2022 CVMBS Veterinary Summer Scholars Program: Request for Applications

CSU Veterinary Summer Scholars Program

2022 Program Dates: May 16, 2022 – August 5, 2022
Application Due Date: Monday, February 7, 2022, 11:59 pm

The primary goal of this program is to assist in the development of knowledge and skills of professional veterinary students in comparative and veterinary medicine related research problems. This training program provides mentorship and infrastructure for veterinary students to attain specific technical and conceptual skills to perform hypothesis-based research involving faculty supervised projects. Funded projects will provide student stipend.

Students are encouraged to begin seeking out mentors to outline potential research projects one to two months in advance of the application deadline. Mentors must provide a letter of support for students outlining the potential research project, commit to supporting any research expenses and provide funding to attend the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium at the end of the program.

CSU Campus VSSP Program

Overview:

The CSU campus VSSP program will take place over 11 weeks and will consist of the following:

- A mentor supervised research project
- Seminars/ workshops focused on a broad spectrum of topics including, but not limited to:
  - Conducting ethical and responsible research
  - Scientific dialogue and communication
  - Effective grantsmanship and the development of hypothesis driven research
  - Clinical trials and clinical research design
  - Preparing and presenting scientific data as an oral talk or poster.
  - Research careers in the veterinary sciences
  - Rodent Handling workshop
- Field trips to sites including Rocky Mountain National Park, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Soapstone Prairie to participate in tours and learn about research conducted on site. Social activities such as hiking and bike rides are paired with these activities.
- The VSSP Science Slam will take place in the week preceding the National Conference and offer students a chance to showcase their research in short oral presentations to their peers, mentors, and lab-mates. The Science Slam will take place off site and will be live streamed for people not able to attend (including friends and family).
- The National Veterinary Scholars Symposium (NVSS) will be held Aug 4-6, 2022 at the University of Minnesota. This event brings together veterinary students from most of the CVMs in the USA and Canada. At the symposium, students present their research in the form of a poster and learn about current research topics in veterinary science. All students are requested to attend. Travel costs (registration, airfare, lodging and meals) will be provided by mentor laboratories.

Mentor Matching Tool

The Mentor Matching tool facilitates pairing veterinary summer scholars with mentors in research areas of mutual interest. Prospective summer scholars and mentors can access an online spreadsheet where they upload short descriptions of their research interests and projects, respectively, along with contact information. Both groups can
browse the available descriptions to find their match. Mentor Matching empowers bidirectional exchange of research interests and ideas and provides a confidential conduit to discuss and/or develop summer research projects. For access to the tool, please email Theresa Rulon (Theresa.Rulon@colostate.edu). After entering your interests, please check back regularly for updates.

Funding Sources

Boehringer Ingelheim: (up to 8 slots) Projects can cover any topic.

National Institutes of Health: (8 slots on CSU Campus, 2 slots on UAF-Fairbanks campus). NIH funding comes from a T35 training grant. Projects should be focused on molecular, mechanistic, applied, and translational biomedical research.

USDA Fellowships: (4-5 slots): Projects should be focused on livestock reproduction, health, or disease research.

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.

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.

If students are not awarded funding through the program sources listed above, but mentors can secure funding to support their positions, they are welcome to participate in the summer program.

Stipends

- $5459 total stipend for the 11-week program funded by non-NIH sources. Pay dates are at the end of each month. NIH funded students are expected to conduct research over a 3-month period (May 16 – August 15, 2022) and will receive a total stipend of $6,459.
- Taxes, Medicare, and mandatory retirement contributions (in lieu of social security) are automatically deducted by payroll
- Students must certify that they understand this is a full-time commitment (40 hours/week) over the summer and that they can devote the required time if they accept an offer. Students must agree to not hold any other employment positions that requires more than a few hours per month over the summer. For example, working hours on a VTH service is not permitted, but working a few hours as a tutor is okay.

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 and be in good academic standing.

The CSU College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to increasing diversity and inclusion among students, staff, and faculty, so that the college is a welcoming and supportive place for all. To this end, individuals from underrepresented backgrounds in science (minorities, disabled individuals, and individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds) are highly encouraged to apply for the Veterinary Summer Scholars Program.

CSU Campus VSSP Program Commitments

- Participate in program activities (Seminars, required trainings, workshops and off-site field trips in addition to the research project)
- Participate in the CVMBS Science Slam (short oral presentations of research)
- Attend the national Veterinary Scholars Symposium (Aug 4-6, 2022, University of Minnesota) and present a research poster
- Present at CVMBS Research Day in January 2023. (CSU students only)
**Mentor Commitments**

- Provide mentorship for an 11 to 12-week research project during the summer term
- Provide travel funds for your trainee to attend the National Veterinary Scholar Symposium (est. cost $1200/trainee)
- Ensure that the student’s funding source is cited on all presentation materials and in any resulting publications

**University of Alaska, Fairbanks Program**

The University of Alaska, Fairbanks Program offers 1st or 2nd year CSU Veterinary Students an opportunity to work with leading researchers on the UAF campus for the summer. Past research experiences have focused on One Health Surveillance in the Arctic (including zoonotic disease management, toxins in the food web, and marine ecotoxicity). Students will be able to view recorded seminars from the CSU campus while conducting their research. Completed research will be presented at the CVMBS research day in January 2023.

Only 2 students will be selected for this experience each summer. Full stipend is provided ($6,459 for the summer), but travel costs are not. Only CSU campus veterinary students are eligible for this program. Hiring is completed by UAF staff. Assistance will be provided to locate housing and other needs. Please contact program director Dr. Karsten Hueffer, khueffer@alaska.edu, for further information, including assistance in pairing with a UAF mentor.

**Application Process**

**Application Components**

The online application collects background information as well as short paragraph answers to motivations for participating in the program, future goals, and a description of the proposed research.

2 letters of reference are required. Your character reference should provide a letter attesting to your motivation, independence, reliability, and other character attributes. Your Mentor reference letter should contain a short description of the research you will undertake as well as financial commitment to providing both research materials and travel funds to the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium (approximately $1200). Reference letters should be emailed by the referees directly to Theresa Rulon (theresa.rulon@colostate.edu) for inclusion with your application packet.

**Application Review Information**

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

**Timeline**

Online application and Letters of Reference Due: Monday, February 7, 2022, 11:59 pm

Review by Selection Committee: February 2022

Award Notices sent: Mid-March

Hiring Paperwork: Early April