



St. George's University

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Grenada, West Indies



WHITE COAT CEREMONY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

Patrick F. Adams Hall
True Blue Campus, Grenada

PROGRAM

Grand Marshal	Wayne Sylvester, DVM, MSc Medical Director, Small Animal Clinic, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University
Master of Ceremonies	Britain Tully, DVM Assistant Professor, Small Animal Clinic, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University
Remarks.....	Anthony Andall, PhD Vice Provost, St. George's University
Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Neil C. Olson, DVM, PhD Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University
Keynote Speaker	Robert Murtaugh, DVM, DACVIM, DACVECC, FACC Founding Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Rocky Vista University
Announcer	Lucian Thomas, DVM, MSc Instructor, Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University
Individual Presentation of White Coats	Dr. Andy Alhassan, Dr. Satesh Bidaisee, Dr. Muhammad I. Bhaiyat, Dr. Rodolfo Bruhl Day, Dr. Robert Murtaugh, Dr. Narindra Roopnarine, Dr. Britain Tully, Dr. Nyoni Winchester
Professional Commitment	Christianne Shaw, DVM Assistant Professor, Small Animal Clinic, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ROBERT MURTAUGH, DVM, DACVM, DACVECC, FACCM



Dr. Robert Murtaugh is the founding dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Rocky Vista University in Montana. He brings more than four decades of experience in veterinary medicine, leadership, and academic program development to this role.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Murtaugh served on the faculty at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, where he founded the university's Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) program. During his time at Tufts, he collaborated with fellow leaders in the field to establish the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC) and launch the first Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) certification in ECC. He also served as program chair for the early International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposiums (IVECCS) and is a past president of both the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society and ACVECC.

Following his academic career, Dr. Murtaugh held a number of leadership positions in clinical practice and hospital management. He served as chief of staff at Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital Group in Portland, Oregon, before joining VCA Animal Hospitals, where he worked as a practicing specialist, medical director, and regional medical director for 15 years. In 2015, he became chief medical officer and partner at Pathway Vet Alliance, now Thrive Pet Healthcare, where he played a pivotal role in growing the organization from 15 to more than 350 veterinary locations nationwide before retiring in 2022.

Dr. Murtaugh earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1980. He completed a residency at The Ohio State University in 1984 and achieved board certification in Veterinary Internal Medicine in 1985.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

BRITAIN TULLY, DVM



Dr. Britain Tully is an assistant professor in the Small Animal Clinic at St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, where she focuses on emergency medicine. She is passionate about working alongside students in the clinic, guiding them through the challenges of real-world cases while helping them grow in skill, confidence, and compassion.

Before joining SGU, Dr. Tully practiced in New Jersey and Colorado, where she built a broad foundation in both general and specialty veterinary care. She completed a rotating internship at Garden State Veterinary Specialists in New Jersey, which provided her with valuable exposure to a wide range of cases in small animal medicine. Her years in clinical practice strengthened her versatility as a veterinarian and deepened her interest in emergency care.

A proud alumna of SGU, Dr. Tully earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 2016. After years of revisiting SGU, she returned in December 2024 to join the faculty, fulfilling her long-standing hope of giving back to the University that shaped her career. She strives to inspire and support students just as her professors once inspired her, encouraging them to approach veterinary medicine with both resilience and heart.

Dr. Tully completed her bachelor's degree in animal science with minors in geology, biochemistry, and marine and coastal geoscience at the University of Delaware before beginning her veterinary journey at SGU. She believes strongly in the connection between mental and physical health and hopes to instill in her students the importance of caring for both as they pursue their professional goals.

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS

M. Daniel Givens, DVM, PhD, DACVM, DACT (February 2025)

Dean, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine,
Virginia Tech

K. Paige Carmichael, DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP (August 2024)

Professor, Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Georgia

Dean Hendrickson, DVM, MS, DACVS (January 2024)

Professor, Equine Surgery, Department of Clinical Sciences,
Colorado State University

Lisa K. Nolan, DVM, PhD, MS (September 2023)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

Lori Teller, DVM, DABVP (canine/feline), CVJ (January 2023)

President, American Veterinary Medical Association

Ruby L. Perry, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVR (August 2022)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University

Calvin M. Johnson, DVM, PhD, DACVP (August 2021 - March 2022)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University

John A. Howe, DVM, CertAqV (January 2021)

AVMA Past President

Sarah Ballie, BSc, BVSc, MSc (IT), PhD, PFHEA, MRCVS (February 2020)

Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Education, University of Bristol

Willie M. Reed, DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACPV (August 2019)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University

Janet D. Donlin, DVM (February 2019)

Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Veterinary
Medical Association

Andrew T. Maccabe, DVM, MPH, JD (September 2018)

Chief Executive Officer, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Ronald K. Cott, DVM (January 2018)

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, Advancement Consultant,
College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

Kent Hoblet, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVPM (September 2017)

Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University

Douglas A. Freeman, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT (January 2017)

Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Sheila W. Allen, DVM, MS (August 2016)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

Trevor Ames, DVM, MS, DACVIM (January 2016)

Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

Clark Fobian, DVM (August 2015)

Owner/Veterinarian, Companion Animal Practice,

Thompson Hills Animal Clinic

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association

Donald F. Smith, DVM, Diplomate ACVS (January 2015)

Professor of Surgery, Austin O. Hooey Dean Emeritus

College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University

Raymond F. Sis, BS, DVM, MS, PhD (August 2014)

Dean Emeritus, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Theodore J. Cohn, DVM (January 2014)

President-Elect, American Veterinary Medical Association

Lila T. Miller, BS, DVM (August 2013)

Vice President, Veterinary Outreach, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Rene A. Carlson, DVM (January 2013)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Jan K. Strother, DVM (August 2012)

Vice President, American Veterinary Association

Tim Ogilvie, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVIM (January 2012)

Past Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

Marguerite Pappaioanou, DVM, MPVM, PhD, DACVPM (August 2011)

Executive Director, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

Gary Brown, BS, DVM (January 2011)

Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Bonnie Beaver, BS, DVM, MS (August 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

James Cook, DVM (January 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Alan M. Kelly, BSc, BVSc, PhD (August 2009)

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean Emeritus and Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Gregory S. Hammer, DVM (January 2009)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Charles M. Hendrix, DVM, PhD (August 2008)

Professor, Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine,
Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Larry R. Corry, DVM (January 2008)

Chair, Executive Board, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Roger K. Mahr, DVM (August 2007)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Ralph C. Richardson, DVM (January 2007)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

Sam H. Ridgway, DVM, PhD (August 2005)

Professor, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of California

Oscar J. Fletcher, DVM, MS, PhD (February 2005)

Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University

Samuel E. Strahm, DVM (August 2004)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Richard M. Linnehan, DVM (January 2004)

Astronaut, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Jack O. Walther, DVM (August 2003)

President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARIOS LOUKAS, MD, PHD, DR. H.C.

It is a great honor to be a part of this University and to welcome you as you take your first step in this noble journey. Today should have special meaning to both you and your families, in that it symbolizes your entry into the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians in training are afforded very special privileges. Taking on the mantle of doctors also carries great responsibilities. Although you may not in the beginning know a great deal about veterinary medicine, you will be expected to hold yourselves to the very highest standards of integrity, honesty, and compassion. Today is but the first step in what I hope is a great career.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CHARLES R. MODICA, JD, DCL (HONORARY)

I welcome all of you to St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine. You have chosen a great and noble career. As you receive these white coats, you pledge an oath of professionalism and service. Professionalism is a commitment to integrity, altruism, competence, and ethics in the service of others.

As you begin your studies for this challenging career, you must weigh opportunity against responsibility. St. George's University will equip you with all the right tools for the job, but how much you take away with you will depend on how you approach the experience and how much effort you invest in it. I wish you every success.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

NEIL C. OLSON, DVM, PHD

This White Coat Ceremony is a symbolic representation of your entry into the profession of veterinary medicine and a demonstration of your commitment to upholding the code of professional conduct expected of medical professionals.

It is my privilege to welcome you to St. George's University and your next step along the road to becoming a veterinarian. I request that you honor the sacred trust and privilege that society places in medical professionals, cognizant that the standard is an ideal we must continuously aim to achieve.

The experiences you will have at St. George's University will serve to enrich you personally and professionally. You have all worked diligently to become veterinary medical students, and I wish you every success as you strive to excel in your pursuit of the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary for your career.

THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

More than 25 years since its inception at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1993, the White Coat Ceremony has become an important ritual symbolizing a student's induction into the veterinary profession. St. George's University embraced the White Coat Ceremony in 2001.

Affirming this oath of commitment to the veterinary medical profession at the beginning of their studies inducts our DVM students into the veterinary profession—and its highest ethical and professional standards—from the very beginning of their career.

The ceremony is significant not just to each incoming class, but for all who attend including: St. George's University faculty; its staff; students' families and friends; and the White Coat Ceremony keynote speakers who, twice a year, inspire first-term students with heartfelt words of wisdom and personal reflections. It is their spoken contributions that we treasure, and are honored to share with past, present, and future generations of St. George's University students.

HONOR CODE

ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

As a member of the student body of St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, an institution of higher learning dedicated to a high standard of ethics and academic achievement and recognizing that it is the duty of the University community to nurture responsible, competent, and safe professionals who exhibit maturity and sound moral character, I agree:

- To adhere to the University policy of maintaining a high standard of honor and academic integrity;
- To refrain from violation of these ideals by cheating, plagiarism, lying, and theft; and
- To accept the responsibility of reporting wrong doing upon witness.

It is understood that any breach of this code necessitates disciplinary action, subject to the discretion of University officials.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

Being accepted into the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to further my knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will conduct my studies conscientiously, with dignity and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept my responsibility to assist my colleagues to achieve our mutual goals.

I acknowledge my obligation to adhere to the University's Honor Code and to conduct myself with integrity and in an ethical manner at all times.

It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to become a veterinarian. I will be ever conscious of that privilege and never abuse it.