

Surgical Services Biographies

Kimberly Holliday-White, BS, SRS, MSQA

Principal Research Surgeon & Quality Assurance/Documentation Specialist

Kimberly received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Texas at San Antonio. After receiving her degree, she worked in a neurophysiology research lab at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA). Her duties included performing surgeries and conducting experiments. She was able to use her experience to develop novel surgical techniques, train students and staff on proper animal care and surgical techniques. She also became a DSI customer as was one of several Beta sites for DSI. She ran several beta site studies, one for new RPC-1 receivers and the other when Dataquest ART 1.0 was released which was the first Windows software platform for the company.

Since joining DSI in July 1998, Kimberly has had the opportunity to work in several areas of the company. She worked for 2.5 years in Technical Support during which time she strengthened her knowledge of products. She then moved into Customer Quality for 8 years where she was an advocate for DSI customers. She worked closely with a cross functional team to ensure DSI was producing a quality product. If a quality issue did arise, she led the CAPA team and engineering to determine a root cause and a solution. She moved on for a couple of years into the role of Senior Technical Support Engineer supporting customers with their questions and any issues that arose. For the last 14 years she has been a part of the Surgical Services team. In this role she works with engineering to develop new products and surgical techniques and performs internal studies. She has helped train new employees, individuals at user groups and AALAS, CAALAS and ASR workshops as well as customers in DSI surgical techniques since she started at DSI. She has performed many surgeries here in house to develop the product as well as performed surgeries at the first Alpha sites and Beta sites. In 2016, Kimberly earned Surgical Research Specialist Certification from the Academy of Surgical Research. In 2020, she took on the role of Quality Assurance for the DSI Data Services group. She serves as the QA Auditor for GLP studies as well as Documentation Specialist. She continues to travel around the world performing surgical training as well as pre-implanted animals. She believes that seeing the spark of excitement in customer's eyes when they realize the research that they would like to do is possible is one of the best parts of her job.

Kimberly is a member of the National AALAS organization, the Minnesota AALAS Branch, the Academy of Surgical Research, and the Society of Quality Assurance. Kimberly and her husband have two children, Bronwyn and Caerwyn and a black lab and a cat. In addition to her professional activities, Kimberly has volunteered for all her children's activities as they were growing up. Now she is looking for new volunteer opportunities now that her children are out of college. She has served on the Academy of Surgical Research's Certification Committee and on the board of the MN AALAS branch.

When she is not working on these activities, she and her family love to spend time outdoors, biking, and camping. She is an avid reader when she gets the chance to read.

Kim Swearingen, BS, CVT, SRS, *Research Surgeon*

Kim received her associate degree in veterinary technology from Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology in Denver, Colorado in 2004. She began her medical device research career as an Animal Research Technician at Medtronic Physiological Laboratory and was later promoted to Surgery Operations Technician II. In 2012, she acquired the Surgical Research Specialist certification through the Academy of Surgical Research (ASR). Following her 10 years with Medtronic, Kim worked as a Senior Research Technician and Study Specialist at WuXi AppTec. She joined the DSI Surgical Services team as a Research Surgeon in April 2017. She also went on to pursue her bachelor's degree while working full time and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Metropolitan State University in August 2018.

Kim left DSI in December 2019 to pursue other opportunities and was very excited to rejoin the DSI Surgical Services team in February 2022 as a Research Surgeon. Her current role involves performing small and large animal telemetry implantation procedures, as well as supporting and training customers on telemetry implantation techniques. She also serves as the content manager for surgical related Knowledge Base articles in the DSI Support Center. Kim really appreciates learning about the studies that customers are performing with the use of DSI's telemetry devices and the positive impact they have on biomedical research. She is also excited to continue expanding her surgical knowledge and experience in a field she has been so passionate about since the start of her career.

Kim is a member of the National AALAS organization, the Minnesota AALAS Branch, the Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians, and the Academy of Surgical Research. Outside of work, Kim enjoys the outdoors with fishing and hiking in the summer months. When it's time to relax, she enjoys reading and spending time at the lake with her family and friends. She also loves shopping, wine tasting, and trying new recipes in her free time.

