2023 UTCVM Research Day Awards

Graduate Student Category:

1st Place – Lichao Liu, Comparative & Experimental Medicine
“Role of Rickettsia parkeri membrane assembly protein in the interactions of this bacterium with mammalian and tick cells”
Mentor: Girish Neelakanta
Travel award of $500.00

2nd Place (tied) – Alexandra Carlson, Comparative & Experimental Medicine
“Evaluation of soluble epoxide hydrolase inhibitor in an in vitro osteoarthritis model with equine synovial fluid derived mesenchymal stem cells”
Mentors: Elizabeth Collar and Madhu Dhar
Travel award of $300.00

2nd Place (tied) – Nirmalendu Deb Nath, Comparative & Experimental Medicine
“Geographic disparities and temporal changes of diabetes-related mortality risks in Florida: An ecological study”
Mentor: Agricola Odoi
Travel award of $300.00

Veterinary Student Category:

Phi Zeta Awardee for Excellence in Animal Health Research (1st Place) – Chessa Brown, Class of 2026
“Clinical effect of multidose oral administration of firocoxib and t-TUCB alone and in combination for the treatment of osteoarthritis in horses”
Mentor: Elizabeth Collar
Travel award of $400.00 & a $250.00 cash award from Phi Zeta

2nd Place – Victoria Diaz, Class of 2025
“In vitro feasibility of bovine whole blood as a source of xenotransfusion in swine”
Mentors: Chiara Hampton and Deana Schaefer
Travel award of $300.00

3rd Place (Tied) – Allie Asbury, Class of 2025
“Echocardiographic estimates of shunt volumes in dogs with patent ductus arteriosus and their association with measures of cardiac volume overload and outcome”
Mentor: Liza Koster
Travel award of $200.00

3rd Place (Tied) – Megan Kinsella, Class of 2025
“Investigation of alopecia lesions in gray bats”
Mentor: Rick Gerhold
Travel award of $200.00

3rd Place (Tied) – Heather Thomasovich, Class of 2026
“Biomarker discovery in pregnant cattle infected with bovine viral diarrhea virus”
Mentor: Andrea Lear
Travel award of $200.00
Top Resident Presentation:

Dr. Jake Salzman, Small Animal Clinical Sciences
“The effect of butorphanol and dexmedetomidine on serum cortisol concentration”
Mentors: Shelly Olin, Alejandro Esteller-Vico, and Luca Giori

Top Post-Doc Presentation:

Dr. Liana Nunes Barbosa, Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences
“Effect of immunization with a recombinant Leptospira chemotaxis protein in C3H/HeJ mice”
Mentor: Sreekumari Rajeev

Boehringer Ingelheim Faculty Research Mentoring Award:

Award Recipient: Dr. David Anderson

Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence:

Award Recipient: Dr. Andrea Lear