

Research opportunities for Veterinary students in 2010

Now that the Fall semester is underway, many of you are thinking about next semester, the Summer vacation, and perhaps also of your future as a Veterinarian. Some of you have approached me or Dr. Lauren Trepanier to discuss how you might become engaged in research while you are here at the SVM.

There are a myriad of opportunities. I've listed some of these and also included the names of current DVM students who have tried them out. If you are interested, you might consider chatting with your colleagues and getting an insider perspective.

“I want to work as a student-hourly in a research lab on campus”

Find a research lab where a Principal Investigator (PI) is looking for student-hourly help (see below). There are ~45 research labs in the SVM, and many more in the School of Medicine and Public Health, School of Pharmacy, College of Letters and Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the School of Engineering.

Before contacting the PI, make sure you know how many hours you might have available per week during the semester (nights? weekends?), as well as during vacations. PIs like reliability and continuity. Remember, you are going to be working on *their* research project, not yours. When you contact them, make it clear that you are interested in their research topic.

To find research labs in the SVM, click Research on the SVM website. You will find a list of Faculty Research Labs. By clicking on any one of these, you can get an idea of what type of research goes on in that lab. On the SVM website under Research Programs, you will find additional projects that are ongoing here. If you know of a researcher in the SVM and cannot find them in either of these lists, try the Faculty/Staff tab - Academic Departments, and check out the four individual departments that make up the SVM. All faculty are listed here. Many of the researchers in the SVM are also your instructors, so you can chat with them about their research after a lecture or lab. Otherwise, send them an e-mail and arrange a time to meet with them.

If you know a research area in which you are particularly interested and you want to find out who is working in that area on campus (e.g., Immunology, Spinal Cord injury, Oncology, etc.), go to the Experts Datapage
<http://experts.news.wisc.edu/>

Another way to find people working in a particular research area is to go to the campus websites for graduate training in that area (e.g., Cell and Molecular Biology, Neuroscience Training Program, Microbiology, Environmental Toxicology, etc.). A full list of all the graduate programs with links to the individual programs can be found here:
<http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/education/academicprograms/profiles.html>

You can also look for job opportunities at the Job Center
<http://jobcenter.wisc.edu/>

Write a brief e-mail (~4 sentences) introducing yourself as a Veterinary student, expressing your interest in their research/the position, outlining the time you have available including vacations, and whether you would also be available the following year. Attach your CV. If you have never written a CV, ask around amongst your classmates to see a few examples of CVs.

Talk to: Heidi Holley, 2011
Emilie Schwarz, 2011
Liz Falendysz 2011
Pat Murack 2011

“I want to work in a research lab in Summer 2010”

The deadlines for many of these programs have not yet been announced. Check the websites for more information.

1. UW-SVM Summer Research Scholars Program
http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/Summer_Scholars_Program.255.1.html

This program is organized by Dr. Ron Schultz in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, SVM.

Deadline: early February

Talk to: Matt Kinney 2010
Ewan Wolff 2011
Betsy Elsmo 2012
Meghan Vermillion 2012
Danny Heinrich 2010
Pat Murack 2011
Christine Molter 2011
Andrea Carlson 2010
Stephanie Salyer 2010
Jessica Girard 2012
Darby Murphy 2010

2. Summer Research Programs at other Veterinary schools in the USA and Canada

Many veterinary schools in the USA and Canada offer paid 10 or 12-week mentored research opportunities to veterinary students. They all encourage out-of-state applicant to

apply. Here are some web sites. A more complete list is generally available on the Michigan State website (see below).

Deadline: mid-January

Michigan State: <http://cvm.msu.edu/research/summer-research-program-1>

Texas A&M: <http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/resgrad/ssr/>

Ohio State University: <http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/4837.htm>

Purdue: <http://www.vet.purdue.edu/SummerScholarsProgram/>

Illinois: <http://vetmed.illinois.edu/research/summertraining/index.html>

(also, Center for Zoonosis Research)

Mississippi State: <http://www.cvm.msstate.edu/research/sre/index.html>

Penn:

<http://www.vet.upenn.edu/Research/ResearchTrainingOpportunities/NIHMerckMerialVeterinaryScholarsProgram/tabid/339/Default.aspx>

Kansas: <http://www.vet.ksu.edu/research/vet.scholar/index.htm>

Florida: <http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/college/departments/physio/research/Merck-MerialVeterinaryScholarProgram.html>

Missouri: <http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/vrs/>

Virginia Maryland: www.vetmed.vt.edu

Talk to: Tracey Robinson 2011
Liz Falendysz 2011

3. Summer Fellowships specifically for Veterinary Students but not at a School/College of Veterinary Medicine.

Stanford: <http://med.stanford.edu/compmed/education/summer.html>

Harvard: http://www.hms.harvard.edu/nerprc/summer_prog.html

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: <http://web.mit.edu/comp-med/researchfellowships/index.html>

Generally these programs present a wide range of research projects from which to choose.

