

# Manatee Research Symposium

10 September 2020

**UF** Aquatic Animal Health Program  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



## Agenda

9:00 Welcome Iske Larkin, University of Florida

### Genetics and Sampling Session

9:15 *Estimating age-specific survival probabilities for manatees using genetic-identification* Timothy Gowan, FWC FWRI

9:30 *Requesting Florida manatee biological samples from the U.S. Geological Survey* Jason Ferrante, USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center

9:45 *Genetic status and structure of the endangered Antillean manatee in Cuba* Anmari Alvarez-Aleman, Clearwater Marine Aquarium

10:00 *New long read sequencing resources for the manatee genome and transcriptome* Ana Conesa, University of Florida

10:30 Break

### Conservation Issues Session

10:45 *Cold-related Florida manatee mortality in relation to air and water temperatures* Stacie Hardy, NOAA NMFS Alaska Fisheries Center

11:00 *Effects of the extended dry season and/or El Niño phenomenon on manatees (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) in the Magdalena River basin, Colombia* Nataly Castelblanco- Martinez, University of Quintana Roo

11:15 *Understanding spatial patterns of Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) watercraft strandings and risk from watercraft collision in Belize* Celeshia Guy, Clearwater Marine Aquarium

11:30 *Long-term manatee stranding program in Belize: Can there be a future for Antillean manatees?* Jamal Galves, Clearwater Marine Aquarium

11:45 *The significance of webcams for continued manatee research at Blue Springs State Park* Cora Berchem, Save the Manatee Club

12:00 *Manatee welfare in facilities and the wild: Where are we with standards of care, research in facilities, and our approach with wild manatee welfare and their environment? What the future can hold?* Michael Walsh, University of Florida

12:15 Lunch

### Behavior Session

1:00 *Preliminary findings: First characterization of African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) vocalizations* Athena Rycyk, New College of Florida

1:15	<i>The role of touch in captive and semi-captive Antillean manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus manatus</i>)</i>	Karen Lucchini, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Centro de Biociências
1:30	<i>Behavior related vocalizations of the Florida manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>)</i>	Beth Brady, Florida Atlantic University
1:45	<i>Epimeletic behavior exhibited by Florida manatees</i>	Sean Tennant, FWC FWRI
2:00	Break <b>Reproduction Session</b>	
2:15	<i>Functional morphology of copulatory organs in the Florida manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>)</i>	Dara Orbach, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
2:30	<i>Manual collection and semen characterization in a West Indian manatee</i>	Jonathan Cowart, University of Florida
2:45	<i>Development of a mass spectrometry-based approach to measure Florida manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>) sex steroid hormones in plasma</i>	Elizabeth Brammer-Robbins, University of Florida
3:00	Break <b>Toxicology and Hematology Session</b>	
3:15	<i>Evaluation of serum protein electrophoresis and serum amyloid A in Florida manatees (<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>) maintained in a rehabilitation setting</i>	Mónica Galván, University of Miami
3:30	<i>Exploration of novel PFAS extraction techniques from dried blood spots for prospective marine mammal health assessments</i>	Emily Griffin, University of Florida
3:45	<i>Florida manatee exposure to glyphosate and immune consequences</i>	Maite De Maria, University of Florida
4:00	<i>Investigating the influence of glyphosate pollution on manatee forage quality</i>	Megan Opincarne, University of Florida
4:15	Closing Remarks	Iske Larkin, University of Florida