

AVAC Basic Acupuncture Certification Course 2017-2018

Instructors/Lecturers



AVAC Course co-ordinator Dr. Rona Sherebrin received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree with honours from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1991. After ten years in practice she began studying Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) to address the underlying disorders that produced chronic symptoms in her patients. Dr. Sherebrin became a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist in 2005, and has completed advanced training in Veterinary

Tui-Na bodywork and Veterinary Herbal Medicine. She lectures internationally to both veterinarians and lay groups, and frequently mentors veterinary students and graduate veterinarians completing their internships in veterinary acupuncture. She has been on the board of AVAC since 2009 as the continuing education chair and the course co-ordinator for the AVAC Basic Veterinary Acupuncture courses, and is on the International Education Committee of IVAS. Rona has been seeing patients at the Secord Animal Hospital since 2006, focusing on integrating Eastern and Western modalities for optimal health.



Dr. Jim Berry graduated from the University of Guelph with a MSc in Zoology, followed by a DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1990. Initially working in a mixed animal practice in southern Ontario, he moved to the Ottawa valley working with companion animals, followed by a move to New Brunswick in 1996.

In the past 15 years, Jim has concentrated his practice on companion animal lameness and pain control employing an integrated approach to patient care. He is certified in veterinary acupuncture, canine rehabilitation and animal chiropractic. He is currently a candidate for the Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner designation.

Jim has been actively involved in veterinary associations including the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association (NBVMA) bylaws and animal welfare committees, and the animal welfare committee of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). He is a past- president of the CVMA and NBVMA and is the current president-elect of the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management.



Dr. Allyson MacDonald graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1988. After a 25 year practice of mixed rural practice specializing in Small Ruminants she became IVAS certified in Veterinary Acupuncture in 2007. Acupuncture was amalgamated into her western practice for several years but in 2010 she opened MacDonald Mobile Veterinary Service offering acupuncture, herbal and laser medicine to horses, dogs and cats. In 2011 Allyson completed CIVT certification in advanced Chinese Herbal Medicine.

“I believe in learning from lots of teachers and have also taken advanced herbal and acupuncture courses with the Chi Institute in Florida. I was a teaching assistant at the 2011/12 IVAS course in Toronto and loved passing on my experiences so I am pleased to be back this year not only as a teaching assistant but as a lecturer. Originally from the east coast I still enjoy spending as much time as possible at my home on Prince Edward Island. I am happiest outdoors; either working in the garden or on a river paddling. If I am relaxing indoors I usually have a glass of excellent red wine in my hand. I would encourage you to come out and see how acupuncture can expand your practice and your ability to help your patients.”



Dr. Steve Marsden is one of the chief educators of veterinarians worldwide in the use of complementary and alternative therapies. He regularly lectures for the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association. He has been a guest speaker for veterinary courses, colleges, and associations spanning five continents, and is co-founder of the College of Integrative Veterinary Therapies, an Australia-based institution offering distance learning programs in integrative medicine. He is an emeritus director of the National College of Natural Medicine, a fully accredited and leading medical school offering comprehensive training in a diversity of alternative therapies for physicians. His first textbook, *Manual of Natural Veterinary Medicine*, published by Elsevier in 2003, has been translated into multiple languages, and is a leading resource worldwide. He is a contributing author to several other textbooks, including:

- *Textbook of Veterinary Herbal Medicine* published by Elsevier
- *Veterinary Clinics of North America*
- *Pain Management in Veterinary Practice* published by Wiley-Blackwell

His latest text, *Essential Guide to Chinese Herbal Formulas*, published by CIVT.

Dr. Marsden is extensively trained in alternative medicine, receiving one of the first Master's of Science degrees in Oriental Medicine ever to be awarded in North America. He has human medical board certifications in Chinese herbology,

acupuncture and naturopathic medicine; and graduate diplomas in veterinary acupuncture and veterinary Chinese herbal medicine.

When not teaching, he divides his time equally between veterinary and naturopathic medical practice in Edmonton, Alberta. In 2009, Dr. Marsden was selected by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association as the Small Animal Clinician of the Year. In 2010, Dr. Marsden was named Teacher of the Year by the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association.



Dr. Patricia Baley earned her PhD in cellular biology from the University of Basel (Switzerland) in 1990. She performed post-doctoral research for 4 years in gene therapy and prostate cancer at Baylor College of medicine. She then left academics to study veterinary medicine, graduating from Texas A+M College of Veterinary medicine in 1999, and entering general practice. Immediately after graduation from veterinary school, Dr. Baley enrolled in the IVAS course in basic acupuncture and was certified in 2001. This was followed by training in TCVM and Herbology at the Chi Institute for traditional Chinese veterinary medicine in 2002-2006 and certification in Veterinary Chinese

Herbal Medicine from the Chi Institute in 2008. Dr. Baley has also studied TCVM Food Therapy, Tui-Na and Advanced Acupuncture techniques for Equine and Small animal patients at the Chi Institute. In 2008, she became a Fellow of the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture (FAAVA.) Currently, and for the last 11 years, Dr. Baley has practiced TCVM exclusively in an equine and small animal ambulatory practice. She is currently a VIN consultant in Alternative Medicine. She has been an IVAS Course teaching assistant, has lectured at the 10th annual TCVM conference in China and has been an invited speaker both nationally and internationally at a variety of venues. She has published in AJTCVM and is currently chairman of RAIVE (Resources for Alternative and Integrative Veterinary Education) a nonprofit organization for assuring standards in continuing education in complementary veterinary medicine.



Dr. Helaine Haltrecht is a graduate of the University of Montreal, faculty of veterinary medicine. She has been practising holistic medicine, including acupuncture and chinese herbs, for over twenty years. She has an exclusive small animal holistic practice at the DMV Veterinary Centre in Montreal, which is a specialty practice. She also teaches a course on “Complementary Therapies” at the University of Montreal, at the veterinary school. Dr. Haltrecht did her acupuncture training in 1994 with IVAS, and now gives lectures for AVAC, and also other veterinary conferences around the U.S. and Canada, as well as overseas. She has been featured in several newspapers, on radio and television, and has written multiple articles on the use of acupuncture in veterinary medicine.

More photos and biographies to come. Please check our website in the near future.