

Alan Ealy is a reproductive biologist at Virginia Tech. He studies bovine embryology. He completed his BS in dairy production at Penn State, his MS in reproductive biology at Michigan State, and his PhD in reproductive biology as part of the Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program at the University of Florida. This PhD marked the beginning of his training in embryology. There he examined how maternal heat stress influences embryo development. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Missouri, where he studied maternal recognition of pregnancy in ruminants. His previous and recent work focuses on embryo and conceptus development, pregnancy establishment, and placental biology in cattle. His current research focuses primarily on describing new activities for interleukin-6 and related cytokines during embryo development, lineage specification, and extraembryonic membrane development. He also is beginning a translational research program with the goal of improving post-transfer pregnancy outcomes for in vitro produced bovine embryos. Ealy's graduate, postdoctoral, and independent research endeavors have produced over 120 peer-reviewed publications. His work has been funded by federal, international, state, and stakeholder groups. He is an active research mentor, having advised more than 30 graduate students, postdocs, and visiting scientists. In 2022, he received the CALS Excellence in Basic Research Award. He has been active in IETS for almost 30 years. He has attended numerous conferences and served on several committees. He is currently serving as an abstract session chair and is co-chair of the 2026 Meeting Program Committee. He also serves as the associate editor for *Animal Reproduction Science*. Ealy is eager to give back to IETS through service on the Board of Governors.

Ealy has a strong connection to IETS because our society operates at the intersection of basic and applied reproductive research. Most of his professional career has focuses on exploring fundamental features of embryology and placental biology, but he continues to seek ways to apply this work to improve dairy and beef cow fertility.