



St. George's University

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Grenada, West Indies

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

Patrick F. Adams Hall
Chancellor Charles Modica Campus, Grenada

PROGRAM

Grand Marshal.....**James Adams, BVSc, Dipl.ACVM, MRCVS, FHEA**
Associate Professor, Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery,
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Master of Ceremonies **Dexton St. Bernard, DVM '21, MSc '23**
Instructor, Department of Pathobiology,
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Remarks..... **Charles R. Modica, JD**
Chancellor, St. George's University

Remarks..... **Mark Clunes, PhD**
Interim Provost and Senior Associate Dean of Basic Sciences,
St. George's University

Remarks..... **Marios Loukas, MD, PhD, Dr. h.c.**
President and Dean, School of Medicine,
St. George's University

Introduction of Keynote Speaker..... **Satesh Bidaisee, DVM, MSPH, EdD**
Interim Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,
St. George's University

Keynote Speaker**Susan VandeWoude, DVM, DACLAM**
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences,
Colorado State University

Announcer **Inga Karasek, DVM, CVA, EVMM**
Assistant Dean, Fourth Year Clinical Training,
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Individual Presentation of White Coats..... **Dr. Muhammad I. Bhaiyat,**
Dr. Satesh Bidaisee, Dr. Kerri Nigito,
Dr. Nuria Quesada, Dr. Christianne Shaw,
Dr. Dexton St. Bernard, Dr. Rhea St. Louis,
Dr. Susan VandeWoude

Professional Commitment..... **Christianne Shaw, DVM**
Assistant Professor, Small Animal Clinic,
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SUSAN VANDEWOUDE, DVM, DACLAM



Dr. Susan VandeWoude is the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and a University distinguished professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology at Colorado State University (CSU). She became the 11th dean of the college in 2022 and is the first woman to hold this position.

A veterinary virologist, Dr. VandeWoude is recognized for her contributions to veterinary medicine and biomedical research. She is an advocate for veterinary involvement in research and for collaborative, team-based, multidisciplinary science.

Dr. VandeWoude's research focuses on the biology, pathogenesis, and ecology of viral infections in felids. Her laboratory has made significant contributions to understanding cross-species transmission of feline viruses, including Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), as well as the role of host resistance in disease outcomes.

Her professional appointments and accomplishments span leadership in laboratory animal science, comparative medicine, and veterinary education. She is a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) and previously served as director of CSU's Laboratory Animal Resources, where she initiated the University's Comparative Medicine Training Program. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2019 and has served on multiple expert panels, study sections, and in leadership roles within professional organizations supporting veterinary medicine and biomedical sciences.

Dr. VandeWoude earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Virginia–Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in comparative medicine at The Johns Hopkins University.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

DEXTON ST. BERNARD, DVM '21, MSC '23



Dexton St. Bernard, DVM '21, MSc '23, is a parasitology instructor in the School of Veterinary Medicine at St. George's University. He currently teaches veterinary parasitology in both the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Foundations programs and provides diagnostic support through the Parasitology Diagnostic Laboratory for SGU and the local veterinary community.

Dr. St. Bernard is committed to advancing animal health and veterinary education and values collaborative, interdisciplinary approaches to addressing challenges in animal medicine, food production systems, and public health.

His research interests include veterinary parasitology and parasite-associated disease, with current work focused on anthelmintic resistance in canine hookworms in Grenada. This research aims to determine the presence and extent of resistance to benzimidazole anthelmintics in local dog populations and its implications for parasite control strategies, clinical practice, and public health.

Dr. St. Bernard has held several professional appointments in clinical practice, veterinary education, and animal health service. He previously served as a clinician/instructor at the SGU Small Animal Clinic, where he practiced small animal general medicine and contributed to the clinical training of third-year veterinary medical students.

Prior to joining SGU, he worked with the Ministry of Agriculture of Grenada as a livestock and veterinary officer, providing technical consultation and extension services to livestock and apiculture producers. In this role, he collaborated with regional and national organizations, including the UN's international food standards body, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

Dr. St. Bernard earned his DVM degree from SGU and completed his fourth-year clinical training at the University of Missouri with a focus on food animal medicine. He also holds a Master of Science in veterinary parasitology from the SGU School of Graduate Studies.

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS

Robert Murtaugh, DVM, DACVIM, DACVECC, FACCM (September 2025)
Founding Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Rocky Vista University

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

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

Ronald K. Cott, DVM (January 2018)

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

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

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

Marguerite Pappaioanou, DVM, MPVM, PhD, DACVPM (August 2011)
Executive Director, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)

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)

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 INTERIM DEAN

SATESH BIDAISEE, DVM, MSPH, EdD

It is my privilege to welcome you to St. George's University (SGU) and this next step toward becoming a veterinarian. More than a symbol, the white coat represents your commitment to learning, service, integrity, and the trust society places in those who care for animals and public health.

I encourage you to approach your education with curiosity, resilience, and compassion for your patients, your clients, your colleagues, and yourselves. You will be challenged intellectually and professionally, and you will grow in ways that extend far beyond the classroom and clinic.

On behalf of the School of Veterinary Medicine, I congratulate you on this important milestone and wish you every success as you begin your journey in veterinary medicine.

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.