

Fish Health Section



FHS NEWS – April 2025

Fish Health Section website: <https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Fish Health Section Facebook Site: <https://facebook.com/FishHealthSectionAFS>

Fish Health Section on LinkedIn: Please join our newest social media network at LinkedIn Login, Sign in or search for us and ask to join.

Fish Health Section Twitter feed: @AFSFishHealth

Welcome to our newest and returning members: Abigail Armwood, Kyle Garver, Andrew Goodwin, Hui-Min Hsu, Michael Kent, Steven Ksepka, Rachel Lindsey, Luke Oliver, Shannon Perry, Eva Marie Quijano Cardé, Jessie Sanders, and Cheyenne Smith. To continue receiving the monthly newsletter, please renew your memberships in AFS and the FHS at <https://fisheries.org/membership/>.

S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award Nomination Announcement



The Awards Committee would like to solicit nominations for the S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award (SDSA). The SDSA is the highest award presented by the Fish Health Section. This award is presented for the purpose of honoring individuals for outstanding accomplishments in the field of aquatic animal health. This is a career award and while it may be given to more than one individual in a year, it is not necessarily awarded every year.

Because this is a career award, candidates should have a significant number of active years in science within the finfish or shellfish health field as well as significant accomplishments which are not limited to but may include a significant number of publications, a significant number of secured grants for grad student thesis projects, administration of a successful lab, a major discovery in the field of finfish or shellfish health, and/or previous recognition by other professional societies or committees. More information about the award and previous recipients can be found [here](#).

If you wish to nominate an individual for the SDSA please send nomination packages (see requirements below) to the Awards Committee Chair (Heather Walsh, hwalsh@usgs.gov) by **May 2, 2025**. Awards recipient(s) will be honored at the Annual Fish Health Section Meeting.

Individuals must be nominated by a current FHS member and packages must include:

1. Six letters of recommendation from fish health professionals that support the nominee's dedication to research, teaching and/or service to the field of aquatic animal health.
2. The nominee's curriculum vitae.

3. A general letter of recommendation by the primary nominator who must be a current FHS member.

Additional guidance can be found on page 21 of the [FHS Procedures Manual](#). Feel free to contact members of the Awards Committee with questions.

Awards Committee

Heather Walsh, Chair

hwalsh@usgs.gov

Danielle Van Vliet, Member

dvan@utah.gov

Eileen Henderson, Member

eehenderson@ucdavis.edu

Special Achievement Award Nomination Announcement



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Individuals must be nominated by a current FHS member and packages must include:

1. The accomplishment.
2. The significance of the accomplishment to the field of fish health.
3. Implication of the accomplishment to aquaculture (local, regional, national, or worldwide).

Copies of any articles or supporting documents related to the work should be included in the nomination package. Nominations for the Special Achievement Award should be made within one year of the accomplishment. Additional guidance can be found on page 23 of the [FHS Procedures Manual](#).

Feel free to contact members of the Awards Committee with questions.

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Snieszko Student Travel Award Announcement



The FHS Awards Committee is soliciting applications for Snieszko Student Travel Awards, which will award money to student members of the AFS-FHS to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting of the FHS and Western Fish Disease Workshop June 23rd – 27th in Bozeman, Montana. The amount of money to be awarded and the number of travel awards will be announced later. Previous recipients of the Snieszko Student Travel Awards can be found [here](#).

Students must be members of the AFS-FHS to be eligible and must submit the following information in their application packet:

1. Letter of application and statement of any special financial circumstances (i.e. not supported by a stipend, etc.)
2. Curriculum vitae
3. **Two** letters of recommendation
4. Itemized budget on how money is to be spent, i.e. travel, meals, lodging and registration
5. Copy of abstract of paper to be presented

Applications will be judged on:

1. Quality of abstract
2. Significance of the research
3. Academic achievement
4. Professional achievement
5. Financial need

Completed applications need to be emailed to the Awards Committee Chair (Heather Walsh, hwalsh@usgs.gov) by **May 23, 2025**.

Feel free to contact members of the Awards Committee with questions.

