amphibian Survival Alliance and a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. She earned her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences, specializing in Molecular and Cell Biology, from the University of Maryland, USA. Her pioneering research focuses on amphibian reproductive biology and Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) of endangered amphibians. Dr. Della Togna co-chairs the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group ARTs and Biobanking Working Group and is a co-author of the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP). She actively participates in the IUCN SSC ASG Atelopus Task Force, and Co-chairs the Ex Situ Working Group of the Atelopus Survival Initiative (ASI). Dr. Della Togna serves on the Advisory Board of the Re:wild Fonseca Species Conservation Fund and is a member of the Executive Committee for the World Congress of Herpetology (2024-2032). Her dedicated efforts significantly contribute to global amphibian conservation.

Rogerio Zacariotti

Veterinarian with a solid academic background and over 25 years of experience in the management, reproduction, and conservation of wild animals such as the golden lancehead viper and other snakes, peccaries, giant anteater, white rhinoceros, black-faced lion tamarin, capybara, among others. Lecturer in Veterinary Medicine at the university level since 2003, and speaker at scientific events in Brazil, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, Italy, and Panama. Currently CEO of the scientific and environmental consulting firm Scientia Nature, where he coordinates and develops projects for the management and conservation of wild species. Academic background: - Master's and Doctorate degrees from the Department of Animal Reproduction at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science of USP (2002 - 2008); - Associate Researcher and Heller Foundation Fellow at the Reproductive Sciences Research Group of the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (USA) (2005 - 2006); - Postdoctoral fellowship

at the Laboratory of Ecology and Evolution of the Butantan Institute (2009 - 2010); - Postdoctoral fellowship at the Reproductive Sciences Research Group of the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (USA) (2012 and 2014).

Brad Lindsey

Brad Lindsey received a BS in ag economics (1982) and a MAgr in animal science (1984), both from Texas A&M University. He received his PhD in animal science (1998) from University of Nebraska, with a research focus on exogenous control of endogenous gonadotropin release affecting dominant, persistent and super-stimulated ovarian follicle development in cattle. Lindsey developed the first transvaginal probe for OPU in cattle in the United States, as well as the first commercial IVF service in the United States, for Granada Biosciences in 1990 to 1991. He then started IVF services for Trans Ova Genetics in 1992 and later for Sexing Technologies in 2004. Between 2000 and 2005, Lindsey worked for AB Technology (now ABT360), Minitube of America (MOFA), Genetic Resources Int'l (now, Sexing Technologies), Stroud Veterinary Embryo Services, and OvaGenix in various technical support roles, directing research, product development, providing and integrating complete panels of reproductive services, ART and IVF laboratory service platforms. In 2005, Lindsey started his own company, Ovitra Biotechnology, Inc. to provide ET services and technical support to cattle producers, biotech companies, and other ET firms. Ovitra offers commercial and contract ET services, embryo export, technical support, consulting and training to beef and dairy producers, collegiate high schools, research universities and veterinary practices. He continues to speak, collaborate and publish in various areas of reproductive research, such as folliculogenesis, embryo development, ET and IVF donor stimulation and recipient evaluation. Lindsey is an active member of the American Embryo Transfer Association (as a past member of the Board of Directors and serves on their certification and research committees) and the International Embryo Technology Society (HASAC manuals and certificates and forms subcommittees) and has served as LOC for the 30th IETS Meeting in Portland, Oregon, in 2004. He and his wife Mary live in Midway, Texas, and are active in their church and community. They have two grown children, Grace Richardson and Payton Lindsey, who are both married and are graduates of Stephen F. Austin State University

Brady Hicks

Bio Coming Soon!

Jon Schmidt

Dr. Jon Schmidt was raised on a grain, feedlot, and swine farm near the town of Ireton in Northwest Iowa. He received his BS in Animals Science (2000) and DVM (2004) degrees from Iowa State University. Dr. Schmidt spent many of his summers during college with Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center, IA assisting veterinarians and herdsmen while also managing the commercial cowherd of Dr. David Faber, Trans Ova's president. Jon also spent a summer studying embryo sexing with PCR under Dr. Curt Youngs at Iowa State. Upon graduation, Dr. Schmidt went to work for Trans Ova as a Technical Services Veterinarian, performing in clinic and on farm embryo transfer work in Iowa and the surrounding states. He has performed embryo transfer work in 11 states. He also helped with the initial development of the company's calving program for nuclear transfer pregnancies. Since September 2006, he has served as the Director of Professional Services where he supports the company's technical teams with recruitment, training, and communication. He continues to travel and provide on farm ET services in several Midwestern states. Jon is a member of the AETA (certified), IETS, AABP, IVMA, and the local Kiwanis chapter. Dr. Schmidt, his wife, and their son currently reside in Sioux Center.

Paula Rodriguez-Villamil

Paula Rodriguez Villamil is the Global Embryo Director at Genus ABS, bringing expertise in animal genetics and reproductive technologies. Their background encompasses embryology lab direction, scientific investigation, and research management.

Prior to their current role, Paula served as Manager, Research at Genus, contributing to advancements in animal breeding. Earlier in their career, they directed the Embryology Lab at Recombinetics,

focusing on animal gene editing for biomedical research and regenerative medicine. In this role, they oversaw lab operations and contributed to the development of custom gene-edited swine models.

Their experience also includes postdoctoral research at Pucrs and Universidade Federal do Ceará, demonstrating a commitment to scientific investigation. During the period at Universidade Federal do Ceará, Paula contributed to academic research initiatives. Briefly contributing as a Professor at Ingeniería Comercial UDCA, they instructed students in applied sciences. Their work history includes directing the In Vitro Laboratory at Biogen Argentina, where they managed cell culture operations within the pharmaceutical sector.

Paula's academic foundation includes a Mestrado em Ciencias Veterinarias from Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul and a degree in Educacion Virtual from Universidad Nacional de Córdoba.

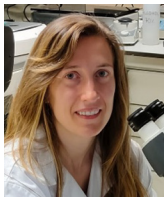
Sofia Ortega

Dr. Ortega is originally from Honduras where she completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at Zamorano Agricultural University in 2003. For the next five years she worked managing the first bull stud in Honduras owned by the Cattlemen Fund of Honduras. From 2009-2011 she completed a Master of Sciences in Animal Sciences from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile studying Kappa-Casein genotypes and their effects in milk and cheese production in Montbeliarde-Holstein cattle. She later moved to the US and did a Ph.D. in Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Florida from 2012-2016, focusing on the genetic control of reproduction and embryonic development in dairy cattle. In 2017, she joined The University of Missouri as a postdoctoral fellow studying mechanisms involved in pregnancy establishment in cattle using systems biology and genetic engineering approaches. She continued at the University of Missouri from 2019-2022 as an Assistant professor of Reproductive Physiology, studying male influences on pregnancy establishment. In August 2022, Dr. Ortega was recruited to the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an Assistant Professor of Reproductive Physiology to continue with her line of research. Her program focuses on the genetic regulation of fertility with an emphasis in preimplantation embryonic development and placentation in the bovine. She uses novel genomic approaches including gene editing, to investigate the effect of reproduction-related genes on development and physiology. The long-term goal of her program is to identify key variants and mechanisms associated with pregnancy establishment and use that information to improve reproduction and genetic selection for fertility in cattle.

Riley Thompson-Brandhagen

Postdoctoral research at the Animal Reproduction and Biotechnology Laboratory at Colorado Sate University included evaluating endometrial and oviductal organoids and generating extracellular vesicles from canine, feline, bovine, equine, and murine tissues as models and potential therapeutics for various diseases and to facilitate advanced reproductive technologies and contraceptive development. Current research involves developing 3D organoid cultures from the reproductive tissues of various domestic species and evaluating their secreted extracellular vesicles as models of normal physiology and pathology, as well as to develop potential therapeutics.

