

Laurel Gershwin, DVM, PhD, DACVM
CRWAD Fellow Inductee

Dr. Laurel Gershwin obtained her DVM from the University of California, Davis in 1971; after which she trained as an intern in small animal medicine and surgery at the then famous Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, MA. Clinical skills were cemented by two years in clinical practice in Bethesda, Maryland. In 1975, Dr. Gershwin returned to UCD on a microbiology/immunology fellowship to study as a PhD student and teaching assistant under the mentorship of Dr. John W. Osebold. During this time, she developed a strong interest in Immunoglobulin E.



In 1979, Dr. Gershwin was hired into the Dept of Veterinary Microbiology & Immunology as an assistant professor. There she taught Immunology to veterinary students for the next 42 years and trained many PhD and MS students, including several that are now professors in veterinary schools.

Dr. Gershwin's interest in IgE sparked research into the presence and role of this antibody class in diseases of cattle. She was the first to develop antibodies specific for bovine IgE and apply those to evaluate the role of IgE in bovine disease. With her graduate students Dr. Gershwin generated new information on the role of IgE in parasitism and respiratory disease. Most significantly the role of IgE in bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV) initiated a series of important studies that span the "One Medicine" concept as her work on the pathogenesis of BRSV in cattle models that of human RSV in infants. This work includes vaccine reactivity and testing of an anti-viral drug. IgE responses to *H. somni* in dual infection with BRSV and the synergy of these agents in disease pathogenesis were detected and studied by Dr. Gershwin with her collaborator Dr. Corbeil.

As a longtime member of CRWAD, Dr. Gershwin has served on the council and as president. Her contributions to other professional organizations include AVMA, American Association of Immunologists (for which she chaired the Veterinary Immunology Committee), the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (for which she served as president and was awarded the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist award) and numerous grant review panels. Dr. Gershwin is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists and was the first woman to take an active role in ACVM. Now as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at UCD, she continues to work as a co-editor-in-chief for Veterinary Immunology & Immunopathology.