Kara Mendiola, RLATG, Senior Surgical Specialist

Kara embarked on her professional journey in the veterinary medical field in 2005 upon joining El Dorado Animal Hospital in San Antonio, TX as a veterinary assistant. Over the span of 8 years, she honed her technical expertise and animal handling capabilities, ascending to the roles of Lead Technician and Office Manager. In these capacities, Kara spearheaded a team of veterinary technicians, providing guidance on animal handling with fear free protocols, surgical preparation, laboratory procedures, and fostering client relationships. In 2013, Kara furthered her education by enrolling in the Veterinary Paramedic program at Katy Community College in Texas, where she gained invaluable hands-on experience in small animal emergency medicine, radiology, and the care of smaller animal species, including pocket pets.

In 2015, Kara embarked on her laboratory animal career in Houston, TX, commencing as an animal caretaker at a cancer research facility where she specialized in the care and well-being of transgenic and nude mice. Swiftly thereafter, she transitioned to a role within a toxicology laboratory, where she played a pivotal role in fortifying their animal welfare program, focusing on optimizing care and standardizing procedures for USDA-covered species. In 2016, Kara returned to her hometown, San Antonio, TX, where she joined the esteemed Texas Biomedical Research Institute for a tenure of three years. During this time, she gained technical experience with various non-human primate (NHP) species, including Macaques, Baboons, and Marmosets, across breeding colonies, clinical settings, and ABSL-3/ABSL-4 facilities. Notable among her most favored experiences was her stewardship of the Macaque breeding colony, ensuring the well-being of group-housed NHPs, performing surgical interventions for lacerations, and conducting ultrasounds for pregnant Dams. Kara's dedication and expertise were further underscored by her acquisition of certifications including RALAT, RLAT, RLATG, and Animal Tattooist.

In 2020, Kara made the exciting decision to explore new professional avenues and began contracting with the Department of Defense, serving at both the US Army Institute of Surgical Research and the US Army Institute of Chemical Defense. While there, she contributed to various research endeavors focused on battlefield and health trauma. Within the Institute of Surgical Research, Kara assumed the role of Overnight ICU Veterinary Technician III, overseeing critical aspects such as anesthesia, ventilation, and pain management for swine engaged in 72-hour studies. In 2022, Kara secured a contract position in Maryland, assuming the role of Veterinary Technician III at the Institute of Chemical Defense. Rapidly advancing to the position of Lead Technical Supervisor, she supervised a team of veterinary technicians and conducted training sessions on small animal handling. Leveraging her prior expertise in anesthesia, Kara played a pivotal role in providing surgical training for swine and non-human primates (NHPs) undergoing procedures at the Institute. During her tenure at the Institute of Chemical Defense in Maryland, Kara had the opportunity to collaborate closely with DSI Surgeons Kimberly and Kim during NHP implantations, which sparked her keen interest in surgical techniques. Motivated by this encounter, Kara embarked on a journey to acquire the skills necessary to become a surgical technician, aspiring to contribute to the esteemed team at DSI one day.

In October 2023, Kara relocated to Minnesota to assume the role of Senior Surgical Specialist, joining the distinguished team of specialists at DSI. She is currently pursuing her accreditation as a Surgical Research Specialist through the Academy of Surgical Research, focusing primarily on refining her surgical skills and

techniques for telemetry implantation in rats and mice, as well as conducting surgical preparations and permanent identifications for rodents.

Kara actively participates in professional organizations, holding membership in the National AALAS and serving as a board member for the Minnesota AALAS Branch. Outside of her professional pursuits, Kara finds joy in training her Belgian Malinois, Maze, in scent work and engaging in activities such as Fast Cat and swimming. She has a deep appreciation for nature, frequently exploring hiking trails and enjoying camping trips. During her leisure time indoors, Kara indulges her artistic side by creating wood burned art pieces or expressing herself through music on her piano.