Alan Ealy

Alan Ealy is a reproductive biologist studying bovine embryology at Virginia Tech. He completed his BS in dairy production at The Pennsylvania State University, his MS in reproductive biology at Michigan State University, his PhD in reproductive biology as part of the Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program at the University of Florida, and a postdoctoral fellowship in maternal recognition of pregnancy at the University of Missouri. The rich training environment in embryology and reproductive technologies served as a launching point for his current efforts.

For over 25 years, Ealy's laboratory has made seminal discoveries on embryo and conceptus development and placental biology in cattle. His lab recently described new activities for interleukin-6 and related cytokines during embryo development, lineage specification, and extraembryonic membrane development. He is also spearheading a translational research program with the goal of improving post-transfer pregnancy outcomes for *in vitro*–produced bovine embryos, working with both scientists and practitioners. Ealy's graduate, postdoctoral, and independent research endeavors have produced 129 peer-reviewed publications. His work has been funded by federal, international, state, and stakeholder groups. He is an active research mentor, having advised 35 graduate students, postdoctoral students, and visiting scientists.

Ealy has been active in IETS for 24 years. He recalls the first meeting he attended in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2001, where he was asked to replace a session speaker who could not attend the meeting. He has attended five of the past eight meetings. Importantly, Ealy is program co-chair of the 2026 IETS Annual Conference in Panama, and, as such, has worked closely with the president and Board of Governors to organize every aspect of the 2026 program. He has also served as an abstract section chair for IETS abstract reviews for the past four years. Ealy also serves other societies; most notably, he is an associate editor for *Animal Reproduction Science* and chairs the Society for the Study of Reproduction Awards Committee.

He feels a strong connection with IETS because the society operates at the intersection of basic and applied reproductive research, and this aligns nicely with his career focus on exploring the fundamental features of embryology and placental biology, with the goal of providing real-world applications to improve dairy and beef cow fertility.