2024 VETERINARY SUMMER SCHOLARS RESEARCH PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Summer Research Program?

The Veterinary Summer Scholars Program is a 10 week program beginning late May and ending mid August. Scholars engage in research projects under the mentorship of research faculty. Students will have 10 weeks of research and 1 week for oral presentations.

In addition to your research project, scholars will attend a mandatory weekly seminar series that will cover a range of topics including:

- Conducting studies with animals – ethical and regulatory considerations.
- Information resources for the clinical and basic sciences.
- Effective grantsmanship and the development of hypothesis-driven research. •
  The essentials of manuscript preparation.
- Preparing and presenting scientific data as a presentation or poster.
- Training and practice in scientific writing.
- A special session hosted by **Boehringer-Ingelheim** (as part of the Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program) regarding careers in research.

At the end of the summer, ALL scholars will present their research at UTCVM. Select students will also present at the National Veterinary Scholar Program Symposium, sponsored by **Boehringer-Ingelheim**.

What are the working hours of the program?

Each scholar must decide this with their mentor. This is a good question to ask during the mentor selection process. While some of the research projects can be completed in a traditional 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. workday, others involve weekend and evening work. In addition, if a scholar needs to be absent from the project for any reason, this needs to be discussed with their mentor. **It is expected for students to take up to a week off for vacation in the summer. Mentors should be accommodating of this and organize this with the student.**

How are scholars paid?

Students funded by the COE program are paid $11 per hour, not to exceed 40 hours of work per week, a maximum of $4,400 for the summer. Each project has a varying workload. Some projects may require full time 40 hours per week, whereas some projects may only require 20 hours per week. This is important to discuss with your potential mentors when looking for a project.

Students funded by Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck Animal Health, AVMA 2nd Opportunity, Morris Animal Foundation are expected to work close to the full 40 hour weeks, for a pay rate set by the sponsoring agency. Those rates vary each year, but are usually between $5,000-$6,500 for full time 40 hours per week projects.

What counts as “payable time” for the program?

Scholars can log their paid time for the following:

- Active research being done in the lab or in the field.
- Attending the weekly program 1 hour seminars.
- Attending any lab meetings/journal clubs as required by your mentor.
- Compiling research data using softwares, library information, etc.
- Remember, you **may not** exceed 40 hours per week.

How do students find a research project/mentor?

All available research projects will be posted **here** on **January 31, 2024**.

Once you find a project that you would like to work on, your next goal is to set up a meeting with that mentor to further discuss the project. You are encouraged to talk with multiple mentors, to get a better understanding of what each project entails.

Next, you will fill out the application found on the UTCVM Summer Program Website. You will be required to list your potential mentors in preference order. You may list up to 5 mentors. Only list those projects that you are willing to work on. **Student applications for Summer 2024 are due February 27, 2024 at 5pm.**

Faculty mentors will also fill out a ranking form for up to four students in preference order. **Mentor “ranking of student” forms for Summer 2023 are due February 27, 2024 at 5pm.**

Last, the students and mentors will be matched. The student and mentor ranking forms will be processed by Summer Program Directors Dr. Sree Rajeev and Dr. Andi Lear. **Match results will be announced via email on March 8, 2024.**