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Danielle Van Vliet, Member

dvan@utah.gov

Eileen Henderson, Member

eehenderson@ucdavis.edu

The Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society represents fish biologists, diagnosticians, researchers, aquaculturists, veterinarians, administrators, and others involved in fish health. We represent many fields of expertise, but we all have an interest in fish and their welfare. Aquaculture is an essential tool for food production, fisheries conservation and management. Animal welfare can be a contentious, charged topic, but fish health and well-being are nonetheless vital to successful aquaculture. To stem the tide of misinformation and provide practitioners with actionable information, the FHS has created an infographic highlighting the principles of functional welfare and how they are applied in aquaculture.

Aquaculture and Animal Welfare



Fish Health Section of the
American Fisheries Society

<https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Aquaculture supports food security and conservation

The human population is expected to increase to 10 billion by 2050

Traditional land-based agriculture occupies more than half of all developed land and uses more than 70% of the world's fresh water resources

Consumption of aquatic foods (excluding algae) has been increasing by 3% annually since 1961 and is expected to grow by an additional 15% by 2030

Most fish stocks are fully exploited, overfished, or in recovery from overfishing and cannot withstand additional harvest pressure

Rising ocean temperatures are affecting the distribution and abundance of fish stocks, and the most productive waters are experiencing acidification

Aquaculture is critically needed to close the seafood gap and support fisheries conservation and recovery efforts

Animal welfare benefits

- > Reduced stress and risk of disease
- > Faster and more efficient growth
- > Enhanced post-release survival and conservation outcomes
- > Greater product quality and profitability
- > Greater consumer satisfaction

Animal welfare is best addressed by mindful husbandry



Physical environment should be suited to the animal and support health



Handling should be limited to minimize stress and reduce the potential for physical damage



Health management should emphasize preventative measures and judicious treatment to support recovery from disease



Feed should provide suitable nutrition for each life stage, supporting health and performance



Breeding should always consider health and welfare as performance traits



Harvest or otherwise dispatching aquatic animals must be rapid and effective

Aquaculture offers many environmental benefits

Aquatic animals are more efficient at converting feed into protein for human consumption than terrestrial livestock

Nearly 2/3 of global aquaculture production is composed of low trophic level, freshwater species such as carp and catfish that require relatively little in terms of feed inputs

Aquaculture operations typically have smaller carbon footprints than terrestrial livestock farms and require less land and fresh water per unit protein produced

Oysters (and other bivalves) are filter feeders that clarify the water as they feed. Restoring and farming shellfish beds improves water quality, provides habitat for smaller organisms, and can help prevent shoreline erosion

New technologies for aquaculture that integrate and model topography, currents, and nutrient flow are helping to inform decisions that expand sustainable aquaculture while minimizing potential environmental impacts of marine farms

Land-based aquaculture based on water reuse technologies is one of the fastest growing segments of food production

For more information



Aquaculture Supports a Sustainable Earth



The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in action



The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022. Towards Blue Transformation



Future of the Nation's Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The Challenges We Face in 2017 and Beyond.

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

University Microcredential in Zebrafish Health & Management in Research



In-person classes:

28/05/2025 – 30/05/2025



Veterinary Faculty

Avda. Carvallo Calero s/n
27002 Lugo, Spain

Explore zebrafish research in this dynamic course, combining theory with hands-on practice in biology, welfare, diseases, and biosecurity. Develop practical skills by performing necropsies, tissue analysis, and disease diagnostics.

Lecturers:

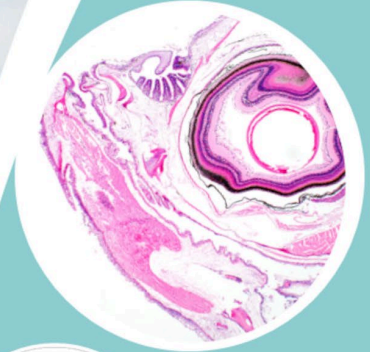
Professor Dr. Michael L. Kent

Departments of Microbiology and Biomedical Sciences
Oregon State University – EUA
Specialist in zebrafish pathology
Author of numerous works in zebrafish diseases



Members of the research group GAPAVET

Including three Diplomates of the ECAAH
Departamento de Anatomía, Producción Animal y Ciencias Clínicas Veterinarias
Universidade de Santiago de Compostela - Spain



Fees: 350 € + scholar insurance

Pre-registration: 14/04/2025 - 28/04/2025

The pre-registration will be done by registering in the Virtual Student Secretariat at the link: <https://matricula.usc.es/loginx/Login.asp>. Please use the translator tool of your browser to English. Once the registration on the secretariat has been completed, you must access the Virtual Secretariat to choose the course.

