



The Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center invites you to join us for the eighth **Primate Behavioral Management Conference (PBMC)** in Bastrop, TX from **February 27 - March 1, 2024**. This in-person conference is designed for those responsible for, or interested in, the behavioral management of nonhuman primates in captivity. The **PBMC** will feature presentations by content experts and implementation experts, and will also include commercial presentations by vendors whose products are particularly relevant to the behavioral management of nonhuman primates.

Presentations by content experts will be comprised of 3 sections: 1) the theory and/or science of the content, 2) the methods used to address the content, and perhaps most importantly, 3) ways in which the content can be applied to the behavioral management of captive primates. A partial list of topics and presenters includes:

Content (presenter)

- Stress (Melinda Novak, Ph.D.)
- Network Analyses (Brianne Beisner, Ph.D.)
- Depression (Carol Shively, Ph.D.)
- Aging (Agnes Lacreux, Ph.D.)
- Antipredator Behavior (Nancy Caine, Ph.D.)
- Temperament Testing (Kris Coleman, Ph.D.)
- Neuroscience (Bill Hopkins, Ph.D. or Michele Mulholland, Ph.D.)
- Genetics (Jeff Rogers, Ph.D.)
- Positive Reinforcement Training and Research (Melanie Graham, Ph.D.)
- Positive Reinforcement Training and Health Care (Liz Magden, DVM, DACLAM)
- Social Learning, Decision Making, and Emotions (Lydia Hopper, Ph.D.)

Presentations by implementation experts will be focused 'case reports' that will describe the application of the topic to primate behavioral management.

Implementation

- Observational Methods (Jo Setchell, Ph.D.)
- Program Management (Susan Lambeth, LATG)
- Collaborative Research (Steve Schapiro, Ph.D.)
- Pairing/Socialization (Melissa Truelove, MSc)
- The Veterinarian-Behaviorist Interface (Eric Hutchinson, DVM, DACLAM)
- Sedation/Anesthesia (Lauren Drew Martin, DVM, DACLAM)

Vendor presentations will be short 'commercials' for how products, equipment, techniques, and/or animals can be utilized to facilitate behavioral management and research procedures.

Commercials and Exhibitors are likely to include

- Research equipment
 - Jackets (Lomir Biomedical)
 - Automated feeders (Research Diets – BioDaq)
- Research animals (Bioculture)
- Enrichment supplies (Bio-Serv)
- Nutrition (LabDiet)
- Caging (C₂SI)
- Staffing (Priority One Services)
- Sanitation supplies (Lighthouse Life Sciences)

This program is approved by the AAVSB RACE to offer a total of 14.00 Veterinarian CE Credits and/or 14.00 Veterinary Technician CE Credits.

Enrollment will be limited to no more than 34 participants. Potential participants will have to apply for the conference, and we reserve the right to select individual participants to optimize the composition of the group. Preference will be given to those who are able to make decisions that directly influence the behavioral management of the primates at their facility. At the moment, we are anticipating that this will be an in-person conference, with no virtual component.

The Registration Fee is \$925 per person and includes:

All conference materials, including a commemorative T-shirt
Copy of the *Handbook of Primate Behavioral Management*
Opening Reception on Tuesday evening
Lunch on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
Closing Banquet on Friday evening
Several special events

Please note that Hotel Accommodations are NOT included in the \$925 registration fee. The 'Headquarters Hotel' is likely to be the [Hampton Inn & Suites](#) in Bastrop, TX. More information on the Headquarters Hotel is forthcoming.

Interested parties can submit a completed application form any time, however November 1, 2023 is the deadline. If selected, applicants will then be required to pay the registration fee, fill out a questionnaire, and submit the necessary health information (proof of a negative TB test, proof of immunity to measles, and proof of COVID-19 vaccination status) by **Jan. 1, 2024**. Early deadlines are required to adequately plan all aspects of this conference. Please feel free to apply now. We would like to assess interest in the conference, given the lingering effects of the pandemic.

At least one **Scholarship**, covering the Registration Fee only (\$925), will be available. Applicants for the Scholarship will be requested to write a short essay (one page) that will focus on the potential benefits to their primates resulting from the individual's participation in the Primate Behavioral Management Conference. **Scholarship essays can be submitted any time, but are due to Steve Schapiro (email below) by October 22, 2023.** If you submitted a scholarship application in the last two years, we kindly request that you submit a new scholarship application for the 2024 PBMC.

Our last PBMC was in 2023. The pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2021 and 2022 PBMCs and resulted in a number of changes to the way that we typically ran the conference. In 2023, the conference took place at the Bastrop Convention Center, rather than on the Keeling Center campus, in order for us to meet MD Anderson's 'spacing' requirements. The 2024 PBMC WILL take place on the Keeling Center campus. In the past, we have provided transportation (pickup and dropoff at the Austin airport, shuttle service from the hotel to the Keeling Center, etc.) to conference participants, but we will not be able to do so in February/March 2024. The hotel is approximately 30 minutes from the Austin airport, and there are many ways to get from the airport to the hotel (additional details will be available to those accepted into the PBMC). The Keeling Center is about 10 miles from the hotel. A number of short tours of the Keeling Center's primate facilities were included in the program of previous PBMCs. In 2023, since we were not meeting on the Keeling Center campus, we provided one longer tour that included all of our primate facilities. This was less than ideal and **we fully intend to hold the PBMC at the Keeling Center and provide our normal set of shorter facility tours in 2024.**

Additional relevant information is available on the Conferences and Events page of our website: mdanderson.org/kccmr

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact KaLeigh Behrens (pbmc.kccmr@mdanderson.org) or Steve Schapiro (sschapir@mdanderson.org).