



## The ASAP Laboratory Veterinary Pathologists Team

ASAP boasts an exceptional team of experienced and dedicated veterinary pathologists who offer a highly personalised service.



### **Dr Rebekah Liffman** Specialist Veterinary Clinical Pathologist

BVSc (Hons), MVS, MVSc, MANZCVS, Dip ACVP

Rebekah graduated in Veterinary Science with honours from the University of Melbourne in 2011. She then spent three years working in general practice, and another year as an emergency and critical care veterinarian, before returning to the University of Melbourne to embark on a three-year clinical pathology residency. During the residency, Rebekah completed two master's degrees, one of which involved a research project investigating renal disease in greyhounds. She also first-authored several peer-reviewed journal articles, participated as an animal ethics committee member and was involved in teaching undergraduate students.

In 2018, Rebekah passed the examination to become a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in pathobiology and passed the American board examinations in 2019 to become a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (Clinical pathology).

Rebekah loves the challenge of integrating all aspects of clinical pathology to deliver a personalised approach to ensure the best result for both client and patient.



### **Dr Libby Browne** Specialist Veterinary Pathologist

BVSc (Hons), MVetMed, MANZCS (Path), Dip ACVP

Libby graduated from the University of Queensland in 2004 with first class honours and worked in mixed practice in Wagga Wagga for 2 years. She then spent 5 years at the Royal Veterinary College in London as Veterinary Investigation Officer and pathology resident and went on to complete her residency at CSU in Wagga. During her residency she became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (Anatomic pathology), a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in pathology, completed a Masters in Veterinary Medicine, and received comprehensive training in clinical pathology. In 2013 she was co-examiner for the ANZCVS pathology membership exam and is also an active member of the Australian Society of Veterinary Pathologists.

Libby is a registered veterinary specialist pathologist and has worked in private pathology in Melbourne since 2014.

Libby has extensive experience in diagnostic anatomic and clinical pathology in a wide range of species. She is motivated to deliver a high standard of professional and personalised service with an integrated approach to diagnostic pathology.



### **Dr Priscilla Hodge** Specialist Veterinary Pathologist

BVSc (Hons), MANZCVS (Path) , Dip ACVP

Priscilla graduated with honours from The University of Melbourne in 2005. She worked as a mixed practice veterinarian in Bendigo for three years before undertaking veterinary pathology training as a tutor, also at The University of Melbourne. Priscilla then worked as a pathologist and lecturer at the University where she was involved with diagnostic duties and teaching DVM students in anatomic pathology. She became a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in Pathobiology in 2010 and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (Anatomic pathology) in 2021.



### **Dr Ben Remaj** Veterinary Pathologist

BVMS MANZCVS (Path) Dip ACVP

Dr Ben Remaj has an interest in all aspects of pathology, he loves the challenge of a good diagnostic case. Ben graduated from Murdoch University in 2011 and initially worked in small animal general practice in Perth and Margaret River over three years. He then spent another three years working in general practice in the United Kingdom followed by a year of locum work back in Australia. After a visit to the pathology department at Cornell University in upstate New York, Ben next began a residency at Murdoch University in 2019 where he completed a Masters of Clinical Veterinary Studies. He continued and completed his training at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in Perth. In 2022 he became a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) in Pathobiology and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (Anatomic pathology).



### **Dr Juliet Brown** Veterinary Clinical Pathologist

BVSc (Hons) MVS MVSc MANZCVS (Path) Dip ACVP (Clin Path)

Juliet graduated in Veterinary Science with honours from the University of Sydney in 2017. She then spent 2 years working in general practice in Sydney before moving to Melbourne for her three year clinical pathology residency and double masters program at the University of Melbourne, which she completed in January 2023. During her residency she was involved in vet student teaching and conducted a research project investigating thrombosis and fibrinolysis in companion animals. Juliet loves integrating pathology with internal medicine and clinical aspects of patient care.



### **Dr Simon Stokes** Veterinary Pathologist

BVSc (Hons I), PhD, Diplomate ACVP

Simon graduated from The University of Queensland, School of Veterinary Science in 2015. Following graduation he worked in mixed practice in the Northern Territory and then as an equine veterinarian in Northern New South Wales. Simon completed a PhD in Veterinary Pathology that focused on equine laminitis, and he completed this at The University of Queensland, The University of Pennsylvania and The Ohio State University. His PhD thesis was awarded a Dean's Award for Outstanding Higher Degree by Research Theses, and he has published scientific articles on veterinary pathology. Simon moved to Ontario, Canada to complete further training in Anatomic Pathology at The University of Guelph in a well-established and busy residency program. He achieved specialty board certification in Anatomic Pathology with the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 2022. Simon and his family have moved back to Australia and he is excited to dedicate his time to diagnostic pathology with the ASAP Laboratory team.



