



Student Chapter Progress Report – Guidelines

Complete this form and email to the Student Representative on Council, Marianthi Ioannidis (ioannidis.marianthi@gmail.com), before May 1st 2020. This report will be made available on the WDA website, thus it is also your chapter's business card.

- 1) Complete your report according to the guidelines below
- 2) Make sure to list the current officers and their details in this report.
- 3) If possible, please attach a group shot of the current chapter officers for 2020 to be added to the website.
- 4) Chapter that are not sending back a progress report will not be considered active anymore.



Student Chapter Progress Report

Chapter Name:

Southern Africa Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter
(University of Pretoria)

Established in (if known):

December 2017, previously started as the AME-SC in April 2017
which was dissolved to focus on a smaller geographical area.

Vision: Provide topical and demand driven education to Southern African students interested in wildlife diseases and provide a platform created by the Southern African WDA SC (UP) where they can transfer their knowledge and connect with mentors within the WDA

Mission:

Growing the interest and participation of Southern African Wildlife Disease students within the WDA that will allow for human capital development institutes of higher education.

Number of chapter members:

131

Number of chapter members that are WDA members:

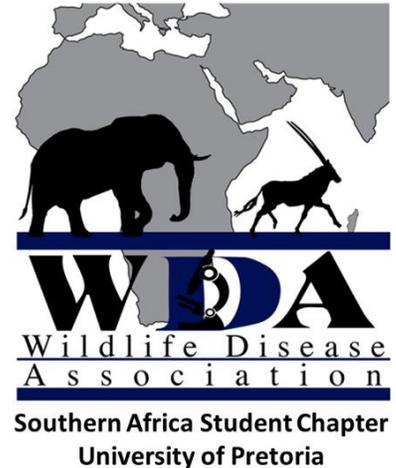
29 (includes students registered with other sections than AME)

Faculty Advisor

Name: Prof. Michele A. Miller, DVM, MS, PhD, MPH, Dipl ECZM (ZHM)

Position: South African National Research Foundation Chair in Animal TB at Stellenbosch University

Email: miller@sun.ac.za





Current board members (2019 & 2020)

President:

Name: Friederike Pohlin, MRCVS, MSc, PhD Candidate, Resident ECVAA

Email address: friederike.pohlin@gmail.com

Country: South Africa

Vice President

Name: Janine Meuffels, MRCVS, MVSc, BVSc, PhD candidate

Email address: meuffels.janine@gmail.com

Country: South Africa

Treasurer

Name: Isabel Callealta, Lic. Med. Vet., PhD Candidate

Email address: icallealta@gmail.com

Country: South Africa

Secretary

Name: Camilla Smyth, BSc (Applied Biology and Genetics), BSc (Med)(Hons) Exercise Science Candidate

Email address: camillasmyth1@gmail.com

Country: South Africa

Communication officer

Name: Laurenz Krueger, BVSc

Email address: u13069269@tuks.co.za

Country: Zimbabwe

Student board advisor:

Name: Eduard Roos, BSc (Zoology), BSc Hons (Zoology) PhD Candidate

Email: eoroos.zoology@gmail.com

Country: South Africa/ UK



Student ambassadors:

South Africa: Thembeke Mtewa, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD Candidate, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Zimbabwe: Lara Nicholson, BVSc Candidate, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

Algeria: Khayr-eddine Choual, PhD Candidate, Université Mohamed Chérif Messaadia, Souk-Ahras, Algeria

How frequently does your chapter hold elections?

Once every two years. Next election 2020.

Board members 2020-2021

The current Student Board was elected in 2018 and will stay in office until the next elections held in 2020. The current Board Members are listed in the above- section.

The board will change during 2020. Elections will be held towards the end of the year.

Description of Chapter Activities

PR:

Online presence:

- **Chapter website (if applicable):** <https://wdaamesc.wixsite.com/southernafricaup>
- **Chapter facebook page (if applicable):** <https://www.facebook.com/SAWDASC/>
 - **Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter):**
https://twitter.com/SAWDASC_UP
- **Does your chapter have a newsletter:** we send out monthly or bi-monthly newsletters to our students, depending on what is planned for each month. We are also constantly updating the “news” section on our website.

