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**2023 Dr. Fred D. Bisplinghoff Research Innovation Award presented to
Jennifer Martin, Ph.D.**

November 15, 2023 – The North American Renderers Association (NARA) is pleased to announce, on behalf of the association’s sister research foundation, the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation (FPRF), that the 2023 Dr. Fred D. Bisplinghoff Research Innovation Award has been presented to Jennifer Martin, Ph.D., for her continued support of FPRF and the foundation’s programs. Her work has been instrumental in the success of the Pet Food Alliance (PFA), a collaborative industry organization focused on exploring solutions for the pet food and rendering industries, which Dr. Martin coordinates.

Dr. Martin is an Associate Professor in Meat Safety and Quality and Meat Extension Specialist in the Department of Animal Sciences at Colorado State University. She received her M.S. (2010) and Ph.D. (2014) from Texas Tech University before joining the Colorado State University faculty in the Spring of 2015. She leads an active research program focused on the quality and safety of meat and related products that seeks to explore opportunities and the development of solutions with and for industry partners. In addition to research, Jennifer works closely with meat and livestock industry members across Colorado and the nation. Additionally, she serves as the co-leader for the Upskilling Initiative, a workforce development and innovative educational program within the College of Agricultural Sciences which aims to provide novel career pathways for the agri-food industries.

Notably, Dr. Martin is the coordinator of the Pet Food Alliance (PFA), a joint project facilitated through Colorado State University and the FPRF. The alliance was created to unite members of the rendering, pet food, laboratory, academia, and technology industries to collaborate and develop solutions for industry-wide challenges and explore mutually beneficial opportunities. Dr. Martin’s ongoing commitment to the coordination and goals of the PFA, and her unwavering support of the FPRF and its programs make her a worthy recipient of this prestigious honor.

“I am truly honored to receive the Fred Bisplinghoff Research Innovation Award from FPRF,” Dr. Martin said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the rendering industry through the Pet Food Alliance and thankful for the numerous industry partners who are willing to collaboratively develop solutions for industry-wide challenges.”

The award was presented to Dr. Martin by Dr. Charles Starkey, NARA’s Vice President of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, and FPRF’s Director of Research, during NARA’s recent 2023 Convention in Naples, Florida.

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About the Dr. Fred Bisplinghoff Research Innovation Award

The Dr. Fred Bisplinghoff Research Innovation Award was founded in 2015 in honor of former FPRF President, Dr. Fred Bisplinghoff. It is awarded to an FPRF grant recipient who has done outstanding research for the rendering industry that made a substantial contribution to current knowledge, increased the use of rendered products, or developed improvements in operations, product quality, and safety.

About the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation

The Fats and Proteins Research Foundation (FPRF) was organized in 1962 to serve the rendering and associated industries. FPRF’s purpose is to fund research that results in enhanced usage and development of new applications for rendered animal products.

About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use of animal byproducts, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in Mexico and Hong Kong, and has market consultants in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*. For more information, visit www.nara.org.



Left: Dr. Charles Starkey, (NARA & FPRF); **Right:** Dr. Jennifer Martin