

## ISAE new investigator award 2015

Dr. **Maja Makagon**, Dept. Animal Science, University of California, Davis, United States of America

Maja obtained her Ph.D. at UC Davis (2010), where to she has now returned after having worked at Michigan State University until relocating to Purdue University in 2012. Her research area is poultry behaviour and welfare (including ducks, laying hens and turkeys) on a diverse array of subjects. One of these is the development of a treadmill performance test with which to quantify walking ability in ducks that can be used along with or instead of the gait score system.

In her short career she has published over 15 peer-reviewed articles within the field of poultry behaviour, and presented at 25 conference or industry meetings. She has also successfully attracted large sums of research funding for applied behaviour projects in her current position. Maja has a remarkable capability to approach scientist and industry alike and has developed collaborations with egg, turkey and duck producers, as well as researchers (within and outside the US) with expertise in a variety of fields.

Maja trains her graduate and undergraduate students with passion and enthusiasm, she is an amazing mentor and takes great pride in the accomplishments of her students – many of whom have obtained awards and published papers not only as undergraduates, but also as high school students.

### Selected publications

**Makagon, M.M.**, Woolley, R. & Karcher, D.M. (2015). Assessing the waddle: An evaluation of a 3-point gait score system for ducks. *Poultry Science* 94, 1729-1734.

Hester, P. Y., Al-Ramamneh, D. S., **Makagon, M.M.** & Cheng, H. W. (2015). Effect of partial comb and wattle trim on pullet behavior and thermoregulation. *Poultry Science* 94, 860-866.

**Makagon, M.M.**, McCowan, B. & Mench, J.A. (2012). How can social network analysis contribute to social behavior research in applied ethology? *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 138, 152-161.

**Makagon, M.M.** & Mench, J.A. (2011). Floor laying by Pekin ducks: Effects of nest box ratio and design. *Poultry Science* 90, 1179-1184.

**Makagon, M.M.**, Tucker, C.B. & Mench, J.A. (2011). Factors affecting nest choice by Pekin ducks. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 129, 121-128.