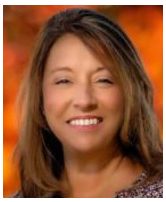
Priscila Ramos-Ibeas



Priscila Ramos-Ibeas obtained her Veterinary degree in 2009 (Complutense University, Madrid, Spain). Next, she obtained a Master's Degree in "Research in Veterinary Sciences" in 2010. She worked in Dr. Pedro Lorenzo´s Reproductive Physiology lab in the Complutense University in Madrid (Spain), analyzing the effect of acute fasting on follicular development in the rabbit model. She was awarded a FPI Predoctoral Fellowship from the Ministry of Science and Education (Spain), and she started her PhD in Dr. Alfonso Gutiérrez-Adán lab, in the Animal Reproduction Department in INIA, the Spanish National Institute for Research in Agriculture (Madrid, Spain). In July 2014, she defended her doctoral thesis in the Department of Animal Physiology (Complutense University, Madrid), entitled: "Effect of origin and culture conditions on the heterogeneity of pluripotent cell populations", unanimously obtaining the highest qualification (summa cum laude). The thesis was presented as a compendium of four peer-reviewed publications, all of them as first author, in the following journals: Plos ONE, Molecular Reproduction and

Development, Biology of Reproduction, and Reproduction, Fertility and Development. The main objective of this thesis was to study several crucial aspects of pluripotent cell lines derivation, such as the effect of embryonic source or culture conditions, or the origin of pluripotent cells.

Janeen Salak-Johnson



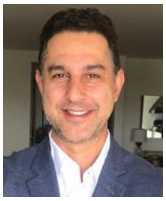
Dr. Janeen Salak-Johnson obtained her PhD from Texas Tech University and pursued a Postdoctoral Training Fellowship in Psychoneuroimmunology at the University of Minnesota, supported by NIH funding. She served as a faculty member in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois until 2017 before transitioning to Oklahoma State University in 2018, where she was the Temple Grandin Endowed Professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

Salak-Johnson is recognized nationally and internationally as a leading stress physiology and animal welfare expert. Her research integrates basic and translational science to explore maternal-fetal interactions concerning stress physiology, the brain-gut-immune axis, and the welfare of future offspring. She actively participates in numerous national and international advisory boards and task forces as an animal care and well-being expert. With over a decade of involvement with AAALAC International, she has served as a former board of directors member and is currently engaged with the Agricultural Subcommittee and as a delegate for ASAS.

Salak-Johnson is esteemed as a foremost authority on animal welfare and has provided expert testimony in various legal matters, including California's Prop 12 and Massachusetts' Question 3, underscoring her impactful contributions to animal welfare research and industry partnerships. Recently, she authored an expert report for a lawsuit initiated by Oklahoma cattle and swine producers concerning the negative impacts of gas flares on their animals' welfare, aiding in the case's resolution. Additionally, she has been appointed to the National Pork Board's Sow Housing and Management Task Force.

She boasts a comprehensive publication history, with her research cited more than 4,550 times. Recently, she was acknowledged as one of the top 2% of researchers in her discipline. She has been invited to speak at various national and international conferences. Furthermore, she has guided over 55 graduate students and 40 undergraduate students as a research mentor/advisor. She has also been a panel and ad-hoc reviewer for the USDA and NSF. Actively engaged in the peer-review process, she reviews for numerous national and international journals and currently holds the position of academic editor for the International Journal: Animals, in addition to being a member of the Editorial Board for Frontiers in Ethology. Since 2019, she has obtained over $14 million in funding as a principal investigator, co-investigator, or mentor from the USDA and NIH.

Rodrigo Menedes Untura



Rodrigo Mendes Untura serves as the Global Strategy Account Manager at ABS Global since June 2017 and has held the position of General Manager Global and Executive Director at In Vitro Brasil since January 2009. With a professional background in veterinary medicine, Rodrigo Mendes Untura earned a degree in Veterinario, Medicina Veterinária from UNIFEOB between 1995 and 1999.