



University of Tennessee  
College of Veterinary Medicine

# RESEARCH DAY

September 24, 2025

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Rooms 102 and 103 of the Agriculture and Natural  
Resources Building

## Program and Schedule

## 8:30 to 9:30 AM: Session 1 of 15-Minute Presentations

Location: Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 102

Zoom Link: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/89335238724>

Time	Presenter's Name	Presentation Title
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Dr. Pavan Balaji Raj	<i>Engineering Chimeric Antigen Receptor Macrophages (CAR-M) for Pan-Amyloid Recognition and Clearance</i>
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Titus Yeng	<i>Investigating the Impact of Weight Loss After Obesity on Adipose Stromal Cell Function in Colorectal Cancer Progression</i>
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Dr. Katie Whisenant	<i>Effect of loading rate on mechanical properties and knot security of polyvinylidene fluoride suture: An in vitro study</i>
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Sara Desai	<i>Disease-modifying effects of oral administration of a soluble epoxide hydrolase inhibitor and Firocoxib in horses with naturally occurring osteoarthritis</i>

Location: Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 103

Zoom Link: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/83815392930>

Time	Presenter's Name	Presentation Title
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Isabel Correia	<i>Microsporidiosis in an acute mortality event in threadfin shad in the Third Creek</i>
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Erin Kelley	<i>Further Optimization of Parelaphostrongylus tenuis Serological Assay</i>
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Chloe Solomon	<i>Sex-Steroid Modulation of Kisspeptin Neurons in the Neonatal HPG-Axis</i>
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Grace Perrin	<i>Evaluation of cestodes as a sentinel for ecology and population stability in Eastern Wild Turkeys (Meleagris gallopavo silvestris)</i>

***BREAK FROM 9:30 – 9:40 AM***

## 9:40 to 10:30 AM: Session 1 of Five-Minute Findings Presentations

Q&A will happen at the end of the session instead of after each presentation.

**Location:** Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 103

**Zoom Link:** <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/83815392930>

Presenter's Name	Presenter's Mentor
Erika King-Paxton	Dr. Marc Caldwell
Bailey Gilbert	Dr. Jacqueline Risalvato
Taylor Jurgens	Dr. Julie Sheldon
Max Phillips	Dr. Silke Hecht
Alexa Gladwell	Dr. Marti Drum
Chloe Ragland	Dr. Rebecca Trout-Fryxell
Natalie Stovall	Dr. Richard Gerhold
Alex LeGresley	Dr. Reza Seddighi
Jordan Tesar	Dr. Paolo Pazzi

## 10:30 – 11:30 AM Faculty Awardee Presentations

**Location:** Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 103

**Zoom Link:** <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/83815392930>

### Boehringer Ingelheim Faculty Research Mentoring Award: Presented to Dr. Brian Whitlock

The Boehringer Ingelheim Faculty Research Mentoring Award recognizes a faculty member who excels in teaching, training, and sharing their knowledge with students pursuing advanced degrees in research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

### Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence: Presented to Dr. Michelle Dennis

The Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence recognizes outstanding research effort, productivity, and the advancement of knowledge in areas relevant to veterinary medicine.

***LUNCH FROM 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM***

## 12:30 to 1:30 PM: Session 2 of 15-Minute Presentations

Location: Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 102

Zoom Link: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/89335238724>

Time	Presenter's Name	Presentation Title
12:30 - 12:45 PM	MD Bayzid	<i>GW4869 Suppresses Langat Virus Replication by Disrupting Extracellular Vesicle Secretion in Tick Cells</i>
12:45 - 1:00 PM	Anna King	<i>Oncolytic herpes simplex virus efficacy as a glioblastoma therapeutic is modulated by preexisting viral immunity</i>
1:00 - 1:15 PM	Swarnendu Basak	<i>Dengue modulates critical cell cycle regulatory proteins in human megakaryocytes that undergoes endomitosis and polyploidy</i>
1:15 - 1:30 PM	Durga Neupane	<i>Mosquito Exosomal Tetraspanin CD151 Facilitates Flaviviral Transmission and Interacts with ZIKV and DENV2 Viral Proteins</i>

Location: Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 103

Zoom Link: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/83815392930>

Time	Presenter's Name	Presentation Title
12:30 - 12:45 PM	Somnath Aryal	<i>Characterization of piezo-type mechanosensitive ion channels in Ixodes scapularis</i>
12:45 - 1:00 PM	Dr. Mahesh Puthiyottu Poyil	<i>A tick transporter protein functionally opposes its interacting membrane protein to facilitate survival of Anaplasma phagocytophilum in ticks</i>
1:00 - 1:15 PM	Fizzah Lodhi	<i>Field Evaluation of Two Mannheimia haemolytica Vaccines in Controlling Enzootic Calf Pneumonia</i>
1:15 - 1:30 PM	Jeremy Turck	<i>The effects of Rickettsia parkeri infection on the phosphorylation of Receptor Tyrosine kinases in endothelial cells</i>

