



## 2024 CVMBS Veterinary Summer Scholars Program: Request for Applications

### CSU Veterinary Summer Scholars Program

2024 Program Dates: May 13, 2024 – August 12, 2024

The primary objective of this program is to support professional veterinary students in their pursuit of knowledge and skills related to comparative and veterinary medicine research problems. By offering mentorship and infrastructure, this training program equips students with the technical and conceptual abilities necessary to engage in hypothesis-based research under the guidance of faculty. Funded projects will provide students with a stipend (40 hours per week commitment required).

To ensure a successful application, students are encouraged to seek out mentors proactively and discuss potential research projects one to two months before the application deadline. Mentors must provide a letter of support outlining the proposed research project and commit to covering any research expenses (material, supplies, services, and equipment). For a link to the mentor match, please email [Wendy.Stevenson@colostate.edu](mailto:Wendy.Stevenson@colostate.edu). Only one student per mentor can be funded through the VSSP program.

Apply online [here](#)

### **Eligibility**

Interested 1st-2nd year veterinary students from any accredited veterinary college in North America are encouraged to apply.

- Students must have completed at least one year of the Veterinary Curriculum by May of the program year.
- Veterinary Schools must be AVMA accredited and located in North America
- Trainees must be in good academic standing.
- International students (outside of N American countries) are not eligible to apply (Pre-approved Boehringer Ingelheim International scholars are the only exception)
- Students from underrepresented backgrounds (as defined by NIH here: <https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>) are highly encouraged to apply.

### **Open Positions**

*Boehringer Ingelheim:* (up to 8 slots) Funds from BI are applied for annually by the CVMBS Dean's office via a short application and report of accomplishments. Projects can cover **any topic (basic or clinical research)**. Up to two slots will be reserved for students from other schools.

*National Institutes of Health:* (up to 6 slots). NIH funding comes from an NIH T35 training grant. Projects are focused on **molecular, mechanistic, applied, and translational biomedical research**.

*USDA-NIFA Animal Health and Disease Fellowships:* (up to 8 slots) CVMBS receives Animal Health and Disease Capacity funds through an annual application to USDA-NIFA. Funds are distributed to eligible schools via a pre-set formula. Projects are focused on **animal health and disease research involving livestock, poultry, and equine species**.

*Morris Animal Foundation:* (1 slot) The Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Fellow is typically the most qualified applicant in the general application pool with a project focused on the **health and well-being of dogs, cats, horses, or wildlife**. The CVMBS Dean's Office assists the mentor and student in preparing a full MAF application following selection.

*University of Alaska-Fairbanks:* (up to 2 slots) CSU partners with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to offer summer research opportunities with faculty researchers conducting field studies and translational research through a one-health lens. Many of the projects engage indigenous communities in Alaska.

## **Program Commitments**

- Complete a 3-month research project during the summer term under the guidance of an approved CVMBS faculty member.
- Complete an Institutional Responsible Conduct of Research Training Class (offered as part of the program)
- Participate in program activities (approximately weekly seminars and tours)
- Produce a final poster presenting research findings.
- Present in the CVMBS Science Slam
- Attend the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium (August 8-10, 2024, St Paul, Minnesota)
- Present at CVMBS research day Jan 2024 (for CSU students only)

Students must certify that they understand this is a full-time commitment (40 hours/week) over the summer and can devote the required time if they accept an offer. Students must agree **not to hold any other employment positions** that require more than a few hours per month over the summer. For example, continuing a position as a VTH tour guide. Working hours on a VTH service is not.

## **Mentor Commitments**

- Provide mentorship for a 3-month research project during the summer term.
- Provide travel funds for your trainee to attend the National Veterinary Scholar Symposium (est. cost \$1500/trainee)
- Ensure the student's funding source is cited in all presentation materials and in any resulting publications.
- Note: **Only 1 student per mentor can be funded with VSSP program funds. Please ensure that only 1 student applies to the program with you listed as mentor. The committee is not responsible for making that selection if more than 1 submits.**

### Stipends

- \$6,588 total stipend for summer. Pay dates are the last working day of the month.
- Taxes, Medicare, and mandatory retirement contributions (in lieu of social security contributions) are automatically deducted by payroll.
- Travel allowances are not provided for non-local students

## **Instructions**

- Complete online application questions. Note: there will be a demographics section in the application. This information is collected as an NIH reporting requirement. You can choose not to self-report without penalty.

- Have your research mentor and your character reference directly email Wendy Stevenson ([wendy.stevenson@colostate.edu](mailto:wendy.stevenson@colostate.edu)) with their final reference letters. She will then compile them with your finalized application.
  - One reference should provide a letter attesting to your motivation, independence, reliability, and other character attributes.
  - Your faculty mentor, who has agreed to support your research program, should provide the second reference. This letter should contain a short description of the research you will undertake as part of the summer program, willingness to provide mentorship, and assurances that the mentor can provide the financial support needed (travel/research supplies).

### **Application Review Information**

Overall impact/merit: Reviewers will assess applications for completeness, enthusiasm for the program, mentor identification, project type, and mentor qualifications/support.

Scored criteria: Each category is worth 5 points

1. Participation as it relates to career goals
2. Relationship of prior research experience to motivation to participate.
3. Mentor identification/proposed research project
4. Letters of support (4 pts each)

### **Timeline**

Online application and Letters of Reference Due February 5, 2024, 11:59 pm

Review by Selection Committee: February 2024

Award Notices sent: Mid-March

Hiring Paperwork: Early April