



Rabies in the Americas 2026

Program of Events

All mentioned breakfasts and lunches are included
ASU Memorial Union Address:
301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

Nearest Parking Garage: Apache Parking Structure:
401 E. Lemon St., Tempe, AZ 85281

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Time	Event
12 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference (including vendor) setup in the Arizona Ballroom of the Memorial Union 301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281 Room 221 is located on the second floor.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration in the Arizona Ballroom of the Memorial Union and hang posters 301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281 Room 221 is located on the second floor.
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Welcome & Inaugural Conference Location: ASU University Club 425 E. University Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281 Drinks and appetizers provided.

	Keynote: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Title: The ORV Adventure Continues! From Flagstaff to the Rez for the World: the Search and History for a Practical Oral Rabies Vaccination for Free-Ranging Dogs <i>Scott Bender</i>
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Monday, October 19, 2026

Location:

ASU Memorial Union
Arizona Ballroom
Room 221 is located on the second floor.
301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

Time	Event
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Registration Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Rabies in the Americas Conference Introduction Presenter: Juan Antonio Montano Hirose
8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Paleo-disease Ecology Presenter: Carol L Chambers
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Rabies Origins Presenter: Charles E Rupprecht

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Keynote Questions
10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK + POSTER SESSION
11:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. Moderators: Timothy Algeo and Tore Buchanan	Oral Presentations: Rabies Vaccines and Wildlife Rabies Interventions 11:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. VIRTUAL: The Cape Cod, MA Oral Rabies Vaccination Program: 32 Years of Raccoon Rabies Virus Variant Management Presenter: Brian Bjorklund <i>United States Department of Agriculture</i> 11:20 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. VIRTUAL: Exploiting Thermotolerance to Optimize Rabies Control Through Community-based Dog Vaccination Delivery and the Value of an Integrated Approach to Rabies Elimination Presenter: Felix Lancaster <i>Washington State University</i> 11:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Raccoon Rabies Is Back: Inside Québec's Largest Wildlife Rabies Response Since Elimination Presenter: Marianne Gagnier <i>Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les Changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs</i> 12 p.m. - 12:20 p.m. USDA National Rabies Management Program Update with Emphasis on

	Emergency Funding Activities Presenter: Kathy Nelson <i>United States Department of Agriculture</i> 12:20 p.m. - 12:40 p.m. Presenter Questions
12:40 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH (included) + POSTER SESSION
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Moderators: Juan Antonio Montano Hirose	Round Table: Rabies Situation in the Americas Marco Vigilato: Pan American Health Organization Ryan Wallace: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Rachel Tidman: World Organisation for Animal Health Danielle Julien: Public Health Agency of Canada Silene Rocha: Secretaria de Vigilância em Saúde e Ambiente, Ministry of Health, Brasília
2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK + POSTER SESSION
2:45 p.m. - 5:05 p.m. Moderators: Thomas Muller and Ad Vos	Oral Presentations: Rabies Vaccines and Wildlife Rabies Interventions 2:45 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. Wildlife Rabies Surveillance: A Southern Perspective Presenter: Dee Jones <i>Alabama Department of Public Health</i>

3:05 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.

The perception of rarity: Wildlife rabies and other One Health challenges

Presenter: Aniruddah Belsare

Auburn University

3:25 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Linking serology and rabies case data: implications for raccoon rabies management

Presenter: Amy Gilbert

United States Department of Agriculture

3:45 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

ONRAB® revisited: Contemporary Characterisation of an Established Recombinant Adenoviral Vector Rabies Vaccine

Presenter: Thomas Müller

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut

4:05 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Elimination of Arctic fox variant rabies from southern Ontario, Canada

Presenter: Tore Buchanan

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

4:25 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Community Vaccinator Programs to Strengthen Equitable Access to rabies prevention in Remote Canadian communities

	Presenter: Danielle Julien <i>Public Health Agency of Canada</i> 4:45 p.m. - 5:05 p.m. Questions for presenters
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	NARMP (By invitation only)
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	International Steering Committee + Sponsors Dinner - Invitation Only

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Location:

ASU Memorial Union

Arizona Ballroom

Room 221 is located on the second floor.

