



# CSAS MATTERS

SUMMER  
2023

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MARK IT DOWN:  
CALGARY 2024

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# WELCOME OUR NEW PRESIDENT!



**Dr. Younes Miar**  
President  
Canadian Society of Animal  
Science



**Dr. Obi Durunna**  
President-Elect



**Dr. Oscar Lopez-Campos**  
Past President

# NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



**Dr. Mohsen  
Jafarikia**

**Vice President**  
Canadian Society of Animal  
Science

**Dr. Stephanie Terry**

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Canadian Society of Animal  
Science



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Members of the Canadian Society of Animal Science,**

I am both honored and humbled to address you as the President of the Canadian Society of Animal Science. As we embark on this journey together, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for entrusting me with this esteemed position and the opportunity to serve this distinguished community.

Our society stands at a pivotal juncture, where the world's attention is increasingly focused on issues related to animal science, agriculture, and the responsible stewardship of our planet's resources. It is our collective mission to foster advancements in animal science research, education, and outreach that not only benefit our scientific community but also contribute to the larger global dialogue on food security, animal welfare, and sustainable agriculture.

Throughout my career, I have been deeply committed to the advancement of animal science, and I bring this dedication to my role as President. I firmly believe that our strength lies in our unity as a community. Therefore, I encourage all members to actively participate in our society's activities, share their expertise, and contribute to the vibrant discourse that propels our field forward.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to the dedicated individuals who have served the Canadian Society of Animal Science before me and those who continue to lend their support. Together, we will navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, guided by our shared commitment to excellence in animal science.

Thank you for your trust, your dedication, and your ongoing contributions. I look forward to working closely with each of you in the pursuit of our collective mission.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Younes Miar**

**President, Canadian Society of Animal Science**

Congratulations to our

# SCIENTIST AWARD WINNERS



## Fellowship Award: Kees Plaizier

Dr. J.C. (Kees) Plaizier is Professor in Dairy Nutrition and Management at the University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg, Canada. Kees grew up on a dairy farm near Buren, The Netherlands. He has a BSc and MSc degree from Wageningen University in The Netherlands and PhD from the University of Guelph in Canada. Between 1987 and 1992 he was employed as Technical Officer at the Joint Division of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, working on enhancing the productivity of indigenous African livestock.

His current research program focuses on the enhancing health and nutrient utilization of dairy cows, as well as environmental sustainability of dairy farms, and the evaluation of novel feeds, including hemp co-products, for cattle. This has led to and many national and international research collaborations including those with the University of Guelph, University of Saskatchewan, Laval University, Lactanet, University College Dublin, University of Copenhagen, Ghent University, Swedish Agricultural University, and various industry partners. He has authored or co-authored over 120 manuscripts in scientific journals and numerous conference abstracts, articles, extension materials, and technical reports. At the University of Manitoba, he teaches dairy cattle production, ruminant nutrition, and companion animal management at the diploma, degree, and graduate levels.

Kees has had many positions in the executive roles in the Canadian Society of Animal Science. He served in its executive as Western Director and Membership Chair from 2003 to 2005, as Secretary/Treasurer from 2005 to 2008, as Editor in Chief for CJAS from 2013 to 2019, and as Consulting-Editor in Chief from 2019 to 2022. He was also the local Organizer of the CSAS Annual Meeting held in Winnipeg in 2007. In addition, he has served as judge for many graduate student presentations. In 2004, he received the CSAS Young Scientist Award. He also received the Award for Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Sciences from the Canadian Society of Animal Science in 2016.

Congratulations to our

# SCIENTIST AWARD WINNERS



## **Award in Nutrition or Meat Sciences: Argenis Rodas-Gonzalez**

Argenis Rodas-González holds a DVM and an M.Sc. from Universidad del Zulia in Venezuela and a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. He has worked in interdisciplinary research groups in meat science and food safety in Venezuela, the United States, and Canada for more than 16 years. He brought this suite of experiences to the University of Manitoba when he joined in 2014.

He researched the meat composition and quality of domesticated (beef and pork) and exotic livestock species (water buffalo, bison), and validation of the Venezuelan beef carcass grading system. His research has contributed to many fields in meat science, with emphasis on enhancing a) animal management to improve animal performance and carcass outcomes; b) testing the ability of new technologies to segregate carcass and meat in different yield and quality levels; c) application of novel packaging systems, natural compounds, and antimicrobial coatings to improve meat shelf life and food safety.

Dr. Rodas-Gonzalez has also worked diligently to promote meat science and livestock production in Canada. He has served as President-Elect, and President of the CMSA from 2019 to 2020 and from 2020 to 2021, respectively, and in the CMSA Education Committee. In addition, Dr. Rodas-Gonzalez has mentored many undergraduate and graduate students in their academic careers at the UofM. He has trained 4 post-doctoral fellows, 2 Ph.D. students, 8 M.Sc. students, 11 undergraduate summer students, and 3 International Visiting students.

His passion for meat science research derives from his interest in answering questions and developing new knowledge and technologies for producing, processing and obtaining high-quality meat products. Consequently, his research has contributed to and will continue to improve the national and international meat industry competitiveness and develop new leaders in the sector.



Congratulations to our  
**SCIENTIST AWARD WINNERS**



**Award in Technical Innovation in Enhancing Production of Safe Affordable Food: Chengbo Yang**

Dr. Chengbo Yang is an Associate Professor in Livestock Nutrition and Nutritional Biochemistry in the Department of Animal Science, University of Manitoba. Dr. Yang completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in China in 2000 and 2003, respectively. He obtained his Ph.D. in monogastric animal nutrition at the University of Guelph in 2011. He joined the University of Manitoba in 2016 after several years of working in the industry.

He is conducting research in the area of gut health and nutrient utilization relevant to nonruminants. He has acquired over 9.0 million dollars in research funding as PI and co-PI from NSERC, Canada Foundation for Innovation, USDA, Swine Cluster III, and other agencies. He has served as an editorial board member for three journals including the Canadian Journal of Animal Science, and Animal Nutrition. He served on the Canadian Society of Animal Science Executive committee (Membership Chair/Western Director).

He has provided training to a total of 47 HQPs including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and research associates, published 102 peer-reviewed scientific publications with a cumulative H-index of 37, and has two patent applications.

Dr. Yang received with 2018 Canadian Society of Animal Science Young Scientist Award, 2018 Terry G. Falconer Memorial Rh Institute Foundation Emerging Researcher Awards for Natural Sciences, and the 2019 Merit Award in Research, Scholarly Work, and Creative Activities at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Yang has been actively involved in the planning of numerous workshops, symposiums and conferences for research and industry communities.

Congratulations to our

# SCIENTIST AWARD WINNERS



## Young Scientist Award: Aline Remus

Dr. Aline Remus is a Research Scientist at the Sherbrooke Research and Development Centre (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - AAFC). Dr. Remus completed her B.Sc. (2012, UFSM, Brazil), MSc. (2015, UNESP, Brazil), and Ph.D. (2018, Laval University and UNESP joint program) in Animal Science.

She joined AAFC in 2014 as a master's student and got a permanent position as a researcher in 2022. Since 2019, Dr. Remus has worked closely with industry partners securing more than \$2 million in private and public research funding as a leader in swine nutrition projects. She published 33 peer-reviewed papers, three as an invited author. She co-authored two book chapters and published more than 70 conference abstracts.

Her research on precision feeding and nutrition showed that pigs with the same background receiving the same amount of amino acid use these nutrients differently. She has highlighted the need to develop new nutritional concepts for individual precision feeding whereas developing the understanding of metabolic variability.

She was keynote speaker on 17 occasions in national and international conferences, and gave eight interviews for pig magazines and podcasts. She supervised five undergraduate, four masters' students and five Ph.D. students' research projects. She served on scientific organizing committees, editorial boards (Journal of Animal Science, Brazilian Journal of Animal Science - RBZ) and is an invited member of the Modeling Committee of the National Animal Nutrition Program (NANP- USA) and MODNUT International Committee. She has received seven awards or recognitions and eight scholarships for her scientific and academic achievements.



Congratulations to our

# GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP AWARD WINNERS



## **Samla Cunha**

Samla Cunha has a bachelor's in Veterinary Medicine and an MSc in Genetics and Animal Breeding that she completed in Brazil. Currently, Samla is a Ph.D. student at the University of Guelph under the supervision of Dr. Angela Canovas. Her Ph.D. project aims to identify functional markers associated with the genetic resistance of sheep to gastrointestinal nematode parasite infection and its potential application in breeding strategies.

Samla worked with molecular diagnostics of genetic diseases and genetic evaluation of conformation traits in Gir cattle. She is interested in animal breeding, quantitative genetics, and genomics.