Organization: GAPAVET



gapavet@usc.es / anmanuelade.azevedo@usc.es



[gapavet](https://www.instagram.com/gapavet)



[gapavet](https://www.facebook.com/gapavet)



Further information:



6th Short Course in Toxicologic Pathology in Fish

July 22 – 24, 2025

Lectures by Dr. Jeff Wolf (EPL, US), Prof. Heike Schmidt-Posthaus (Univ. Bern, CH), Prof. em. Helmut Segner (Univ. Bern, CH), Dr. Lisa Baumann (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, NL), Prof. Thomas Braunbeck (Univ. Heidelberg, D) and Dr. Dave Groman (Univ. Prince Edward Island, CA)

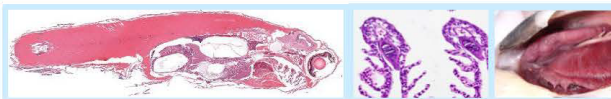


Training in Toxicopathological methods and in the Diagnosis of Toxicopathological lesions in fish

Significant emphasis is on "hands-on" practical training and on the diagnosis of histopathological features in fish tissues

Designed for PhD students, researchers and technicians using histopathology in toxicological studies

Max. 20 on-site participants; hybrid format:
Lectures can also be followed online *via* Zoom



The course covers various uses and applications of histopathology in fish toxicological studies in the field and in the laboratory:

- methodological considerations,
- commonalities and differences between toxicopathic and infectious lesions,
- regulatory applications

Topics will be

- design and evaluation of histopathological studies,
- importance of quality control,
- (zebra)fish embryo histology,
- transgenic models,
- histopathology in bio-monitoring,
- histopathology in endocrine disruptor testing,
- stereology and AI-based methods in toxicopathology,
- neoplastic changes in marine and freshwater species,
- transgenerational studies,
- practical exercises (incl. case studies of participants)

Contact & Registration

Contact local organizer: Prof. Thomas Braunbeck, Centre for Organismal Studies, Im Neuenheimer Feld 504, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany (braunbeck@uni-hd.de).

On-site participation (includes parts of meals):

regular € 350, students € 300

Virtual participation (excludes hands-on training):

regular € 250, students € 200



2025 Joint 31st Aquatic Drug Approval Coordination Workshop,

64th Western Fish Disease Workshop

and Annual AFS Fish Health Section Meeting

We are excited to host a triple joint meeting this year! Please join your fish health colleagues to share your research and current projects in Bozeman, Montana June 23rd - 27th. Registration is now open!

Important Dates

Early bird registration closes: **May 2nd**, 2025

Late registration closes: **May 26th**, 2025

Abstract submission closes: **May 2nd**, 2025

Lodging room block ends: **May 20th**, 2025

Snieszko Student Travel Award applications close: **May 23rd**, 2025

Please visit the [meeting webpage](#) for more information, including Schedule At A Glance, Continuing Education Workshop and Lodging.

Federal colleagues - The organizing committee for the upcoming joint fish health meetings in Bozeman recognize that this is a particularly challenging time to plan travel for workshops/conferences etc. As such, you will not be charged a late fee for registering after the Early Bird registration closes. Please quote the Early Bird registration fee in your approval requests, and if you register after May 2nd, please use the code **FEDERAL2025** to retain that rate. We hope this small gesture helps you plan.



