



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

Despite the hardships of the last year, the deer farming industry has proven to be resilient. Prices are up, demand is high and Florida is producing fantastic deer! The CHeRI team saw a bunch of great looking Florida deer a few weekends ago at the [Southeast Trophy Deer Association Annual Deer Auction](#). To help keep that momentum going, Florida deer farmers have new tools to help them produce the best deer possible including [a new vaccine](#) and [a real-time dashboard](#) that helps farmers plan vaccinations. Now is the time to vaccinate your does, as we prepare for fawning season.

Thank you, always, for your support - *Sam*

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

Does Vaccination Increase Maternal Antibodies in Fawns?



Epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) is the most significant cause of death in farmed and wild deer. Fawns are the most susceptible age group, yet the most difficult to protect with vaccines due to the timing of births, weaning and the onset of EHDV season. UF IFAS CHeRI is evaluating the MedGene EHDV -2 & -6 vaccine to determine if antibodies produced by mom from the vaccine are passed to their fawns. Maternal antibodies are passed from does to fawns via the colostrum or “first milk” that is produced shortly after birth. In order to receive this protective colostrum, fawns must nurse within the first 24 hours after birth. CHeRI will evaluate if fawns born to vaccinated does have higher titers of EHDV-specific antibodies than fawns that were born to unvaccinated does.

CHeRI Pathology Internship Program

The CHeRI Pathology Internship Program is entering its 5th year! The program is designed to provide hands-on experience to post-baccalaureates who want to enter veterinary or graduate school and have a strong interest in disease ecology and wildlife pathology. CHeRI has trained 10 interns who parlayed their internship experience into admission to post-graduate education programs. This year

we welcome two new interns, Stephanie Katircioglu and Diana Rodas. Welcome Steph and Diana to the necropsy crew!



Diana Rodas

I earned my bachelor's degree in zoology at the UF. As an undergraduate student, I interned as a nursery technician at the South Florida Wildlife Center to help rehabilitate young songbirds and small mammals. I also volunteered in Dr. Hannah Vander Zanden's lab at the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research (ACCSTR). My research interests lie in conservation ecology and zoonotic disease, specifically in how human settlements that encroach into wildlife habitat factor into the spread of zoonotic disease, and the role of wildlife as reservoir hosts of zoonotic disease. I would like to continue my studies by attending graduate school. In my spare time, I like to go hiking, practice roller skating, and foster kittens.

Stephanie Katircioglu

I earned my bachelor's degree at the University of Florida in animal sciences with a specialization in animal biology. Since undergrad, I've been a part of several research projects- working with Burmese pythons in South Florida, minimizing infectious diseases in livestock, and working with Parovirus for gene therapy delivery application. Currently, I assist in conducting wildlife surveys to understand potential reservoirs host(s) for the parasite, *Trypanosoma cruzi* (TC) on human health. My research interests include wildlife health, disease ecology, animal behavior and conservation genetics. I'm specifically interested in understanding host-pathogen relationship within the concept of One Health. During my free time, I enjoy hiking with my doggo, Otis, fishing, biking, exploring Gainesville springs and rivers, shark tooth hunting, and exploring new outdoor activities and good food with friends. I will be joining the necropsy team in Fall 2021.



CHeRI visits with producers at the Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling



The CHeRI team set up a booth and fielded questions from deer farmers at the annual deer auction held by the Southeast Trophy Deer Association on April 16th and 17th in Orlando, Florida. Deer farmers got to mingle with the necropsy crew lead, Sydney Cottingham; and were able to ask our Wildlife Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Juan Campos, and CHeRI Director, Sam Wisely, questions about deer health, nutrition, and fawn care. Graduate student, An-chi Cheng, who is studying the effects of bovine viral diarrheal virus (BVDV) in farmed deer, was on hand, as were Zoe White and Kristen Wilson who run all CHeRI's hemorrhagic disease lab diagnostics. We were so happy to be able to participate in this year's events after a hiatus last year due to the pandemic.

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