## **Sergio Lasso Ramirez**

Sergio is a master's student at the University of Alberta. He holds a Graduate Research Assistant Fellowship and has a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of LaSalle Colombia. Sergio also spent a year studying at the University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. After completing his degree, he gained valuable experience through internships in dairy nutrition at South Dakota State University and in beef and dairy cattle reproduction at the University of Florida.

Currently, Sergio is conducting research on beef calf growth, stress resilience, vaccine response, and health during the pre-weaning phase. He is also actively supporting his lab mates on their projects, including studying the relationship between feed efficiency and weather resilience in extreme conditions (summer and winter). Additionally, Sergio is involved in a project that aims to understand how gut microbiota is related to brain responses and stress reduction in calves.

Congratulations to our  
**UNDERGRADUATE AWARD  
WINNERS**



**Matthew Trefiak**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

My name is Matthew Trefiak and I'm from Wainwright, Alberta where my family owns and operates our seedstock cattle operation, MJT Cattle Co. Growing up in this industry there was never a doubt that cattle were my passion, one that I pursued through my completion of my degree from the University of Saskatchewan. This passion has given me the opportunity to not only teach cattle fitting and judging clinics for agricultural youth but also to judge several shows, including Farmfair International and Agribition. I've been fortunate enough during my time at USask to have sat on the Agricultural Students Association, helping plan several major events and charity fundraisers. Overall, I find helping to grow and promote the agricultural sector through advocacy for research, public education, and mentorship to be some of the most rewarding pursuits when I'm not busy helping run our operation. I am humbled and honoured to have been one of the selected recipients of this award, so from one small town farm kid to everyone involved, thank you!



**Jasmine Bourque**  
**Dalhousie University**

My name is Jasmine Bourque and I grew up in Memramcook, a small Acadian francophone community in southeastern New Brunswick. I graduated from Dalhousie Agricultural Campus this year with a BSc in Animal Science. I am pursuing my studies at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Islands in the fall of 2023. For the past two summers, I had the opportunity to work with a knowledgeable team of large animal veterinarians from the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries at the Moncton Veterinary Office. This experience solidified my future career goals and gave me valuable hands-on experience that will be beneficial throughout my career path. Also, I have been volunteering at the Vet Champlain Clinic in Dieppe every other Saturday for the past two years where I help the veterinarian and supporting staff with various tasks. Some of my favourite hobbies include spending time at the barn and riding, going on walks with my dog, baking, and spending time with my family and friends

Congratulations to

The winners of our **STUDENT COMPETITIONS**

**Oral MSc**

1. Matthew Reynolds  
(University of Saskatchewan)

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2. Nakita Payne  
(University of Saskatchewan)

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3. Corissa Wilcox  
(University of Saskatchewan)

**Oral PhD**

1. Pedro Righetti Arnaut (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

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2. Amir Behrouzi  
(University of Alberta)

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3. Melissa Williams  
(University of Guelph)

**Poster**

1. Maria Londono-Mendez (University of Alberta)

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2. Sergio Lasso  
(University of Alberta)

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3. Mikaela Evans  
(University of Saskatchewan)

And thank you to everybody who participated in our Graduate Student Competitions.

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We wish all award nominees and nominators the best, and hope you join us again next year to recognize more exceptional individuals striving for excellence in animal science.



# NEXT YEAR: CALGARY 2024

Make sure to stay tuned with us, as the next ASAS-CSAS-WSASAS Conference will be taking place right here in Canada for **Calgary 2024!** More details will be available soon.

## Want to participate in our events?

Renew your membership or join today at

<https://www.asas.org/CSAS/csas-membership>

- ✓ Foster animal agriculture solutions for a hungry world.
- ✓ Ensure humane care of livestock.
- ✓ Get recognition through CSAS sponsored awards.
- ✓ CSAS sponsored travel awards for students to attend annual meetings.
- ✓ Discounted cost of registration for annual meetings.
- ✓ Reduced cost to subscribe to Canadian Journal of Animal Science (CJAS).
- ✓ Discounted page charges for accepted manuscripts in CJAS.
- ✓ Be the first to know when a new issue of CJAS is available.
- ✓ Quality networking among members.
- ✓ Quality networking among professional animal science societies globally.
- ✓ On-line access to the membership list.
- ✓ Participation in membership discussions on CSAS events/activities/issues.

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