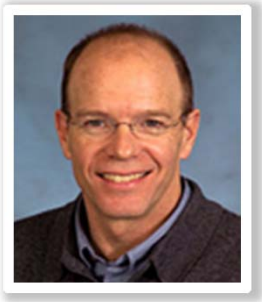
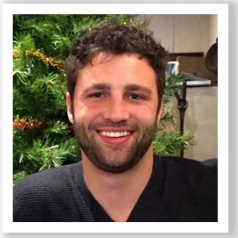
Meet the Team



We thought it would be fun to introduce the research staff who are responsible for this project. You may recall our first PhD student, Steve Tousignant who conducted all his PhD research with SHMP data and successfully defended this fall. Dane Goede did some of his early PhD work with PEDv and has switched streams to focus his efforts more on molecular epidemiology. Kim Vanderwaal is a post doctoral fellow specializing in network analysis and has recently joined our team. Carl Betlach, bio below, is familiar to all our participants as he interacts with SHMP participants, manages our data, and composes and distributes the weekly report. Kaushi Kanakege, a PhD student and bio below, is interested in spatial epidemiology and one of her thesis chapters focuses on our SHMP data. Hunter Baldrey, a veterinary student and bio below, is leading a project revolving around time to stability at farrowing. Taylor Homann, a prevet student and bio below is interested in production data and is studying the reproductive consequences following PRRS virus infection. And we have two post doctoral research associates joining us in 2016.

Our team is passionate about creating value for you, our SHMP producers and veterinarians. We try to deliver that in our weekly report, our research projects and in our long term objective of creating a capacity to allow the industry to respond as effectively as possibly to our next emerging pathogen. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or comments. Bob Morrison BobM@UMN.Edu



Carl Betlach, BS

Data Manager/Researcher

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Carl Betlach graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science, and he has since been working in the Population Medicine Department at the College of Veterinary Medicine. His undergraduate experiences involve working in both swine production and laboratory research settings. Carl's primary role in the swine group at the University includes managing the data side of the SHMP, producing geomaps for regional swine programs, and assisting in various research trials. Currently, he is working with eight SHMP participants and 129 farms to determine TTS, TTBP, and associated risk factors in sow herds infected with PRRS 1-7-4. Carl will be pursuing his Master's Degree in Business Management this Fall.

Taylor Homann

Backup Data Manager/Researcher

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Taylor is an undergraduate student studying animal science, pre-vet. As a sophomore and part of the VetFAST program, she will be starting vet school next fall. Growing up near Pipestone, MN, Taylor worked for Pipestone System: System Grow Finish throughout high school. On college campus, she is involved in Beta of Clovia agricultural sorority and the Undergraduate Public Health Association. Taylor has been working on the SHMP reporting project as well as a PRRS impact study. This study aims to find the proportionate mortality associated with the decrease in pigs weaned due to a PRRS outbreak. It hypothesizes that a decrease in litters farrowed, a decrease in livebirths per litter and an increase in pre-wean mortality constitute the change in pigs weaned and that the contribution per factor will vary by herd and by break. Taylor plans to receive her DVM from the University of Minnesota and then practice as a swine veterinarian. She also enjoys advocating for the pork industry, as a former state pork ambassador.

Hunter Baldry, BS

Researcher

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Hunter Baldry is a second year veterinary student originally from Maple Plain, MN. Prior to joining the SHMP team in the fall of 2015, Hunter completed a student seminar at the 2015 AASV Annual Meeting on influenza A virus, and received the National Pork Industry Foundation veterinary internship scholarship. Hunter's primary projects include PRRSv testing in neonatal pigs and PRRSv time to stability and associated risk factors at farrowing. After graduating with her DVM, she hopes to continue to conduct research on infectious diseases in swine.

Kaushi Kanankege, BVSc, MS

Geospatial Modeler

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Kaushi Kanankege is a veterinarian from Sri Lanka who has a Master's Degree from University of Wisconsin Madison in Bio Medical Sciences. Currently, she is a PhD student at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Her research interests are focused on "Use of spatial analytical tools and geostatistical modelling to inform decisions and policy intended to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases". She is working on the mapping and risk scoring of the potential spread of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus related to the North Carolina swine industry.