[FHS Annual Meeting | AFS Fish Health Section](#)

2025 FHS, Western Fish Disease Workshop and Annual Aquaculture Drug Approval Coordination Workshop. Bozeman, Montana June 23 rd – 27 th Hosted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service And AFS – Fish Health Section Organizing Committee Ken Staigmiller, Marilyn Blair, Lacey Hopper, Shane Ramee, and Sascha Hallett

units.fisheries.org

Your organizing committee: [Ken Staigmiller](#), [Marilyn "Guppy" Blair](#), [Lacey Hopper](#), [Shane Ramee](#), and [Sascha Hallett](#)

We are pleased to invite you to the
22nd International Conference of Diseases of Fish and Shellfish
Organised by the European Association of Fish Pathologists

Conference dates: 1st to 4th of September 2025, Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Registration is now open!

Abstract submission deadline: 8th May

Early bird registration until 27th June

Check out our programme, keynotes, workshops, and social events

here: <https://eafp2025.org/>

and in the attached flyer

See you in Heraklion!



JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

MS Position in Aquaculture Microbiology

Auburn University

Auburn, AL

A Master of Science (M.S.) position is available at Auburn University. The incoming student will be a Graduate Research Assistant in Dr. Tim Bruce's Fish Health Lab within the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences (SFAAS). Research in the Bruce lab focuses on host-pathogen interactions in cultured fish species, nutritional aspects of fish health, and fish vaccines/therapeutants.

See attached .pdf for details.

Zebrafish Related Job Announcements

<https://wiki.zfin.org/display/jobs/Zebrafish-Related+Job+Announcements>

RESOURCES/NEWS

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Updates are available by request:

The AADAP Updates feature news on aquaculture drugs currently in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process, AADAP programmatic updates, and aquaculture drug use guidance information. If you would like to sign up to receive the AADAP Update, please email to be paige_maskill@fws.gov added to our email listserv.

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AGENDA

6th Short Course in Toxicologic Pathology in Fish Heidelberg, July 22 – 24, 2025

Tuesday (July 22, 2025)		
08:30 *		Registration & Coffee
09:00	Welcome	Objectives and overview of the agenda
09:15	Participants	Lecturer and participant introductions; expectations
09:40 – 10:00	Lecture	Where to apply histopathology in fish toxicology, and which organs to study? (Helmut Segner)
10:00 – 10:30	Lecture	Overview on technical aspects of histology: From the fish to the slide (Lisa Baumann)
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Lecture	Fixation and preparation methods (Thomas Braunbeck)
11:50	Lecture	Why are histological sections so colorful? Principles of staining (Helmut Segner)
12:10	Lunch break	
13:30	Lecture	Normal anatomy and histology of zebrafish adults and early life stages (Jeff Wolf, Heike Schmidt-Posthaus)
15:00	Coffee break	
15:30 – ~17:00	Demonstration & guided exercise	Normal anatomy and histology of fish (rainbow trout, zebrafish, medaka and fathead minnow adults and early life stages (Jeff Wolf, Heike Schmidt-Posthaus, participation of all)
18:00	Social	Organized by local organizers

* Time schedule includes ample time for questions and discussion

AGENDA

6th Short Course in Toxicologic Pathology in Fish

Heidelberg, July 22 – 24, 2025

Wednesday (July 23, 2025)		
08:30	Warming up	
9:00 – 9:50	Lecture	Applications in toxicity studies with embryonic and transgenic fish (Thomas Braunbeck, Lisa Baumann)
09:50	Participant Exercise	Use of “tissue identification checklist” to examine normal tissues (all)
11:00	Coffee break	
11:30	Lecture	Background lesions and common diseases in laboratory fish, with focus on zebrafish (Heike Schmidt-Posthaus)
12:15	Guided exercise	Background lesions and common diseases in laboratory fish, slide evaluation (Heike Schmidt-Posthaus)
13:00	Lunch break	
14:00	Lecture	Semiquantitative grading of histopathological lesions (Jeff Wolf)
14:45	Lecture	Quantitative pathology (Jeff Wolf)
15:15	Coffee break	
15:45	Lecture	Automation in (toxicological) histopathology (tbd; Daniela Pampanin online?)
16:15	Supervised self-study	Use of “tissue identification checklist”
	Social	Self-organized by participants

* Time schedule includes ample time for questions and discussion

AGENDA

6th Short Course in Toxicologic Pathology in Fish

Heidelberg, July 22 – 24, 2025

Thursday (July 24, 2025)		
08:30	Warming up	
09:00	Lecture	Histopathology of endocrine disruptors, case studies of estrogen and thyroid disruptors (Lisa Baumann, Helmut Segner)
09:45	Guided exercise	Fish gonad and thyroid histopathology (all)
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Lecture	Mis-diagnoses and missed diagnoses – challenges in toxicologic pathology with fish (Jeff Wolf)
11:30	Lecture	Current uses of histopathology in monitoring and environmental assessment of oil and gas explorations (David Groman)
12:00	Lunch break	
13:00	Lecture	Field analysis and protocols for investigating toxicological fish kills (David Groman)
13:30	Lecture	Case study: Assessment of toxicological induced hemolytic anemia in Atlantic salmon (David Groman)
14:15	Coffee break	
14:45	Supervised self-studies	Incidents/slides of the participants
15:30	Overview	Overview, review, feedback, suggestions, future...
16:00	End	

* Time schedule includes ample time for questions and discussion

REGISTRATION

6th Short Course in Toxicologic Pathology in Fish Heidelberg, July 22 – 24, 2025

Please complete the following form & return to Th. Braunbeck (braunbeck@uni-hd.de):

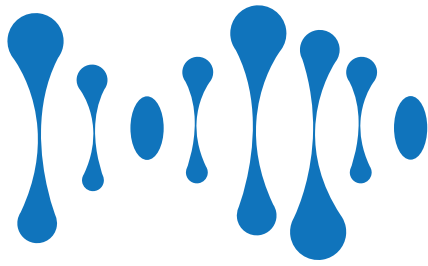
Name (title(s), given name(s), family name)			
Affiliation			
Address			
City, Postcode			
Country			
E-Mail address			
Participant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> On site	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student/unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> Online	
Invoice required prior to course	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Location, Date		Signature	

Registration fees:

On site (recommended)	
Regular: 350 €	Student/unemployed: 300 €
Online	
Regular: 300 €	Student/unemployed: 200 €

Account:	IBAN: DE34 6725 0020 1002 4436 66	BIC: SOLADES1HDB
	Bank:	Sparkasse Heidelberg, Kurfuersten-Anlage 10-12, D-69115 Heidelberg, Germany
Reference:	Toxicopathology Workshop Heidelberg 2025	
Holder:	Dr. Thomas Braunbeck, INF 504, D-69120 University of Heidelberg	

Confirmations will be sent by e-mail upon receipt of the registration fee.



22nd International
Conference on Diseases
of Fish and Shellfish

2025

1 - 4 Sept. 2025

Cultural Conference Center
of Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Welcome!

On behalf of the [European Association of Fish Pathologists](#) and the local organisers at the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology & Aquaculture of the [Hellenic Centre for Marine Research](#) we welcome you to the 22nd International Conference on Diseases of Fish and Shellfish.

Important dates

Abstract submission from **21/02/2025 - 08/05/2025**

Early bird registration fee until **27 /06/2025**

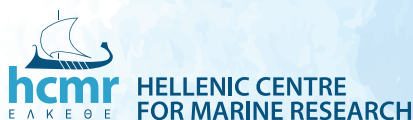
24 different session topics

7 workshops

4 Keynote speakers



European Association
of
Fish Pathologists



For more information please visit
eafp2025.org





Topics of the conference:

- Viral diseases
- Vaccines
- Bacterial Diseases
- Immunology
- Diagnostics
- Aquatic Animal Epidemiology
- Nutrition and Fish Health
- Bivalve and Crustacean Diseases
- Salmonid viral diseases
- Diseases of Wild and Ornamental Fish
- Host-parasite Interactions
- Genomic Approaches to Fish Pathology
- Climate Change
- Microbiomes
- Immunostimulants, Prebiotics and Probiotics
- Sea Lice
- Myxozoa
- Aquatic Animal Health
- Aquatic Veterinary Education
- Parasitic Diseases
- Gill Diseases
- Disease of unknown ethiology
- Antimicrobial resistance and alternative treatments
- Other