301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

Time	Event
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Registration Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	In Memoriam Presenter: Charles E Rupprecht
8:30 a.m. - 10:25 a.m. Moderators: April Davis and Jane Megid	Oral Presentations: Diagnostics and Molecular Tools 8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. A challenging case of human rabies in the UK in 2025 Presenter: Charlotte Marsh

Animal and Plant Health Agency

8:50 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.

Automated Fluorescent Antibody Test
Reading using an AI-based Workflow

Presenter: Lorraine McElhinney

Animal and Plant Health Agency

9:10 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Streamlining the molecular workflow for
rabies testing

Presenter: Richard Spero

Redbud Labs

9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

Using guano to assess rabies virus
prevalence in the AZ-Mexico borderlands
region prior to the arrival of the common
vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*)

Presenter: Faith Walker

Northern Arizona University

9:50 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.

Direct Rapid Immunohistochemical Test for
Strengthening Rabies Diagnostic Capacity
in Brazil

Presenter: Fernanda Guedes Luiz

Instituto Pasteur, CCD/SES

10:10 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.

Presenter Questions

10:25 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK + POSTER SESSION
10:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Moderators: Susan Moore and Lorraine McElhinney	Oral Presentations: Diagnostics and Molecular Tools 10:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Evaluation of non-invasive swab samples for Lyssavirus rabies raccoon variant diagnosis to support enhanced rabies surveillance Presenter: Matthew Hopken <i>United States Department of Agriculture</i> 11:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. Evaluation of PrimeStore Molecular Transport Medium for the Inactivation and Molecular Stabilization of Rabies Virus in Field Samples Presenter: Arun Saravanakumar Annamalai <i>Kansas State University</i> 11:20 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. Enhanced Surveillance and Vaccination of Wildlife for Detection and Management of Raccoon Rabies Virus Variant — Omaha, Nebraska, October–November 2023 Presenter: Bryan Buss <i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i> 11:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Presenter Questions
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH + POSTER SESSION
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Oral Presentations: Rabies Situation in

Moderators: Scott Bender and Rachel Tidman

Domestic Animals

1:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Pan-American Health Organization Update:
Strengthening Rabies Surveillance in the
Americas: Challenges for Achieving and
Sustaining Dog-Mediated Rabies
Elimination

Presenter: Marco Vigilato

Pan American Health Organization

1:20 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

Ecuador Free of Rabies by 2030

Presenter: Juan Gonzalez Victorica

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health

1:40 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sociodemographic and dog ownership
practices sustaining free-roaming owned
dogs in Nigeria and Sierra Leone

Presenter: Philip Mshelbwala

*University of Sydney / Ahmadu Bello
University*

2:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Supporting Global Progress Towards 'Zero
by 30': Updates from the United Against
Rabies Forum

Presenter: Rachel Tidman

World Organisation for Animal Health

2:20 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

VIRTUAL: From pulse to continuous:
community-led delivery sustains rabies

	vaccination coverage and reduces costs in rural Tanzania Presenter: Joel Changalucha <i>Ifakara Health Institute</i> 2:40 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Presenter Questions
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
3:15 p.m. - 5:35 p.m. Moderators: Marco Vigilato and Irene Ruberto	Oral Presentations: Reports on Rabies Situation In the Americas 3:15 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. Rabies Under the Radar: How Many U.S. Human Cases Are We Missing? Presenter: Ryan Wallace <i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i> 3:35 p.m. - 3:55 p.m. Many undetected human rabies cases in the United States: what about Canada and India? Presenter: Alan Jackson <i>University of Calgary</i> 3:55 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Estimate of 2025 Global Number of Dogs Receiving No Veterinary Care Presenter: Ruth Steinberger <i>Spay FIRST!</i> 4:15 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.

