

MMI 291 Seminar Series

Current Theme: Interdisciplinary Research
Spring Quarter 2025 – CRN 47397

Friday Seminar at 12:10-1 p.m.

Genome and Biomedical Sciences Facility, Room 1005

“Toxoplasmosis in California sea otters”

Research Bio

Karen Shapiro’s research program targets the epidemiology and ecology of apicomplexan parasites, transmission of zoonotic pathogens in watersheds and coastal ecosystems, and the effects of landscape and climate change on disease transmission. She has been investigating *Toxoplasma* transmission from land to sea and the impacts of toxoplasmosis on California sea otters for more than 20 years and will presenting on this topic at the seminar today.

Publications

Shapiro K, VanWormer E, Packham A, Dodd E, Conrad PA, Miller M. 2019 “Type X strains of *Toxoplasma gondii* are virulent for southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) and present in felids from nearby watersheds”. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 286: 20191334. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.1334>.

Shapiro K, VanWormer E, Packham A, Dodd E, Conrad PA, Miller M. 2019 “Type X strains of *Toxoplasma gondii* are virulent for southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) and present in felids from nearby watersheds”. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 286: 20191334. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.1334>.

Miller MA, Newberry CA, Sinnott DM, Batac FI, Greenwald K, Reed A, Young C, Harris MD, Packham AE and **Shapiro K** (2023) “Newly detected, virulent *Toxoplasma gondii* COUG strain causing fatal steatitis and toxoplasmosis in southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)”. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 10:1116899. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2023.1116899.

May
30



Karen Shapiro, Ph.D.
Professor

Department of Pathology,
Microbiology and Immunology,
Veterinary Medicine,
University of California, Davis

May 30, 2025
12:10 – 1 p.m.

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**Genome and
Biomedical Sciences
Facility, Room 1005**

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In-person presentation

Medical Microbiology and
Immunology
School of Medicine

Seminar Contact:
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We hope to see you there!