***BREAK FROM 1:30 - 1:40 PM***

### 1:40 – 3:00 PM: Session 3 of 15-Minute Presentations

Location: Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 102

Zoom Link: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/89335238724>

Time	Presenter's Name	Presentation Title
1:40 – 1:55 PM	Jessica Vidlund	<i>Spatial Clustering of Milk Somatic Cell Counts in U.S. Dairy Herds, 2011–2023</i>
1:55 – 2:10 PM	Howard Onyuth	<i>Geographic disparities and predictors of suicide mortality risk in Florida: spatial scan statistics and negative binomial modeling</i>
2:10 – 2:25 PM	Dr. Colin Smith	<i>Effect of Low Dose Azithromycin on the Fecal Microbiome and Fecal Bile Acids in Dogs</i>
2:25 – 2:40 PM	Dr. Mat Sartorato	<i>The Thermal Protection of Dog Footwear on a Hot Surface</i>
2:40 – 3:00 PM	Dr. Liandrie Swanepoel	<i>Leptospira spp. And mange surveillance in American Black Bears (ursus americanus) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Eastern Tennessee</i>

Location: Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 103

Zoom Link: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/83815392930>

Time	Presenter's Name	Presentation Title
1:40 – 1:55 PM	Dr. Jessie Richards	<i>Application of a Parelaphostrongylus Tenius Elisa on Tennessee Live-Captured Elk (Cervus canadensis) and Investigation Into Parasitic Co-Infections</i>
1:55 – 2:10 PM	Myranda Gorman	<i>Detection of Leptospira in Cull Cattle Sampled at a Tennessee Abattoir</i>
2:10 – 2:25 PM	Swetha Madesh	<i>A bibliometric review on Trends and advances in Ehrlichia and Anaplasma vaccine research</i>
2:25 – 2:40 PM	Dr. Andrew Lathan	<i>Comparison of the pharmacokinetics and sedative effects of Zenalpha® (medetomidine and vatinoxan) administered intramuscularly and oral transmucosally in dogs</i>
2:40 – 3:00 PM	Porsha Reed	<i>Prevalence of Leptospira infection in equine Eyes</i>

***BREAK FROM 3:00 – 3:10 PM***

3:10 to 4:15 PM: Session 2 of Five-Minute Findings Presentations

Q&A will happen at the end of the session instead of after each presentation.

Location: Agriculture and Natural Resources Building, Room 103

Zoom Link: <https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/83815392930>

Presenter's Name	Presenter's Mentor
Daniel Tallent	Dr. Andrea Lear
Adrienne Huestis	Dr. Joseph Smith
Yasmeen Patnaik	Dr. Nora Springer
Hope Kvamme	Dr. Girish Neelakanta
Davis Dunn	Dr. Tena Ursini
Grace Bates	Dr. Angela Rollins
Erin Boyle-Levy	Drs. Farnoushsadat, Ullery, Franklin, Amos-Landgraf, and Ericcson
Emilee Cramer	Dr. Pierre-Yves Mulon
Evie Yazbec	Drs. Emi Knafo and Hiro Mochizuki

*Thank you to all of the volunteers who have worked together to make Phi Zeta Research Day possible!*

**Moderators:**

Dr. Meggan Graves  
Dr. Brian Herrin  
Dr. Mayzie Miller  
Dr. Pierre-Yves Mulon  
Dr. Girish Neelakanta  
Michael Rivera Orsini

**Judges:**

Dr. David Anderson  
Dr. Marc Caldwell  
Dr. Elizabeth Collar  
Dr. Michelle Dennis  
Dr. Braidee Foote  
Dr. Richard Gerhold  
Dr. Brian Herrin  
Dr. Melissa Hines  
Dr. Roman Husnik  
Dr. Andrea Lear  
Dr. Jennifer Lord  
Dr. Deb Miller  
Dr. Agricola Odoi  
Dr. Paolo Pazzi  
Dr. Sarah Linn-Peirano  
Dr. Hiroyuki Mochizuki  
Dr. Ashley Morgan  
Dr. Marcy Souza  
Dr. Nora Springer  
Dr. Hameeda Sultana  
Dr. Tena Ursini

**Special Thanks:**

Morgan Tolbert  
UTCVM Research Committee

## Presentation Notes: