



Alissa C. Deming DVM, MS, PhD
Vice President of Conservation Medicine and Science
Pacific Marine Mammal Center
Laguna Beach, CA

Speaker for: [Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy Animal Matters Seminar Series](#)

When: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at noon

Title: "Why do so many wild sea lions have genital cancer?"

Dr. Alissa Deming is the Vice President of Conservation Medicine and Science at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center. She is responsible for the medical care dolphins, pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) and whales that strand in Orange County, California. Dr. Deming received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and PhD in Comparative, Diagnostic and Population Medicine from the University of Florida. Her principal research interest is the study of disease patterns in marine mammal populations to better understand the impacts of human and environmental factors on ecosystem health. Her primary research efforts are focused on a commonly diagnosed cancer in wild California sea lions and she is the Chair of the Sea Lion Cancer Consortium (SLiCC). Dr. Deming has an extensive veterinary medicine background, having worked as a clinical veterinarian at The Marine Mammal Center, SeaWorld San Diego, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program. She has provided veterinary care for a variety of aquatic species in rehabilitation, managed care, and field settings. Her background includes experience in remote sedation and field disentanglements of pinnipeds and cetaceans, as well as performing necropsies on pinnipeds, dolphins, whales, manatees and sea turtles. The Pacific Marine Mammal Center accepts veterinary students for externships in the Spring and Summer, and collaborates with researchers and graduate students interested in conservation medicine and research.

Relevant/recent publications:

Animals | Free Full-Text | Unlocking the Role of a Genital Herpesvirus, Otarine Herpesvirus 1, in California Sea Lion Cervical Cancer (mdpi.com)

Frontiers | Persistent Contaminants and Herpesvirus OthV1 Are Positively Associated With Cancer in Wild California Sea Lions (*Zalophus californianus*) | Marine Science (frontiersin.org)

Social Media and Website links:

Instagram: [Pacific Marine Mammal Center \(@pacificmmc\)](#)

Facebook: [Pacific Marine Mammal Center | Facebook](#)

Website: [Pacific Marine Mammal Center \(pacificmmc.org\)](#)

LinkedIn: [Pacific Marine Mammal Center | LinkedIn](#)

Webpage for Sea Lion Cancer Consortium: [Sea Lion Cancer Consortium — Pacific Marine Mammal Center \(pacificmmc.org\)](#)

Website for Deming Bio: [Dr. Alissa Deming — Pacific Marine Mammal Center \(pacificmmc.org\)](#)