

## Speakers & Panelists

### Speakers

#### Rena Crumplen

*Global Vice President of Research and Development  
Mars Petcare*

Rena is a business leader with over 25 years of progressive experience in the food and beverage industry. Throughout her career, she has been providing strong leadership in the areas of Innovation, R&D, Marketing, General Management and Strategic/Business Planning. With a passion for innovation, Rena uses her technical and marketing expertise to make sound business decisions that drive company growth and deliver bottom line results.



#### Pamela Mars

*Family Member*

Pamela Mars is a fourth-generation member of the Mars family working in the business, whose great-grandfather, Frank C. Mars, founded the corporation in 1911. Pamela Mars graduated from Vassar College and began her career with Ted Bates Advertising as an Account Executive. She started working for the family business as an Operations Supervisor at the corporation's Hackettstown, New Jersey plant in 1986. Pamela Mars has held various positions in the corporation's Confectionery and Petcare divisions, working her way up to managerial and director roles in the Supply and Commercial sectors of the corporation, including an overseas assignment as Operations and Manufacturing Director in Mars' Confectionery business in Ballarat, Australia. Prior to her current role, she was Vice President of Manufacturing at Mars' Petcare division in Vernon, California. Pamela Mars currently serves as family ambassador to the Petcare businesses of Royal Canin, Banfield, Blue Pearl, Pet Partners and VCA, and provides support to the Veterinary Services/Diagnostics Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Mars Technology Committee. She recently retired from the Board of Directors of Mars, Incorporated, having previously served four years as Chairman and 16 years as a Board Director. Outside of her Mars commitments, Pamela Mars has recently been appointed as a member of the Supervisory Board of Heineken N.V. Outside of her business commitments, she is a Member of the Honorary Senate for Foundation Lindau Nobel Prize winners. She is also on the Board of Johns Hopkins Medicine and Johns Hopkins International Medicine. In addition, she serves on the Supervisory Board of SHV, a Dutch family business, and a member of the International Council of Advisors for National Geographic. Pamela Mars served on the Board of Trustees of Potomac School in McLean, Virginia, and was on the Board of Foxcroft School for 12 years, chairing the committee on Trustees. Pamela graduated from Potomac School and Foxcroft School as well as Vassar College.



## Collette Bunton

CEO

*Whistle*

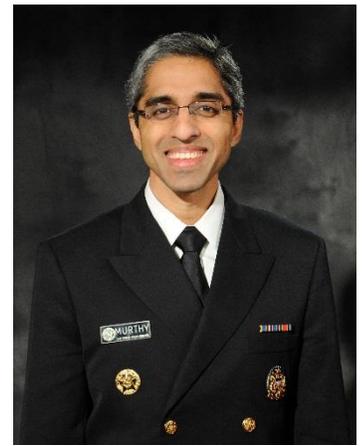
Collette Bunton is CEO of Whistle, the San Francisco-based tech company born out of a love for pets and makers of the best-in-class pet tracker. Before joining Whistle Collette led consumer hardware teams focused on building new disruptive categories, like Roku, which makes media-streaming software and hardware. Collette has over 20 years of experience leading successful teams and growing consumer electronics brands including Logitech and Seagate. Collette's specialty is her legacy of being focused on the consumer by bringing user delights to market through relevant new product acquisitions, product features and partnerships.



## Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA

*19th Surgeon General of the United States*

Dr. Vivek Murthy served as the 19th Surgeon General of the United States (from December 2014 to April 2017). As The Nation's Doctor, he brought both passion and innovation to the challenges of leading America's national healthcare initiatives. During his tenure there he issued the first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health, calling the nation to action to address this deadly disease. He launched the national TurnTheTideRx campaign to address the opioid crisis, and he was the first Surgeon General to issue a letter to health professionals across America calling them to action to reduce opioid addiction and overdose deaths. Throughout his career, Dr. Murthy has led the way in medical education, social action, and healthcare dialogue, co-founding several healthcare community organizations and grassroots citizen movements. Prior to becoming Surgeon General, Dr. Murthy practiced and taught internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.



