

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

Notable Veterinarians of 2014, Part 1

By Dr. Donald F. Smith
December 11, 2014

We pause at the end of the year to honor some of the notable veterinarians who have had a positive impact on the world of animal and human health in 2014. I have chosen mid-career veterinarians for this year's tribute. This is the first of a two-part tribute.¹

Lisa C. Freeman: Was promoted to Executive Vice President and Provost of Northern Illinois University (NIU) in May. A veterinary biomedical scientist with research interest in ion channels and drug targets, Dr. Freeman had a distinguished career at Kansas State University rising from assistant professor of pharmacology to assistant vice president for innovation before moving to NIU in 2010 as the vice president for research and graduate studies. Among veterinarians, she holds one of the most senior positions in higher education in the US and, only 28 years from graduating with her DVM, is someone to watch in the future.



Lisa Freeman, DVM, PhD
Executive Vice President and Provost, Northern Illinois University
(Photo provided by Northern Illinois University)

Karen Padgett: Is Chief Operative Officer of US Companion Animal Health, CEVA Animal Health, having responsibilities for marketing, manufacturing, and sales for the US. Dr. Padgett leads by example, continually forming integrated teams of research, academic affairs, scientific affairs, marketing and technical services. Dr. Padgett has been nationally recognized for her business leadership acumen. She is not only the three time recipient of the prestigious Colgate-Palmolive Chairman's "You Can Make a Difference Award," but was selected as the sole Colgate representative organization-wide to participate in the New York-based Women's Unlimited

FEW program, a national program to develop women business leaders. Padgett is also the recipient of the YWCA New York's Salute to Women Leadership Award. Dr. Padgett is a strong advocate of women's leadership and is responsible for CEVA's corporate sponsorship of the Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative.

Rebecca Stinson: Was elected in July by the AVMA's House of Delegates for the office of Vice President. An equine practitioner from North Carolina who graduated from the University of Georgia in 2002, she is one of the youngest veterinarians in history to serve in that capacity. As a student, Dr. Stinson was president of the Student AVMA. She is one of the two women voting members of the AVMA's executive board.

Laurie Marker: Wildlife conservationist and the leading international authority on the cheetah and its conservation continued her six-year term holding the prestigious A.D. White Professorship at Cornell University.



Laurie Marker, D Phil
Founder/Executive Director, Cheetah Conservation Fund
(Photo provided by Dr. Marker)

The founder and leader of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Marker works with local ranchers to build a holistic and symbiotic community where commercial farmers, villagers and government officials work together to preserve and build sustainable communities while preserving a healthy ecosystem. Though not a DVM herself, Dr. Marker has worked with veterinarians her entire career and since the 1970s, has pioneered the biomedical work on cheetah health, reproduction and genetics. One of her strongest ties with the veterinary profession is her commitment to hosting veterinary students for research externships. As a regular supporter of the Cheetah Conservation Fund, I invite others to join me as you consider end-of-year charitable donations.²

¹ Smith, Donald F. Notable Veterinarians of 2014, Part 2. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. December 15, 2014.

² Donations may be made to [Cheetah Conservation Fund](#).

KEYWORDS:

Laurie Marker
Cheetah Conservation Fund
Rebecca Stinson
Karen Padgett
CEVA
Lisa Freeman
Northern Illinois University

TOPIC:

Famous Veterinarians

LEADING QUESTION:

What species of large cats is Laurie Marker best known for?

META-SUMMARY:

The author lauds some of the most notable mid-career veterinarians from 2014.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession.

Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs and Dean, he spearheaded changes in curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership.

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.