

## WILDLIFE HEALTH & PATHOLOGY SHORT COURSE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health is pleased to announce the recipients of the Australian Student, and International Professional Scholarships for the Wildlife Health and Pathology Short Course being held in Sydney in February 2019.

Generous sponsorship from the Cybec Foundation has allowed us to provide funding for 3 students studying in Australia within the field of wildlife health, and 2 international colleagues from developing countries, to attend the Wildlife Health & Pathology Short Course at the Taronga Institute of Science and Learning, Taronga Zoo.

We would like to extend our thanks to all applicants, and our congratulations to those who have been successful in obtaining one of these scholarships.



**Dr Amy Robbins**, University of the Sunshine Coast. Amy's career in wildlife conservation began when she completed a Bachelor of Science with a major in Zoology in 2000. After graduation Amy spent the next five years working in zoos across the globe, but longed for an opportunity to make more of an impact at the 'front line' of conservation, so returned to university to complete a Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 2009. Amy worked as a small animal clinician to earn her stripes as a veterinarian for another five years, before landing her dream job helping to manage koala populations in South East Queensland. Seeing the devastating effects of chlamydial disease in koalas first-hand, Amy wanted to contribute to our understanding of this disease to improve the welfare of affected

individuals and conservation outcomes for this declining species, so embarked on a PhD in koala chlamydial epidemiology and therapeutics in late 2017. The overall goals of Amy's career are to improve conservation outcomes for threatened and endangered species, contribute to the management of wildlife populations with a One Health approach, and further our understanding of shared pathogens. Amy appreciates the opportunity to attend the Wildlife Health and Pathology Short Course 2019 and further develop her diagnostic skills across a range of wildlife species.

**Dr Anjana Karawita**, University of Queensland. Originally from Sri Lanka, Anjana is a current PhD candidate at the University of Queensland. As a veterinarian, Anjana has years of training in wildlife anatomic pathology and has conducted numerous diagnostic post-mortem examinations on wildlife, contributing to the knowledge of diseases of some rare wildlife species. In the past, Anjana undertook research to investigate the diseases, lesions and infectious agents of Indian flying foxes (*Pteropus medius* formerly known as *P. giganteus*), an abundant fruit bat species in South East Asia. Anjana's current research investigates the pathogenesis of Avian Influenza among iconic Australian black swan. He believes that pursuing his passion in pathology would enable him to significantly contribute towards expanding the knowledge in wildlife diseases and improving their health. Anjana is immensely grateful for the sponsors for their generous contributions to the scholarship and the selection committee for offering this invaluable opportunity to enhance the skills in wildlife health and pathology.



**Dr Anita Tolpinrud**, University of Melbourne. Originally from Norway, Anita graduated from Edinburgh vet school in 2010. After a couple of years in small animal practice, she decided to pursue her true passion - a career in wildlife medicine. After completing a Master degree in conservation medicine, she spent eight months volunteering with primates in Cameroon, before coming to Australia. Anita is the current veterinary resident at Healesville Sanctuary, where she is enjoying learning about and working with all kinds of Australian wildlife. She is also completing a Master thesis in research, where she is looking at potential zoonotic diseases in Australian possums, and is delighted to be attending the Pathology Short Course in February.



**Dr Hai Lam Kim** is a veterinarian at Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW), a national Non-Profit Organisation in Vietnam that was founded on the critical need for more effective solutions to secure a future for Vietnamese wildlife. SVW receives the largest number of confiscated Sunda pangolin in the world. There is an estimation that pangolin trafficking is accounted for up to 20% of all illegal trade. In spite of the situation, accredited medical information about pangolins remained limited. Due to the daily difficulties of working with these under studies animals, Hai has long been fostering an ambition to conduct extensive research on pangolin in the field of pathology. He believes that having the skills to quickly discover new veterinary knowledge will be extremely beneficial to the conservation of pangolins as they race to save this species from extinction. By attending the wildlife health and pathology short course, Hai hopes to learn more about the principle elements of pathology in all kinds of species and find a suitable model to apply for research on pangolins. He also sees enormous benefit for the conservation of Pangolin in Vietnam in being able to meet with globally renowned experts in pathology and hopes that he can act as a conduit for connecting their expertise with the critical needs of local Vietnamese species. He is also committed to knowledge sharing and building capacity for veterinarians, veterinary students and other wildlife organizations in Vietnam, inspiring them to be more committed to wildlife.

Dr Maria Sofiea Ty is a veterinarian from the Philippines. Sofiea's interest in wildlife medicine and conservation started while doing her internship at Ocean Adventure and Wildlife in Need Rescue Center in Subic, Philippines. She graduated from the University of the Philippines – Los Baños in 2016 with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a thesis on the surveillance of Newcastle disease on captive raptors, which was also published a few months after. Sofiea has worked at Wildlife in Need Rescue Center and El Kabayo Stables as a resident veterinarian and currently at the Biodiversity Management Bureau - National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center (BMB - NWRRC) as one of its resident veterinarians under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Her work primarily involves managing the animal care operations at the NWRRC including supervising of the animal care staff, overseeing treatment plans, housing, release, as well as providing necessary medical care of wild animals that are brought into the rescue center. She has also assisted and participated in wildlife population census and wildlife disease surveillance conducted by the bureau.



To learn more about the wildlife pathology short course, please contact us visit our website

<https://arwh.org/event/wildlife-health-pathology-short-course-2019>

Registrations close 4 February 2019