## Steven Feldman

*Executive Director*

*HABRI*

Steven Feldman is the Executive Director of the Human-Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI). His mission is to use scientific research, education and advocacy to establish the vital role of companion animals in the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. As the leader of the only research organization focused solely on the human-animal bond, he has developed significant expertise in communicating the science of human-animal interaction and its practical application in healthcare and veterinary settings. He is frequently published and quoted on this topic in the popular media, healthcare, veterinary and other publications. Steven is an experienced public affairs practitioner and non-profit executive who has worked in the areas of wildlife conservation, animal welfare, healthcare and education. Prior to joining HABRI, Steve served as senior vice president for external affairs for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. He also worked at Powell Tate, a leading public affairs firm, and as a staff member in the United States Senate. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Affairs and a Master's Degree in Political Management from the George Washington University



## **Nancy Gee, PhD**

*Professor, Department of Psychology  
State University of New York at Fredonia*

*HAI Research Manager, Mars – WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition*

Dr. Nancy Gee is a Professor of Psychology at the State University of New York, Fredonia. From her academic position, she also manages an international portfolio of HAI research collaborations as the Human-Animal Interaction Research Manager, for the WALTHAM™ Centre for Pet Nutrition located in Leicestershire, England. Her own program of research has focused primarily on the impact of dogs on aspects of human cognition, including working memory, executive functioning, and physiological responses such as heart rate variability to the presence of, or contact with, dogs. A recipient of multiple grants and awards, member of several journal editorial advisory boards, Dr. Gee also serves on the Human-Animal Bond Advisory Board for Pet Partners, the Board of the International Society for Anthrozoology and co-chairs the Scientific Advisory Board for HABRI.



## **Layla E. Esposito, PhD**

*Program Officer, Child Development and Behavior Branch  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human  
Development, National Institutes of Health*

Layla Esposito, Ph.D., M.A., is a Program Director in the Child Development and Behavior (CDB) Branch at NICHD where her portfolio includes research on childhood obesity, social and emotional development in children and adolescents, child and family processes, and human-animal interaction. Dr. Esposito has a master's degree in clinical psychology and completed her Ph.D. in social psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Prior to her position at NICHD, Dr. Esposito was a science policy fellow with the Society for Research in Child Development and the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. Her prior research and clinical work focused on peer victimization, aggression, psychosocial functioning and adjustment in children, and child psychopathology.



## **Chelsea Gilchrist, MGS**

*Senior Program Manager, Center for Healthy Aging  
National Council on Aging (NCOA)*

Chelsea Gilchrist is a social gerontologist with expertise in scaling community-based health promotion programs, conducting research analysis, and implementing national education and awareness campaigns. In her role as a Senior Program Manager at NCOA, she supports the dissemination of evidence-based health promotion programs, develops professional and consumer resources, and identifies opportunities for new partnerships. Previously, she worked at Generations United to improve the lives of older adults, children, and youth through intergenerational public policies and programs. Ms. Gilchrist holds a Master of Gerontological Studies degree from Miami University, Scripps Gerontology Center, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology (summa cum laude) with a Business Leadership minor from Virginia Tech.



## Mary Margaret Callahan

*Chief Mission Officer, Pet Partners*

Mary Margaret Callahan is the Chief Mission Officer at Pet Partners, where she oversees the Therapy Animal Program and grassroots advocacy initiatives. Responsible for supporting safe and effective animal-assisted interventions for the Pet Partners teams across all 50 states and internationally, Mary Margaret works to ensure highly trained and professional volunteers making a difference in their community while also promoting industry standards to ensure animal welfare. The daughter of a veterinarian, Mary Margaret grew up surrounded by pets and has a deep appreciation for the strength of the human-animal bond. She lives on a small farm outside the Seattle area with her husband, daughter and pets including dogs, cats, miniature goats, mini donkeys and an assortment of backyard poultry.



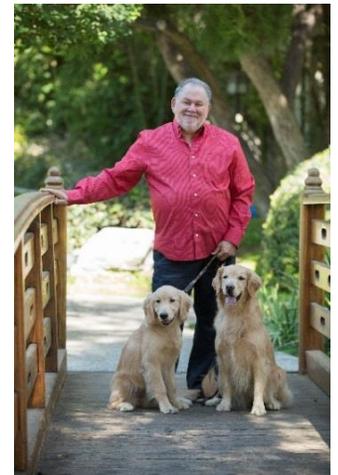
## Aubrey H. Fine, EdD

*Professor Emeritus, Department of Education*

*California State Polytechnic University*

*Practicing Psychologist*

Dr. Fine received his graduate degree from University of Cincinnati in 1982 and has been on the faculty at California State Polytechnic University since 1981. His leadership among faculty and teaching excellence earned him the prestigious Wang Award in 2001, given to a distinguished professor within the California State University system (23 Universities), in this instance for exceptional commitment, dedication, and exemplary contributions within the areas of education and applied sciences. Dr. Fine is also a licensed psychologist who opened his practice in Southern California in 1987. His practice specializes in treating children with ADHD, learning disabilities, developmental disorders and parent child relations.