Workshop topics

- Fish Histopathology 2025: A Focus on Gills
- Bioinformatics WS
- EU Projects Cure4Aqua and IGNITION – Results and Innovations
- PKD Workshop: Harnessing new knowledge to develop sustainable disease management strategies for aquaculture
- Nodavirus in Wild Fish: Addressing the Mediterranean Grouper Mortality Crisis
- Mediterranean Fish Health
- Intracellular pathogens



22nd International
Conference on Diseases
of Fish and Shellfish

2025

Keynote Speakers



Prof. Jerri L. Bartholomew

Director of the J.L. Fryer Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory,
Department of Microbiology, Oregon State University



Prof. Eric Stabb

Head of Department of Biological Sciences,
College of Liberal Arts and Science,
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois



Dr. Nikos Papandroulakis

Research Director at the Institute of Marine Biology,
Biotechnology and Aquaculture,
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Crete



Dr. Sandrine Baron

Mycoplasmaology-Bacteriology and Antimicrobial resistance
Unit – Ploufragan-Plouzané-Niort Laboratory –
French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational
Health & Safety, France

Heraklion

It is the capital of Crete, the largest city of the island and it is easily accessible from both air and sea travel. From the ancient Minoan civilization to Byzantine, Venetian, and Ottoman influences, every corner of the city has a historical significance.

The iconic Knossos Palace, just a short drive from the city center, is a testament to the island's ancient roots and is often called as Europe's oldest city and the place our modern European civilization was born.



22nd International
Conference on Diseases
of Fish and Shellfish

2025

Venue

The Cultural Conference Center of Heraklion is located near to important historical sites, such as the remnants of the Venetian walls and the burial site of Nikos Kazantzakis. It is 6,6 km from Heraklion International Airport N. Kazantzakis and 2,6 km from Heraklion Port. It is also close to city hotels offering many options for accommodation.

Getting to Heraklion

Since Crete is an island, you can arrive to Heraklion by airplane from Athens or directly from several European cities. Crete is also accessible daily by ferry from Athens (Piraeus Harbor) and the trip takes 9 hrs (21:30 - 06:30).

University Microcredential in Zebrafish Health & Management in Research



In-person classes:

28/05/2025 – 30/05/2025



Veterinary Faculty

Avda. Carvallo Calero s/n
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Explore zebrafish research in this dynamic course, combining theory with hands-on practice in biology, welfare, diseases, and biosecurity. Develop practical skills by performing necropsies, tissue analysis, and disease diagnostics.

Lecturers:

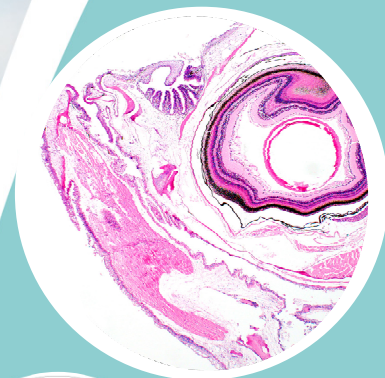
Professor Dr. Michael L. Kent

Departments of Microbiology and Biomedical Sciences
Oregon State University – EUA
Specialist in zebrafish pathology
Author of numerous works in zebrafish diseases



Members of the research group GAPAVET

Including three Diplomates of the ECAAH
Departamento de Anatomía, Producción Animal y Ciencias Clínicas Veterinarias
Universidade de Santiago de Compostela - Spain



Fees: 350 € + scholar insurance

Pre-registration: 14/04/2025 - 28/04/2025

The pre-registration will be done by registering in the Virtual Student Secretariat at the link: <https://matricula.usc.es/login/Login.asp>. Please use the translator tool of your browser to English. Once the registration on the secretariat has been completed, you must access the Virtual Secretariat to choose the course.