	Clinical Evolution and Diagnostic Recognition of Human Rabies in the United States, 2000–2025 Presenter: Sumanth Cherukumilli <i>University of Maryland School of Medicine</i> 4:35 p.m. – 4:55 p.m. Suspected Paralytic Rabies in Haiti: A Case Report Highlighting Challenges to Timely Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Presenter: Parlo Cesar St Vil <i>Ministry of Public Health and Population, Haiti</i> 4:55 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Rabies Survivors in India: Insights from the World's Largest Cohort Presenter: Reeta S. Mani <i>National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences</i> 5:15 p.m. – 5:35 p.m. Presenter Questions
7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Veterinarians' Dinner (By invitation only)

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Location:

ASU Memorial Union

Union Stage

Room MU 085 is located on the lower level

301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

Time	Event
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Registration Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.
8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Moderators: Amy Gilbert and Aniruddha Belsare	Oral Presentations: Scientific Advancements 8:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. RABORAL V-RGreen: Development of a Biodegradable Sachet for Oral Rabies Vaccination Programs Presenter: Joanne Maki <i>Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health</i> 8:45 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. Neural Circuit and Neuroanatomical Dysfunction in Symptomatic Rabies: A Systematic Review of Structural, Functional, and Electrophysiological Evidence Presenter: Flavia Leandra Soto Roque <i>Federal University of São Paulo</i> 9:05 a.m. - 9:25 a.m. Refinement of a bioluminescent mouse model for preclinical evaluation of rabies therapeutics Presenter: Darryn Knobel <i>Universidad Ana G. Méndez</i> 9:25 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Presenter Questions
9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Moderators: Ann Fan and Crystal Gigante

Oral Presentations: Root Causes of Rabies Occurrence and Dispersal

10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

Rabies in carnivores not classified as reservoirs in the Americas

Presenter: Anne Justice-Allen

Arizona Game and Fish Department, retired

10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Phylogenetic investigation of raccoon rabies virus variant reveals deep viral diversity, historical translocations, and an abortive host shift in the United States

Presenter: Crystal Gigante

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

10:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

The immune response and the geographical origin of dogs: a never-ending story

Presenter: Ad Vos

Ceva Santé Animale

11:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

Multiple disease threats at the border facilitated by an invading species with ties to an invasive species

Presenter: David Bergman

United States Department of Agriculture - retired

11:20 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

Fox Rabies Variants: The Potential for

	Introduction, Re-emergence, and Host Shift Events in Texas Presenter: Kathy Parker <i>Texas Department of State Health Services</i> 11:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Presenter Questions
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Boxed lunches will be provided
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	International Steering Committee Meeting (invitation only)
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Bus transportation to the zoo First bus leaves at 1:00 p.m. Second bus leaves at 1:30 p.m. The buses will leave from the Memorial Union at ASU. Transportation should take
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Enjoy the zoo Phoenix Zoo, 455 N Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008
4:00 p.m.	Go to Neely Education and Events Center building for Gala events Cash bar will be available from 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Exclusive Use of Phoenix Zoo Carousel
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Silent Auction
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Gala Dinner
10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Buses go back to the Memorial Union

	1st Bus: 10:00 p.m. 2nd Bus: 10:30 p.m.
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Thursday, October 22, 2026

Location:
ASU Memorial Union
Arizona Ballroom
Room 221 is located on the second floor.
301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

Time	Event
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast will be served
8:50 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Moderators: Stephen Scholand and Ellen Santos	Human Rabies: From Compassion to Prevention—Bridging Clinical Care, Public Health, and One Health 8:50 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Welcome Why Are We Still Losing Patients to a Preventable Disease? Presenter: Stephen Scholand <i>University of Arizona</i> 9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. Opening Keynote Title: WHY? A reflection on the worst of all Infectious Diseases – Rabies Presenter: Steve Scholand <i>University of Arizona</i> 9:20 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. Title: One Health in Action: Local

Time	Event
	Application to Global Considerations Presenter: Ellen Santos <i>Pima County Health Department</i> 9:40 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. Title: Lessons from the Rabies Front Line: Insights from India Presenter: Reeta S Mani <i>National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)</i> 10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. Title: Human Rabies: Variability and Critical Care Presenter: Rodney Willoughby <i>Medical College of Wisconsin</i>
10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 a.m. -11:10 a.m. Moderators: Charles Rupprecht	Human Rabies: From Compassion to Prevention—Bridging Clinical Care, Public Health, and One Health 10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. Session restart and welcome 10:40 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Title: A Miracle in Ohio Presenter: Michael Hattwick <i>Former Director of the CDC Rabies Division</i> 11:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. Title: A Survivor's Story