## Sandra Barker, PhD, NCC, LPC

*Professor of Psychiatry and Bill Balaban Chair*

*College of Medicine, Center for Human-Animal Interaction*

*Virginia Commonwealth University*

Dr. Sandra Barker is Professor of Psychiatry and Bill Balaban Endowed Chair in Human-Animal Interaction at Virginia Commonwealth University where she serves as Director of the School of Medicine Center for Human-Animal Interaction (CHAI). As CHAI Director, she oversees an evidence-based therapy dog program, Dogs On Call, that is fully integrated into a major academic medical center and featured on Animal Planet and (Mission Critical Health) healthcare education videos, both aired globally. Dr. Barker has vast teaching and clinical experience in treating trauma survivors, providing and evaluating animal-assisted interventions, and directing a pet loss counseling program. She is internationally recognized for her research on the health benefits of interacting with companion animals, a research program that spans over 25 years. Dr. Barker also holds a joint appointment as Adjunct Professor of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and serves on their Advisory Board for the Center for Animal-Human Relationships. Dr. Barker has published and presented extensively on the benefits of interacting with companion animals and is often interviewed for major media outlets including National Public Radio, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and The Guardian. She is a co-author of *Animal-Assisted Interventions in Health Care Facilities: A Best-Practices Manual for Establishing and Maintaining New Programs*, published earlier this year by Purdue University Press. Dr. Barker is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including election to Fellow of the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) and selection as a 2018 "Grads Made Good" (outstanding alumni award) from Florida State University. She is an honorary patron of Irish Therapy Dogs, serves on the Pet Partners Human-Animal Bond Advisory Board, and volunteers with a local rescue dog transit team.



## Panel on Older Adults and Social Isolation

### *Moderator*

#### **Nancy Gee, PhD**

*Professor, Department of Psychology  
State University of New York at Fredonia  
HAI Research Manager, Mars – WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition*

### *Panelists*

#### **Dawn Carr, PhD**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology  
College of Social Sciences and Public Policy  
Florida State University*

Dawn C. Carr is an assistant professor at Florida State University in the Department of Sociology and faculty associate at Pepper Institute for Aging and Public Policy. Carr's expertise lies in understanding the factors that bolster older adults' ability to remain healthy and active as long as possible. With Kathrin Komp, Carr published "Gerontology in the Era of the Third Age: Implications and Next Steps" in 2011, a text dedicated to exploring the relevance, purpose, and factors that contributed to the emergence of a new period of life following one's career but prior to onset of frailty in later life. Her recent work focuses on understanding the complex pathways between health and active engagement during later life, including the impact of key transitions in health, productivity, and caregiving. Before joining Florida State University in 2016, she was a researcher at the Stanford Center on Longevity, a postdoctoral fellow in the Carolina Program for Health and Aging Research (CPHAR) at the Institute on Aging at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a researcher at Scripps Gerontology Center. Carr received her Ph.D. in Social Gerontology and Master's in Gerontological Studies at Miami University, and Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance at Arizona State University.



## **Erika Friedmann, PhD**

*Associate Dean of Research*

*Professor, OSAH*

*University of Maryland*

Dr. Friedmann is a Professor & Associate Dean for Research at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. She has been conducting research on the health benefits of the human-companion animal bond for people since the 1970s. Her seminal research showed that pet ownership is associated with improved one-year survival of heart disease patients. Since then she has conducted numerous studies exploring the moderating effects of pet ownership on stress and blood pressure. The findings of her original research were confirmed and advanced in a follow-up study that was published in 1995. Erika is a founding member and President of the International Society of Anthrozoology (ISAZ), a group of researchers and scholars who are advancing the study of the human-animal relationship. She is an active researcher, conducting NIH funded research and contributing over 60 papers to interdisciplinary refereed journals published internationally. Erika holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Pennsylvania. For over two decades she was a faculty member at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, serving as chair of the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences from 1992 to 2003.