### **Dr Michael Rozmanec** Veterinary Pathologist

BVSc MVSc MACVSc DACVP MRCVS

Mike graduated from the University of Sydney in 1994 before joining the RSPCA as a small animal veterinarian. Between 1996 and 1998 he completed an internship and masters program in veterinary pathology at the University of Queensland, with his thesis involving immunocytochemical applications to veterinary cytology. He also became a Member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in 1998 in the Pathobiology Chapter, and began working in Sydney for a commercial veterinary pathology laboratory as a clinical pathologist. Mike was awarded the Jim Sutherland Memorial Scholarship in 2003 and travelled to Cornell University, in the USA to undertake a Residency in Veterinary Anatomic Pathology. Returning to Australia, he became a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Pathology (Anatomic Pathology) in 2006. In 2011 Mike moved to the UK with his family and began work at Cytopath Ltd, returning to Australia in 2022 and joining our national veterinary pathology business based at QML Vetnostics in Brisbane. Mike enjoys teaching pathology, and has interests in cytology, surgical pathology and dermatopathology.

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### **Dr Emily Birkhead** Veterinary Clinical Pathology Registrar

BVBiol/BVSc (Hons), MANZCVS

Emily studied veterinary science at Charles Sturt University and graduated with first class honours in 2015. She worked 4 years as a small animal vet, in general practice, and in emergency and critical care. Emily particularly enjoyed the internal medicine and problem-solving components of small animal practice, and became a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in small animal medicine. Her interests in medicine, pathophysiology and disease diagnosis lead her to undertake a combined veterinary clinical pathology residency and PhD at Charles Sturt University in 2019. Emily's PhD focused on sepsis in foals and analysed specific biomarker that may be diagnostically useful. Emily will be sitting the American board examination in clinical pathology in 2024.



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### **Dr Christina McCowan** Specialist Veterinary Pathologist – Ophthalmology (Consultant)

BVSc, BSc (Hons), MACVS (Feline Med), MACVS (Path), DipACVP

Christina has a special role in reporting ophthalmic pathology, an area where she has gained vast experience over the years. Christina is responsible for training of ophthalmology residents in pathology, for their specialty, at Melbourne University Veterinary School, where she was recently appointed an honorary fellow.

Christina graduated from University of Queensland in 1982. She then worked as an employee and a practice owner in mixed practice before returning to study, completing a second BSc in 1997, and her PhD in the characterisation of axon glial interactions in 2006. As part of her fellowship training program, Christina spent some time with Prof. Brian Summers at the University of London.

Over the last few years Christina was employed as a tutor in the pathology department at Melbourne University Veterinary School, with duties principally directed to the diagnostic section, but also included 3rd year anatomical pathology classes, and oversight of the introduction of immunohistochemistry techniques to the laboratory. During this time Christina also received ophthalmic specimens from external providers including leading ophthalmology specialists.

Christina is widely published in neuropathology and ophthalmic pathology. We are sure you will benefit greatly from Christina's unique set of skills.

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## **Internal Medicine Consultant**



### **Dr Katherine Briscoe** Internal Medicine Consultant

BVSc (Hons I) MVetStud (Small Animal Clinical Studies) FANZCVS (Feline Medicine)

Dr Katherine (Kath) Briscoe graduated from the University of Sydney in 2003. Kath worked in private small animal practice in Sydney and the UK before completing an internship and residency at the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Sydney. In 2008, Kath attained membership of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in feline medicine. In 2012 she attained Fellowship of the same college. During her residency, Kath completed a research project on the pathology of feline low grade alimentary lymphoma and IBD. Kath has a keen interest in all aspects of small animal medicine, and is also passionate about providing continuing education for veterinary practitioners. Kath has worked in both university and private referral practice, but has recently made a sea-change and is working in primary accession practice on the Mid-North Coast of NSW. Years of referral practice have allowed unique insights into ways in which a primary accession clinic might improve the health of small animal patients and provide superior services to their owners. Dr Briscoe is also keen to ensure general practitioners are well versed in what can be achieved in their own clinics and at what stage one should consider referral. Kath is looking forward to being able to discuss case management and interpretation of pathology profiles with general practitioners so that they can feel supported in the evaluation and treatment of their patients.

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ASAP Laboratory provides a first class diagnostic pathology service to Veterinarians throughout Victoria. The service offers a wide range of veterinary testing, including blood biochemistry and haematology, microbiology, endocrinology, serology, histopathology and cytology.

With the delivery of routine results available within a 24 hour period, the ASAP team provides professional assistance in the management of an animal's health and well-being. Serviced by qualified Veterinary Pathologists, results include interpretative comments to assist you in the care giving process. Our Veterinary Pathologists are available to answer any questions or discuss results.

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