Organization: GAPAVET



gapavet@usc.es / anmanuelade.azevedo@usc.es



[gapavet](https://www.instagram.com/gapavet)



[gapavet](https://www.facebook.com/gapavet)



Further information:



The programme



28/05/2025: Sala Norvet – Central pavilion

9.00	Welcome
9.30	Update on legislation on animal experimentation in fish and animal welfare. Zebrafish husbandry
11.30	Coffee break
12.00	Biosecurity in zebrafish facilities. Obtaining SPF animals
14.00	Lunch break
15.30	Zebrafish Anatomy and Histology I
17.30	Sampling protocol applied to research

29/05/2025: Sala Norvet – Central pavilion and Histology Lab - Pavilion 3, 2^a Sup

9.00	Zebrafish Anatomy and Histology II
11.00	Main infectious diseases of fish: bacteria
12.00	Coffee break
12.30	Main infectious diseases of fish: fungi and viruses
14.00	Lunch break
16.00	Practical session I: Anaesthesia/euthanasia and non-lethal diagnostic tests. Necropsy and sampling techniques

30/05/2025: Sala Norvet – Central pavilion and Histology Lab - Pavilion 3, 2^a Sup

9.00	Main infectious diseases of fish: parasites
11.30	Coffee break
12.00	Main neoplasias in fish
13.00	Main non-infectious diseases of fish
14.00	Lunch break
15.30	Practical session II: Microscopic diagnosis. Discussion of practical cases.
19.00	Social program (optional)

Coffee, lunch and social program are not included.

Online part: participants will have 10 hours for personal online work in "Campus virtual" platform.

M.S. Position in Aquaculture Microbiology



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

A Master of Science (M.S.) position is available at Auburn University. The incoming student will be a Graduate Research Assistant in Dr. Tim Bruce's Fish Health Lab within the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences (SFAAS). Research in the Bruce lab focuses on host-pathogen interactions in cultured fish species, nutritional aspects of fish health, and fish vaccines/therapeutants.

Responsibilities and tasks

This M.S. project will involve experimental laboratory studies (~80%) and *in vivo* trial work with warmwater fish species (~20%). Specifically, this M.S. thesis research will examine microbial interactions using molecular techniques. The bacterial species involved in this project are relevant to U.S. aquaculture (catfish, largemouth bass, and tilapia), and the project will involve genomic and proteomic analyses. Overall, the student will be expected to conduct an independent research project, followed by the writing and defense of a detailed thesis.

Qualifications

The Bruce Fish Health Lab team is looking for a motivated candidate who has:

- Bachelor's degree in Microbiology/Biological Sciences
- Detailed knowledge of microbiology and/or fish health/immunology
- Proven ability to carry out goal-oriented work and fluent with data management systems and programming software
- Lab competencies in microbiology (e.g., culture, identification, sequencing, microbial-based assays)
- Molecular biology skills (e.g., SDS-PAGE/Western blot, gene expression (qPCR), proteomics) are also required.
- Assistance with fish husbandry and conducting aquaculture trials is also required
- Ability to work independently and in a team laboratory setting
- A driver's license is required with reliable transportation

Approval and Enrollment

This M.S. graduate appointment is subject to academic approval, and the candidate will be enrolled in the M.S. program within the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences (SFAAS). For information about our program please see: <http://sfaas.auburn.edu/programs-of-study/graduate-studies/>

Salary and appointment terms

This project will be carried out at the E.W. Shell Fisheries Center, which is situated in Auburn, Alabama (<http://sfaas.auburn.edu/e-w-shell-fisheries-center/>). The salary (TBD + fringe benefits) and appointment terms (2 yrs.) are consistent with the current rules for M.S. degree students; typically, a tuition waiver is provided. The student will begin coursework and research in **Fall 2025**.

Application

Please submit your application no later than **15 May 2025**. Applications must be e-mailed to tjb0089@auburn.edu as a **single .pdf file/packet** containing all materials to be given consideration. The .pdf packet must include:

- Cover letter motivating the application (background, interests, goals)
- Curriculum vitae
- Contact information (e-mail and phone numbers) for three references
- Unofficial transcripts

Please note that documents not sent within this format will not be reviewed.

Further information

For further information about the project and assistantship, please contact Dr. Bruce at tjb0089@auburn.edu. Information on Auburn University may be found here: <http://www.auburn.edu/main/welcome/index.php>