## **Molly McAllister, DVM, MPH**

*Vice President Veterinary Science*

*Banfield Pet Hospital | Veterinary Affairs*

Dr. Molly McAllister is a graduate of Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and received her Masters in Public Health from University of Minnesota. With Banfield Pet Hospital since 2012, Dr. McAllister is the vice president of veterinary science, where she leads a team of veterinary researchers in the knowledge generation and data-based research that advances medical quality and outcomes at Banfield. She and her husband, Brandon, have two children and a houseful of pets and enjoy residing in Camas, WA.



## **Chelsea Gilchrist, MGS**

*Senior Program Manager, Center for Healthy Aging*

*National Council on Aging (NCOA)*

## **Mary Margaret Callahan**

*Chief Mission Officer*

*Pet Partners*

## Panel on People with Mental Health Challenges and Social Isolation

### Moderator

#### James A. Griffin, PhD

*Deputy Chief, Child Development & Behavior Branch  
Early Learning and School Readiness Research Program  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and  
Human Development  
National Institutes of Health*

James A. Griffin, Ph.D., is the Deputy Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch (CDBB) at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as the Director of the Early Learning and School Readiness Program. Prior to his position at NICHD, Dr. Griffin was a

Senior Research Analyst in the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education. He also served as the Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Education (SBE) Sciences in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and as a Research Analyst at the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). Dr. Griffin holds a B.A. summa cum laude in Psychology from the University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D. with honors in Child Clinical Psychology from the University of Rochester. Dr. Griffin's career has focused on research and evaluation efforts related to service systems and early intervention programs designed to enhance the development and school readiness of children from at-risk and disadvantaged backgrounds.



### Panelists

#### Dominique Apollon, M.Ed., LPC, CCATP

*Clinical Mental Health Therapist  
Light on Anxiety CBT Treatment Center*

Dominique received her Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from DePaul University and her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Western Illinois University. Dominique's treatment approach includes Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with mindfulness-based techniques in order to assist in bringing awareness and acceptance to the present moment. Dominique has clinical experience providing therapy to youth, adolescence and adults struggling with anxiety and depression and those who have experienced trauma. She is also passionate about advocating and supporting those of the LGBTQ community who are struggling with anxiety related disorders. In addition, Dominique has obtained advanced training in the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Social Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Trichotillomania, skin picking and other Body Focused Repetitive Disorders (BFRB's). Dominique also manages Light on Anxiety's Collaborative Care model which enhances coordination of care for Light on Anxiety clients by building relationships with referring providers and by providing community outreach.



## **Megan Kiely Mueller, PhD**

*Elizabeth Arnold Stevens Junior Professor*

*Assistant Professor, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University*

*Senior Fellow, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life*

Dr. Megan Mueller is an assistant professor of human-animal interaction at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, senior fellow at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, and Co-Director of the Tufts Institute for Human-Animal Interaction. Dr. Mueller is a developmental psychologist, and her research program focuses on how relationships with animals can promote healthy children, families and communities through pet ownership, animal-assisted interventions, and animal-based community programs.



## **Zenithson (Zenny) Ng, DVM, MS, DABVP**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

*Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences*

*The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture*

*College of Veterinary Medicine*

Zenithson Ng received his undergraduate degree in animal science from Rutgers University and veterinary degree from Cornell University. He then completed a rotating internship at the ASPCA followed by a combined ABVP residency and master's degree program in human-animal bond studies at Virginia Tech. His clinical interests include dentistry, behavior, preventive medicine, shelter medicine, and management of chronic disease. His research interests include the effect of animal-assisted interventions on both humans and animals, enhancement of the veterinarian-client relationship, and assessment of stress and animal welfare.



## **Aubrey H. Fine, EdD**

*Professor Emeritus, Department of Education*

*California State Polytechnic University*

*Practicing Psychologist*

## **Sandra Barker, PhD, NCC, LPC**

*Professor of Psychiatry and Bill Balaban Chair*

*College of Medicine*

*Center for Human-Animal Interaction*

*Virginia Commonwealth University*