Deadline: mid-January

4. Cornell Summer Research and Leadership Program

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/oge/Leadership/>

We had a student who participated in this program (William Sander, DVM 2009).

Deadline: early December

5. Cambridge Summer School (England)
<http://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/summerschool/>

Deadline: February

Talk to: Julia Dunn 2011

6. NIH Summer Internship

Veterinary students work in laboratories at the National Institutes of Health that are dedicated to a variety of disease areas including: cancer, infectious diseases, immunology, diabetes, metabolism, cardiac and vascular diseases as well as research in neurological disorders. Opportunities for experience in comparative and molecular pathology also exist. The presence of veterinary students helps other NIH health care professionals and researchers understand diseases from the perspective of veterinary medicine. Students interact with veterinarians employed by the NIH in diverse professional roles. Summer internships run from 8 to 12 weeks in length.

<http://www.training.nih.gov/student/sip/>

Deadline: early February

Talk to: Kate Flemen 2010

7. Morris Animal Foundation

<http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/professionals/veterinary-students/>

The Morris Animal Foundation sponsors a Veterinary Student Scholars Program and provides stipend support of up to \$4,000 to students who have completed at least one year of veterinary school. Applicants are nominated by their school and work on an animal health research project in the areas of large animal, small animal, wildlife and multiple species.

Applications should first be submitted to Dr. Mary Behan by Dec 1, 2009 and if approved will be forwarded to MAF. Only one companion animal based grant and one wildlife/exotic animal focused grant per institution is allowed by the Morris Animal Foundation.

Talk to: Stephanie Salyer 2010

“I’m particularly interested in Lab Animal Medicine research”

The University of Michigan Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine has a program that includes 50% research, 50% working with lab animal veterinarians. The contact person is Dr. Lesley Colby, University of Michigan (lacolby@umich.edu). The 2010 information is not yet posted. However, this is the 2009 call for applications:
<http://www.ulam.umich.edu/academic/summer> extern.htm

Deadline: early February

Talk to: Felicia Duke 2012

The American Association of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP) has an excellent website where they list a broad range of research institutions offering summer externships with ASLAP PIs.

<http://www.aslap.org/preceptorships.php>

Talk to: Cassie Miller 2010

“I’m interested in Zoo Medicine research”

The Henry Vilas Zoo has a scholarship for SVM students who wish to do a summer research project that involves study of threatened/endangered species.

www.vilaszo.org

Deadline: Spring semester

Talk to: Christine Molter 2011
Lesanna Lahner 2011
Darby Murphy 2010

“I’m considering taking a year off during Vet school to do research and maybe get an MS degree”

1. NIH 12 month Mentored Research Experience at the UW-SVM

<http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/research/training.php>

Contact Dr. Dale Bjorling at bjorlind@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu for more information.

Deadline: March 1, 2010.

Talk to: Christy Sibigroth 2010

Jennifer Asher 2010
Andrea Carlson 2010
Liz Falendysz 2011
Bridget Cummings 2011
Kathryn Coyne 2012
Allison Dusick 2011
Amanda Pike 2011
Leah Martin 2012
Jana Braun 2012

2. HHMI-NIH Research Scholars Program

Spend a year at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute campus or at the National Institutes of Health campus in Maryland. They pay you and look after all of the details (housing, health insurance, etc.)

<http://www.hhmi.org/cloister/>

Deadline: January.

Finally, if you have any questions or want to talk more about research opportunities throughout your career, I'm happy to meet with you one-on-one. Feel free to contact Dr. Lauren Trepanier, the Director of Clinician Scientist Training Programs at the School. She and I work closely together to ensure that you have information and access to as many research opportunities as possible.

Best wishes,

Mary Behan

Mary Behan PhD
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Training
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Wisconsin-Madison
2015 Linden Drive,
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: (608) 263-1008
FAX: (608) 265-6478
Email: behanm@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu