



International Society for Equitation Science

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2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Society for Equitation Science will be held at **6:00pm GMT-1 on October 22, 2021**.

*Note only Academic members and Council members hold full voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting. Associate members have no voting privileges, except for the election of the Veterinary Liaison Officer. Practitioner members have no voting privileges, except for the election of the Practitioner Representative. Student members have no voting privileges, except for the election of the Student Representative. Supporter members and Corporate members do not hold voting privileges.

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE

Nominations received for Council positions:

1. Junior Vice President

- **Kate Fenner, PhD:** I have been on the ISES council for four years now in the position of Media Officer. I have thoroughly enjoyed this role, liaising with journalists and industry and helping to spread the word about what we do here at ISES. I feel it is important that not only are research results disseminated broadly but that the practical application of these findings is also accessible for grassroots horse owners and riders. I am a research affiliate with the University of Sydney and recently accepted a fulltime lecturing position at the University of Queensland in the School of Equine Science. I look forward to introducing equitation science to the curriculum and involving and engaging undergraduate and postgraduate students in all areas of equitation science. I am also still active in industry, delivering online training internationally and providing Science in the Saddle clinics and demonstrations (locally for the past two COVID years but I'm hoping internationally again soon). I appreciate the nomination for JVP and feel I could make a useful contribution to ISES in this role as we move to bridge the gap between science and practice in the equestrian industry.
- **Katrina Merkies, PhD:** I first became acquainted with ISES at the 2007 conference in Michigan and was immediately enamoured with the idea of this society and the meeting of other like-minded individuals pursuing the same cause. This experience shaped my own career as a professor and researcher in equitation science, equine behaviour, welfare and management at the University of Guelph, Canada. I joined the ISES council in 2015 first as an Ordinary council member, then as Honorary Secretary which I have filled to this day. In 2019, I chaired the local organizing committee for the ISES annual conference. I teach a variety of undergraduate equine



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courses and am sure to impart information regarding equitation science, learning theory and ISES to my students. My graduate students regularly present their findings at ISES conferences on research topics ranging from why geldings drop during training to eye blink rates as a non-invasive measure of stress. Outside of the academic world, I ride and coach intermittently and I also train dogs in basic obedience and dog sports. I am honoured to be considered for the position of JVP in the company of such esteemed individuals and regardless of whether I achieve this role, I will continue to advocate for equitation science in my country and together with my national equestrian federation.

2. Honorary Secretary (if needed, although I think Carissa would likely want to step into this role as she is currently assistant secretary?)
 - **Lorna Cameron:** I have recently taken up a Senior Lecturer role at Hartpury University with responsibility for the new BSc Equine Behaviour and Welfare programme and future Equitation Science based programme development. Previously I was a Teaching Fellow at University Centre Sparsholt for 15 years helping to develop equine undergraduate and post graduate programmes based firmly within the principles of Equitation Science for the next generation of horsemen/women. I am an active researcher, publishing in rider performance and equine welfare research areas with a broad range of interests. I am particularly passionate in encouraging students to undertake quality research as part of their programmes and actively support their ambitions to present their research at conferences and to write up for publication. Alongside this I am active in equine industry engagement with evidence based equine management and training and hope to further this end by being voted onto the ISES council, having been an international travelling groom and coach for the first 20 years of my equine career I feel ISES has a role and responsibility to help the industry move forward within a clear “One Welfare” concept to improve the experiences of both horse and human within their interactions. Both myself and my students have gained so much from the work of ISES and I feel it is about time that I give something back to the society if successful in the appointment. Thank you for your consideration.
3. Treasurer
4. Media Officer
 - **Sally O’Neill:** Hi! My name is Sally and I'd love to take ISES to the next level in public communication. I'm currently studying for an MRes in Equine Performance at Hartpury University, having previously studied to postgraduate level (4 years full time) in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the 1990s. I have run my own successful business in IT including managing PR, marketing and sales, website design (not coding), social media presence and campaigns for my own and a number of



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commercial companies. I have also worked, doing the same, with Christopher Bartle and Ginny Elliot within the equestrian sector, and extensively within the education sector. I have many years experience of organising, promoting and delivering projects both online and in print. I am also technically very practical, designing websites from concept to launch, with an emphasis on user-friendly design to achieve organisational goals (increased membership, increased traffic, increased interaction being the main principal drivers). I am passionate about communicating science in a suitable format to the wider non-science public, in a way that promotes an understanding of scientific methodology and effective interpretation of science. I could provide all these skills to ISES, together with a deep appreciation of scientific community priorities concerning which information is shared and how, without ambiguity or sensationalism. I would be delighted in helping ISES become better at reaching out to target audiences, to become a leader in the distribution of equine science and the go-to organisation for unambiguous reporting. My personal goals would be (1) to work with colleagues to produce a website that is fit for this purpose and (2) improve and extend relationships with sponsors, scientists and the public with an effective social media and PR strategy. Many thanks for considering me for this role.

5. Practitioner Representative

- **Ginny Elder:** Ginny is a Practitioner with the International Society of Equitation Science and has taught both Western and English riding, including jumping, dressage and driving. Ginny was the recipient of the Rosemary Ames Award from the American Humane Association for outstanding work in the field of humane education. As a lifelong student of classical riding, Ginny Chase Elder has studied with some of the best horsemen of our time, such as Charles de Kunffy, Arthur Kottas and Dr. Gerd Heuschmann. She continues to this day in a never-ending quest for knowledge and understanding of horses and “their” humans. In 1988 she attended the first certification class of the American Riding Instructors Association and is certified to Advanced levels in several disciplines. In addition, she is a certified TAG instructor. Her students gain a deeper awareness of the horse’s view of the world, along with the application of appropriate training theories and an understanding of the human’s ethical responsibility for the well-being of all animals. She is known for her passionate love of horses and her enthusiasm in sharing her knowledge with students committed to gaining more rewarding horse-human relationships. Ginny is a Practitioner with the International Society of Equitation Science and has taught both Western and English riding, including jumping, dressage and driving. Ginny was the recipient of the Rosemary Ames Award from the American Humane Association for outstanding work in the field of humane



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- education. I would like to be considered for the position of Practitioner Representative. At this stage in my life, I have the time to dedicate to the task at hand and the flexibility to travel. I have been a staunch advocate for ISES in our business, social media, presentations and in writing articles for ISES newsletter to beat the drum to bridge the gap between science and the layperson. I have presented several times at the Progressive Equine Behavior & Training Forum encouraging a strong collaborative effort between the scientific community and the everyday horse world. In the past, I served on the board of our local humane society for 15 years, established the first horse abuse investigation school in the US and an equine educational group. My career for almost 30 years was managing the horse program on our guest ranch, Colorado Trails ranch: 125 horses, 40 staff and 80 guests a week. The last few years have been devoted to organizing clinics and events to promote the “The Nature of Natural” which supports among other things low stress stockmanship. Our goal at the Nature of Natural is to promote the principles of equitation science and applied behavioral science in association with groups such as the International Society of Equitation Science and other likeminded horsemen and professionals through research, seminars and educational events using collaborative efforts whenever and wherever possible. Thank you for your consideration to this position.
- **Cath Henshall** recently submitted a PhD thesis investigating the effects of stress and exercise on equine cognition and welfare, applying a cognitive and affective neuroscience lens to the interpretation of equine learning behaviour and welfare. Cath has worked in a variety of roles providing animal welfare expertise to government and industry organisations and participants in the field of participant education, animal welfare law enforcement and professional development in animal welfare assessment and management to industry officers. Cath has recently been a guest lecturer at Western Sydney University and Charles Sturt University in the fields of animal welfare and equine behaviour and prior to that, taught equine studies and livestock production welfare in the NSW vocational education system working with the equine and livestock production industries and students to bridge the gap between research and its practical implementation by industry participants. Prior to commencing her PhD project, Cath also ran an equitation science based horse training and rider education business, providing evidence-based horse training services to clients as well as rider education and coaching in equitation science principles and horse-centred training, management and welfare. Cath has extensive experience communicating academic concepts to varied audiences and working collaboratively with people from a wide range of backgrounds to improve training and welfare outcomes for animals in industry and recreation.



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- **Claire O'Brien** *MRes, PgDip, BSc(Hons), FHEA, BHS Int. SM, BHSAI*: Having originally come from a non-academic and non-equestrian background, I have always strived to educate myself so that my training and management methods promote evidence-based practices that prioritise the welfare of the horses under my care. Since obtaining my academic qualifications, I have subsequently sought to contribute to the dissemination of evidence-based management and training practices to improve welfare standards across the entire equine industry. The justification for this goal is to provide better standards for inclusivity when disseminating evidence-based practices to various industry stakeholders. I worked in the equine industry as a BHS-accredited coach, yard manager and competition groom for six years, where I specialised in the training of young horses and the re-training and rehabilitation of international event horses for various clients in Ireland, the UK and Europe. I also have four years' experience as an equine lecturer in the UK teaching a range of undergraduate and postgraduate subjects. I recently published a number of scientific publications in the field of equine exercise physiology (which can be accessed via my ResearchGate profile). Furthermore, in the last two years I have worked as a learning technologist in order to promote the use of appropriate technologies in the education sector, which I believe would be relevant to this role. In addition to my current full-time job, I am also undertaking a part-time PhD in Biological Sciences at Aberystwyth University under the supervision of Dr. Sebastian McBride. My research focus is to establish an operational definition of equine depression. In my spare time I also ride my own horses and continue to coach private clients. In conclusion, I hope that my combined experience, knowledge and skills will provide me with the opportunity to work as a spokesperson for ISES, acting as an interface between the scientific community and the equine industry.