Time	Event
11:20 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Moderator: Stephen Scholand and Alan Jackson	Expert Roundtable - Human Rabies Survival Participants: Dr. Rodney Willoughby (Medical College of Wisconsin) Dr. Michael Hattwick (Former Director of the CDC Rabies Division) Dr. Charles Rupprecht (Auburn University) Dr. Reeta Mani (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS))
11:50 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Moderators: Steve Scholand and Anand Lakhkar	Oral Presentations: Human Vaccines and Antivirals - Sponsors Session 12:45 p.m. - 1:05 p.m. Forty Years of Post-Marketing Safety Experience with the Purified Chick Embryo Cell Vaccine Rabipur/RabAvert for Rabies Prophylaxis Presenter: Fernanda Salgado <i>Bioscript Group / Bavarian Nordic</i> 1:05 p.m. - 1:25 p.m. SYN023 Anti-Rabies mAb Cocktail for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Presenter: Eric Tsao <i>Synermore Biopharmaceuticals</i> 1:25 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Current Real-World use and safety of a

Time	Event
	highly concentrated HRIG in both adults and pediatrics Presenter: Marc Ramby <i>Grifols</i> 1:45 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. PVRV-NG2 - The Next Generation Rabies Vaccine for Humans Presenter: Anand Lakhkar <i>Sanofi Vaccines</i> 2:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m. Presenter Questions
2:25 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
2:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Moderators: Ryan Wallace and Michael Sirimaturros	Oral Presentations: Human Vaccines and Antivirals 2:40 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Antibody Gene Therapy for Rabies Presenter: Jyoti Yadav <i>Auburn University</i> 3:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. Beyond the Bite: The Hidden Mental Health Burden of Animal-Associated Injuries and Rabies Deaths Presenter: Reeta S. Mani <i>National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences</i>

Time	Event
	3:20 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. A single-shot measles vaccine expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein confers dual protection against rabies virus and measles virus. Presenter: Drishya Kurup <i>Thomas Jefferson University</i> 3:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Rabies on the Radar: Rising Exposures and Getting PEP Right Presenter: Ryan Wallace <i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i> 4:00 p.m. - 4:20 p.m. Safety Evaluation of Human Rabies Immune Globulin 300 IU/mL (HyperRab®) in Children: A Multicenter, Prospective, Observational Study Presenter: Michael Sirimatuross <i>Houston Methodist</i> 4:20 p.m. - 4:40 p.m. Presenter Questions 4:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. !!RITA 38 Presentation!!
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Location: Pedal Haus Brewery	Closing Conference & Ceremony

Time	Event
730 S Mill Ave #102, Tempe, AZ 85281	

Friday, October 23, 2026

Time	Event
Location: Public Virtual Access ASU Memorial Union Arizona Ballroom 301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Moderator: Charles E Rupprecht	WEBINAR 'Fox Rabies - AZ-RITA2026' Fox Rabies: a Global Paradigm Presenter: Charles E. Rupprecht <i>Auburn University, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment; College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn, AL, USA</i> One Continent, Two Realities: Fox Rabies in Europe Presenter: Thomas Müller <i>Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut</i> From Dogs to Foxes and Back: The Shifting Ecology of Rabies Reservoirs in Israel, 1950–2026 Presenter: Yael Gozlan <i>Kimron Veterinary Institute, Israel Ministry of Agriculture</i> Bat-eared fox rabies in southern Africa Presenter: Claude Sabeta <i>University of Pretoria</i>

Arctic fox Rabies: Rabies in the far North

Presenter: Karsten Hueffer

*College of Natural Science and
Mathematics, University of Alaska
Fairbanks.*

Arctic Fox Variant Rabies in Canada –
Threat from the North

Presenter: Tore Buchanan

*Wildlife Research Coordinator, Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources*

Gray Fox Rabies In Texas: History and
Management

Presenter: Michael J. Bodenchuk

USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services (retired)

Gray Fox Rabies: A North American
Challenge

Presenter: David Bergman

USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services (retired)

From the Global Paradigm of Fox Rabies to
the Brazilian Experience with *Cerdocyon*
thous: Challenges and Future Perspectives

Presenter: Silene Manrique Rocha

Ministry of Health of Brazil