

## **Research opportunities for Veterinary students in 2012**

Now that the fall semester is nearly over, many of you are thinking about next semester, summer vacation, and perhaps also of your future as a Veterinarian. Some of you have approached me 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. All of them will have a web page describing their interests.

To find research labs in the SVM, click Research on the SVM website <http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/Research.35.0.html> 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 and type in your area of interest in the Search box <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:** Betsy Elsmo, 2013  
Nina Zitzer, 2013  
Zachary Joseph, 2013  
Rebecca Kohnken, 2013

### **“I want to work in a research lab in Summer 2012”**

You can work in a research lab during Summer as a student hourly (see above). However, there are other programs that are designed specifically for a 10-week or 12-week research training experience that includes lectures on topics like research ethics and the responsible conduct of research, how to write a manuscript, prepare a research presentation, etc. Check the websites for deadlines for application and more information.

#### 1. UW-SVM Summer Research Scholars Program

[http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/Summer\\_Scholars\\_Program.255.1.html](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/Summer_Scholars_Program.255.1.html)

This program is organized by Dr. Dale E. Bjorling, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Training

*Deadline:* February 1

**Talk to:** Courtney Blohm, 2014  
Colleen Carney, 2014  
Allison Gutwillig, 2013  
Catherine Hawkins, 2014  
Katie Holmes, 2014  
Martha Johnson, 2014  
Jessica Lovstad, 2014  
Kat Pankratz, 2014  
Becky Rauwald, 2014  
Sarah Schmid, 2014  
Mary Thurber, 2014  
Theresa Hover (Baker), 2012  
Betsy Elsmo, 2012  
Meghan Vermillion, 2012

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

*Deadline:* Applications are typically due in early February; check specific programs

Auburn University: <http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/home/research/summer-scholars-program>

California, Davis: <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/research/merial.cfm>

Colorado State: <http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/MerialVeterinaryScholarsProgram/>

Cornell University: <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/oge/investigator/>

Florida: <http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/research/Merial-Veterinary-Scholars-Program/>

Georgia: <http://www.veterinaryscholar.org/>

Guelph: <http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/slrp/about/>

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

(also, Center for Zoonosis Research)

Iowa State: <http://vetmed.iastate.edu/research/summer-scholars>

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

Louisiana State:

<http://www1.vetmed.lsu.edu/SVM/Current%20Students/Student%20Research%20Opportunities/Summer%20Scholars/item19893.html>

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

Minnesota: <http://www.cvm.umn.edu/education/currentstudents/summerscholars/home.html>

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

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

North Carolina State: <http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/research/vsp.html>

Ohio State University: <http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/6077.htm>

Oregon State: <http://oregonstate.edu/vetmed/research/merial>

Oklahoma State:

[http://www.cvm.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&id=10&Itemid=222](http://www.cvm.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=10&Itemid=222)

Prince Edward Island/Atlantic Veterinary College: contact the school at

<http://www.upei.ca/avc/dvm/>

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

Penn:

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

Saskatchewan:

[http://www.usask.ca/wcvm/research/undergraduate\\_student\\_research/merial\\_program.php](http://www.usask.ca/wcvm/research/undergraduate_student_research/merial_program.php)

Texas A&M: <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/vmsrtp>

Tufts University: <http://www.tufts.edu/vet/researchtraining/mm.html>

Virginia Maryland: <http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/research/svsrp/index.asp>

Western University of Health Sciences: <http://www.westernu.edu/veterinary-student-involvement>

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>

**Talk to:** Caroline Piskun, 2012

Harvard: [http://www.hms.harvard.edu/nerprc/summer\\_prog.html](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 have had students who participated in this program.

*Deadline:* early December

5. Cambridge Summer School (England)

<http://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/summerschool/>

**Talk to:** Julia Dunn, 2011

*Deadline:* February 17, 2012

6. NIH Summer Internship

<http://ccr.cancer.gov/resources/training/applications/sipbrProgramInformation.asp>

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 may also interact with veterinarians employed by the NIH in diverse professional roles.

*Deadline:* March 1, 2012

#### 7. Morris Animal Foundation

<http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/for-grant-seekers/veterinary-student-scholars.html>

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.

*Deadline:* April 5, 2012

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

<http://ulam.med.umich.edu/academic/summer.html>

The University of Michigan Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine has a program that includes 50% research, 50% working with lab animal veterinarians. The University of Michigan also has an excellent training program in lab animal medicine for veterinarians.

*Deadline:* February 13, 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. Institutions include: Johns Hopkins, Colorado State, Indiana University School of Medicine, NIH, MIT, University of Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Texas health Center, Iowa State.

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

#### **“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.vilaszoo.org](http://www.vilaszoo.org)

*Deadline:* Spring semester

#### **“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 E. Bjorling at [bjorling@vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:bjorling@vetmed.wisc.edu) for more information.

*Deadline:* March 1, 2012.

**Talk to:** Eva Bachar, 2014  
Angela Braun, 2014  
Caroline Chu, 2012  
Katie Coyne, 2012  
Betsy Elsmo, 2013  
Caroline Piskun, 2012  
Abigail Radcliff, 2012  
Heather Schoeppe, 2012

2. HHMI-NIH Research Scholars Program

<http://www.hhmi.org/grants/individuals/medfellows.html>

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute will support 12 months of training at the HHMI campus or at your home institution.

*Deadline:* January 11, 2012.

Finally, if you have any questions or want to talk more about research opportunities throughout your career, drop by my office (Rm. 2170D) or send me an e-mail. We can set up a time to talk and explore other opportunities.

Best wishes,

Dale E. Bjorling, DVM, MS  
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: [bjorling@vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:bjorling@vetmed.wisc.edu)