Member recruitment & Club outreach

- **How does your chapter announce and advertises your events?**
 - We organize workshops and informative lecture events and a monthly online journal club
 - We advertise our events on our website as well as Facebook and word of mouth.
 - We collaborate with other WDA student chapters and groups, such as the “Zoo and wildlife Medicine Study Group”.
 - We keep our members posted by emailing news and events



Collaboration:

- **Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with?**
 1. Zoo- and Wildlife Medicine Study Group
 2. Wildlife group of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) – STUDENTS
 3. Onderstepoort postgraduate student association
 4. University of Cape Town Zoology and Botany Club
 5. Other WDA student chapters (e.g. EWDA SC Belgium, Netherlands, Austria)

If your chapter collaborates, what does the chapter do together with the other organization?

1. We have a monthly co-hosted online journal club, which is open to our members to actively participate.
2. The lecture event at the University of Cape Town was organised together with the UCT Zoology and Botany Club.
3. Active participation and sharing of events with European WDA student chapters.

WDA-representation:

- **How did your chapter promote the WDA? (i.e. hand-out WDA flyers, announced at meetings what WDA mission is and how to become a member, coordinated travel to the WDA conference)**

We present the student chapter as well as the parent WDA at every event organised by the student chapter, including the monthly online journal clubs co-hosted with the Zoo- and Wildlife Medicine Study Group.

Fundraising:

1. **Does your chapter have a membership fee, if so what are the fees?**
We do not have a membership fee as many of our members are from countries on the low-income country lists of the world bank.
2. **Did your chapter host a fundraiser (i.e. cookie sale, gear sale)?**
In our events, we provide bottled water to the assistants for free, and sell juice, sweets and snacks to raise funds for the chapter.
3. **Did your chapter apply for grants and awards (i.e. WDA student chapter grants, university support)?**
We applied to the WDA student chapter grant in April 2019.
4. **Any other way the chapter's financial health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)?**
Planning to get some branded items to sell as an income to the chapter.



EVENTS

Please share the activities your chapter organized or co-organized between April 30th 2019 and May 1st 2020. It is ok to overlap if you mentioned some of the events above. In addition, if you have exciting end of semester / summer plans please share those too. We love to know how you keep members engaged when school is not in session.

(Bi)Annual events:

Completed:

1. University of Cape Town SAWDASC Lecture Evening



Short report by Camilla Smyth:

We're excited to share that in April this year we held our first event at the University of Cape Town (UCT). This event served both as an introduction of the Southern Africa Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter (SAWDASC) to UCT and also as a lecture evening. Although UCT does not have a vet school, there was a strong turnout of interested students from a range of different fields including the Department of Biological Sciences, the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences and also from the University's Zoology and Botany Club.



The evening started with a brief introduction of the WDA and the SAWDASC, and then we jumped straight into the lecture presentations. We were lucky enough to have three wildlife researchers present their work. First we had Friederike Pohlin, who is currently enrolled in a PhD in Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria, present on physiological responses of black and white rhinoceroses to capture and transport. Then, Margaret Nolan, who just completed her PhD in Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria presented on elephant population management in South Africa using immunocontraception. Finally, Marion Leiberich, who also just completed her PhD in Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria presented her research on assessing the value of enrofloxacin (an anti-microbial drug) and carprofen (an anti-inflammatory drug) combination treatment in Southern white rhinoceros through the use of pharmacokinetic modelling. After each presentation there was time for questions. We were very pleased with the enthusiasm and interest shown by the students through the questions they came up with and through their active engagement with the content of the presentations. It was a very successful evening and we'd like to thank our presenters for making it possible. We're hoping to organize another lecture evening at UCT in the second half of the year.

2. Avian Workshop





Short report by Janine Meuffels:

The Southern Africa WDA Student Chapter (SAWDASC) is the first student chapter in the Africa and Middle East section of the WDA. It was approved by the WDA council in December 2017 with the aim to enhance the skills of Southern African students interested in wildlife health and disease by organizing lectures and workshops and to connect these students with each other and with mentors. We held our first annual student workshop in February 2018, focusing on wildlife pathology and one-health. We are excited to share that, on the evening of the 5th of September 2019, we held our second annual student workshop. This workshop was organised by the newly elected 2019-2020 SAWDASC board and focused on avian medicine. Fifty students joined the lecture event at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pretoria, South Africa. The lectures were followed by a practical session which was open to 30 of these students and allowed for a hands-on experience. The lecture event was started by an introduction to the SAWDASC by Dr Janine Meuffels. Dr Katja Koepfel gave an outline of the Lesser Flamingo Rescue Project, a large effort to save hundreds of flamingo chicks that were left by their parents after the dam started to dry out following human intervention. The lectures were continued with Dr Jess Briner, who discussed some wildlife emergency cases and common diseases and Dr Kresen Pillay, who presented commonly used procedures (e.g. fluid therapy, blood sampling) and anaesthesia. Dr Richard Burroughs ended the lecture event with a session on surgical sexing of birds. Practical hand-out sheets were prepared for all students. For the workshop, the students were split into three groups of ten people each. Dr Jess Briner, Dr Kresen Pillay and Dr Robert Campbell each supervised one of these groups. By making use of bird carcasses, common procedures such as s.c./i.m./i.v./i.o. injections, blood sampling, examination of hydration status and body condition, crop feeding, etc. were practiced. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and active participation of the students in the workshop. We would also like to thank all of our speakers for their support and motivation in making this event possible.

Weekly or monthly events:

- 3. Monthly online journal club: (free) online presentations led by student members of the SAWDASC (UP) organised through the Zoo- and Wildlife Medicine Study Group.**

Link to the journal club website:

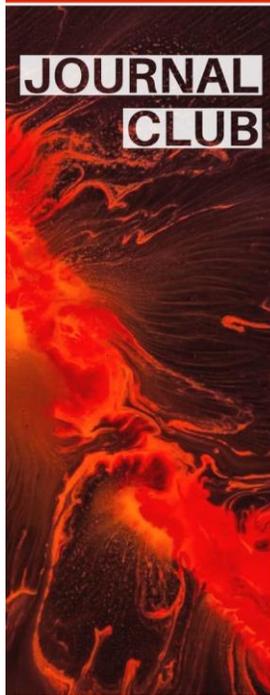
<https://spark.adobe.com/page/OdjLIEJnLDoyx/?fbclid=IwAR1WhyjJO3banoscJnXz2QZ7x8JX0mUuzo0GHUPIKWiChyrvrDv0LSP2zqc>



Past journal clubs:

- May 2017: Translocation stress in wildlife, Friederike Pohlin (University of Pretoria)
- July 2017: Oxygen transport in mammals and other species, Thembeke Mtewa (University of Pretoria)
- August 2017: Avian Cardiology, Dr. Ernesto Dominguez (Virginia Wildlife Center)
- October 2017: Epidemiological analysis in African species, Eduard O. Roos (University of Cape Town)
- January 2018: Translocation stress in wildlife (repeated), Friederike Pohlin (University of Pretoria)
- February 2018: Internship and Residency Programs in North America, Dr. Carlos Sanchez (Fort Worth Zoo)
- March 2018: Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV), Sonia J. Fontes (IZW Berlin)
- June 2018: Influenza viruses in wild mammals, Sanatana Soilemetzidou (IZW Berlin)
- July 2018: Forced molt in four juvenile yellow eyed penguins, Dr Roberto Aguilar Dipl. ECZM (Massey University)
- October 2018: Wildlife endocrinology as a tool to combat earth's sixth mass extinction, Dr Jella Wauter (Ughent)
- February 2019: Hand-rearing as an aspect of conservation - Case study of a Rothschild giraffe calf, Janine Meuffels (University of Pretoria)
- March 2019: Applied marine mammal research, Anja Reckendorf (TiHo Hannover)
- **August 2019: Positive Reinforcement Conditioning in Felids, Isabel Callealta (University of Pretoria)**
- **September 2019: Bottlenose Dolphin Reproduction, Melanie Oesterwind (TiHo Hannover)**
- **December 2019: How hormones inform management - from abundant deer to endangered black footed ferrets, Emily Potratz (University of Illinois)**
- **March 2020: The respiratory tract of whales and how to measure whale health, Catharina Vendl (University of New South Wales)**
- **April 2020: Leukocyte Coping Capacity in Mammals and Birds, Dr. Nikolaus Huber (Vetmeduni Vienna)**

Our (free) online journal club has gained popularity with over 50 students and professionals from all over the world participating at this event!



“Leukocyte Coping Capacity as a Functional Proxy for Measuring Stress in Mammals and Birds”

Presenter: Dr. Nikolaus Huber

Dr Huber is specialized in wildlife conservation medicine with a particular focus on stress physiology/eco-immunology. After he graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, he went to Sweden as a wildlife research veterinarian working mainly on Scandinavian brown bears and roe deer. After an intermediate stop at the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland, he went back to Vienna to complete his Ph.D., where he explored a method called Leukocyte Coping Capacity and its use as an immunological proxy for stress. Currently, Dr. Huber is working as a post-doc at the Konrad Lorenz Institute of Ethology, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, focusing on the reciprocal interactions between stress, health, and animal welfare in different environmental contexts.

Date: Sunday, April 5th, 2020

Time: 7:30 am New York (UTC -4)

This is an online free event by:



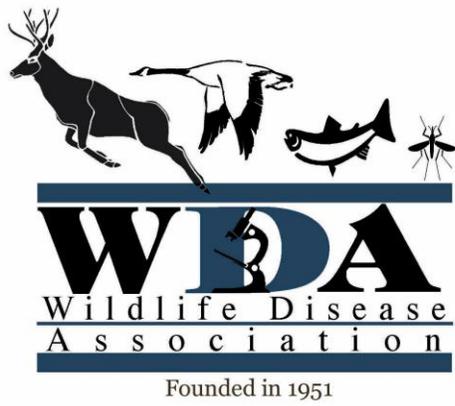
For more information
visit us on Facebook



Latest online journal club flyer

More information:

- <https://wdaamesc.wixsite.com/southernafricaup/student-chapter-journal-club>
- <https://wdaamesc.wixsite.com/southernafricaup/news>
- <https://spark.adobe.com/page/OdjLIEJnLDoyx/?fbclid=IwAR1WhyiJO3banoscJnXz2QZ7x8JX0mUuzo0GHUPIKWiChyrvrDv0LSP2zqc>



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SA WDA SC BOARD 2019/20



PRESIDENT
Friederike Pohlin



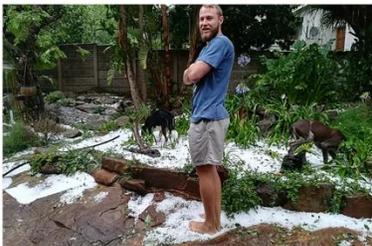
VICE PRESIDENT
Janine Meuffels



TREASURER
Isabel Callealta



SECRETARY
Camilla Smyth



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Laurenz Krüger



STUDENT BOARD ADVISOR &
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
WDA AME SECTION
Eduard Roos



FACULTY ADVISOR
Prof. Michele Miller



!!!Regarding the WDA conference in 2021, Wisconsin

In order to organize the next student event prior the annual meeting we decided to ask the student chapter officers:

What would you like to have as a main topic/red line?

With respect to the current COVID 19 pandemic it would be great to focus the event on a one-health approach and the role of wildlife-researchers in this bigger picture. It is somehow our responsibility to be updated on emerging infectious (zoonotic) diseases – what is our role during a pandemic and how can we grow into that role? What is the best way to stay informed and how should we act and share information during a pandemic? What can we do better next time, what should we have done? Perhaps it would also be good to talk about basic hygiene when working in the field and with wildlife in general.

What would you like to see during this event in terms of lectures, workshops,...?

Human-domestic animal-wildlife-interface, the effect of wildlife management techniques (stress) in the development and spread of disease, how can we use the COVID19 pandemic to successfully enforce conservation efforts?