

# Disease and Wildlife Ecology Symposium 2024

## July 16, 2024; Vermont State University, Johnson campus

### Arrive

9:15 Coffee, pastries, etc.

9:55 Welcoming remarks

### 10-minute talks

10:00 **Julie Dragon:** Shining light on a dark mystery: Melanoma occurrence in brown bullhead of Lake Memphremagog

10:15 **Ellen Martinsen:** Co-infection dynamics in Vermont ticks and small mammals

10:30 **Ericka Griggs:** Leucocytozoon parasite infection dynamics in Common Loons

10:45 **Elias Rosenblatt:** Epidemiological modeling of SARS-CoV-2 in white-tailed deer: identifying conditions for introduction and spread

11:00 **Allie Cloutier, Deacon Watson, Alexandra Williams and Kali Wooster:** Is black-legged tick abundance associated with invasive plant species cover in rural private woodlands?

**11:15 Break**

### Lightning round (5-min talks)

11:30 **Teresia Mwema:** Effects of stress levels on oral microbiome diversity and risk to oral health

11:38 **Cheryl Sullivan:** Bat Ticks in Vermont

11:46 **Scott Tighe:** Using Shotgun Metagenomics to Characterize Ecological Disbiosis and Detect Environmental Pathogens

11:54 **Emily Curd:** Phylogenomics of microbial pathogens

**12:00 Group photo**

**12:05 Lunch (catered by Two Son's Bakehouse)**

### 10-minute talks

1:15 **Dagan Loisel:** Genetic diversity of parvovirus variants in Vermont bobcats

1:30 **Lauren Berkley:** Northern range expansion of *Theilia cervi* in white-tailed deer

1:45 **Annabelle Stanley:** Chronic Wasting Disease in Vermont: Proactive Plan and Response

2:00 **Carlos Amissah:** Prevalence of tickborne pathogens in selected forests in Chittenden County

2:15 **Samantha Bedore:** Comparison of PCR and CRISPR/Cas12a detection of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in black-legged ticks

**2:30 Break**

### Lightning round (5-min talks)

2:45 **David Allen:** A new R package to write, run, and analyze tick population dynamics models

2:53 **Owen McCarthy:** The effect of arthropod predators on blacklegged tick density and questing

3:01 **Allison Neal:** The microbiomes of trematode vector snails

3:09 **Emma Privett:** An ongoing investigation of *Heterosporis* sp. prevalence in Lake Champlain yellow perch

**3:30 Business meeting/end of conference**

## Directions to Bentley Hall

From Route 15, turn onto Pearl Street which goes uphill and becomes Clay Hill Road. Turn right onto College Hill Road (you will see the sign for the University) and then right onto Pond Hill Road (just after the apartments, which you will see on the left). Pond Hill Road will take you to the Bentley parking lot and you will see the entrance to Bentley Hall to your left. After entering Bentley Hall, turn right down the hallway and you will find us. Check Google maps for ongoing road work on route 15 which could lead to a ~10 minute delay. Note that the directions to Bentley Hall from Google maps might not take you to the correct parking lot.

