



College of Veterinary Medicine

Summer Research Fellowship Program

*Our **Summer Research Fellowship Program** provides a 10-12 week mentored summer research project experience for first or second year veterinary students. Students carry out hypothesis-driven research with world-class faculty mentors. Our primary goals are to: 1.) Recruit veterinary students of exceptional aptitude who are oriented toward a career of basic or applied research, 2.) Provide training in the philosophy and methodology of science, including hands-on research experience from the level of problem identification through publication of results, and 3.) Maintain a high level of motivation to pursue advanced training and become productive research scientists. Find additional information about our program at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/research/student-research.*

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be 1st or 2nd year veterinary students who are not currently enrolled in a research-based graduate degree program.
- Applicants must not be on academic probation.
- If you have questions regarding eligibility please send them to the CVM Associate Dean for Research (Dr. Robert Mealey - rhm@vetmed.wsu.edu).

Stipulations upon award:

- The work period will be mid-May through mid-August. This provides two weeks of vacation, one at the end of the spring semester and the second just prior to the beginning of fall semester.
- Successful applicants are expected to work full-time on their approved research project during the summer months.
- Applicants who wish to enroll in additional summer coursework or engage in additional summer employment must gain approval from their mentor and the Associate Dean for Research (Dr. Mealey - rhm@vetmed.wsu.edu).
- Students who receive summer research fellowships must present a poster describing their project and its results at the College of Veterinary Medicine Student Research Symposium during the fall semester (usually at the end of October).
- Each fellowship recipient will be required to sign a letter that stipulates the above requirements and that failure to meet these requirements will result in stipend funds being withheld and/or repaid to the CVM.

Proposal review:

Applications will be judged competitively by the CVM Research Committee. Details regarding the proposal format and content, required applicant and mentor letters and criteria used to judge the application are given in detail on the following pages.

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Funding:

Resources for the WSU Veterinary Research Fellowship Program are provided by the [WSU College of Veterinary Medicine](#) and the [Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program](#). Funding provided by the Boehringer Ingelheim program supports summer research for DVM students at a number of universities, and students are encouraged to apply to other programs to broaden their research experiences. The participating universities are all eligible to send students to the [Boehringer Ingelheim NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium](#) in August each year.

Awards are contingent upon an \$800 stipend supplement from a faculty member who agrees to serve as a mentor and provide material support for the student's application. **Specifically, the Summer Research Fellowship Program will provide a total award of \$6,000 for a full 12 week period of work.** This amount includes the supplement provided by the faculty mentor. We expect to make 10-15 fellowship awards each year.

Selecting a mentor:

All CVM faculty are eligible to sponsor students as advisors for projects that receive CVM funds. When selecting a mentor you should speak with them to learn about their research and to request reprints and related materials to help identify labs with which you share interests. Determine the level of interest from the prospective mentor. It is appropriate to determine if the potential mentor has sufficient resources to support your efforts even if you do not receive a fellowship. This is important, because in some years the number of worthy applications exceeds the number of available summer fellowship funds. To learn more about faculty research interests, please see the following links:

Veterinary Clinical Sciences
[VCS Research & Mentors](#)

Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology:
[VMP Research & Mentors](#)

Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience:
[IPN Research & Mentors](#)

School of Molecular Biosciences:
[SMB Research & Mentors](#)

Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health:
[Allen School Research & Mentors](#)

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SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

Your application must include the following:

A. Cover page:

“APPLICATION FOR SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP” must be clearly indicated at the top of the page. The title page should also prominently display the project title, the name and class year of the student applicant, and the name of the faculty mentor.

B. Description of the project:

Up to five typed pages (1 inch margins with a 12 pt font, 1.5 to 2 line spacing and page numbers). Remember that clarity and logic are important criteria used for evaluating the proposals (see below). The bibliography (literature cited) is not included in the five page limit. The text must be prepared by the student with assistance from the faculty mentor. **The student’s role on the project must be explicitly defined including which experiments the student will complete. If the proposed work is part of a larger ongoing project it must be clearly stated exactly what the student will be doing over the summer and what they plan to present at the fall research symposium.**

The following sections must be included:

1. Summary (~250 words)

Briefly summarize the research problem being investigated, the significance of the problem, the hypothesis to be tested, the specific objectives that will test the hypothesis, the approach to be used, and the expected outcome. (It is recommended that this section should be written last to ensure it is consistent with the rest of the application and to avoid excessive rewrites.)

2. Background (one page)

Describe the research problem being investigated with enough background information (including literature references) such that a person unfamiliar with the field can understand the importance and rationale for the work being proposed. Identify the specific gaps in knowledge that need to be understood in order for the field to advance.

3. Significance (one-half page)

Provide justification for the importance of the problem being investigated for animal and/or human health.

4. Hypothesis (one sentence)

State the specific hypothesis that will be tested by the proposed work.

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5. Specific Objective/s (one sentence per objective)

List the specific objective/s of the proposed work that will test the hypothesis under consideration.

6. Approach (two pages)

Briefly describe the proposed studies including the rationale for the study (how does each experiment address the specific hypothesis), the experimental methods that will be used, and how the data will be analyzed. As needed, include justification for the sample size, describe the statistical methods used to compare groups, and the criteria that will be used to confirm that the hypothesis is confirmed or rejected. Also include an assessment of the potential problems that might be encountered and any strategies that could be used to overcome those problems. Provide a timeline to establish feasibility for completion of the proposed work within the summer time frame.

7. Outcome (one-half page)

Briefly state what results you are expecting to find, and speculate on what would be done next if the hypothesis is confirmed OR if the hypothesis is rejected.

8. References (no limit; less than one page recommended)

Provide sufficient references to support statements made in the application and enable reviewers to understand the problem being addressed.

C. Letter from the student applicant:

One-page letter signed by the applicant describing the importance of the proposed mentored research experience to their future career development (also with a 1-inch margin, 12 pt font and 1.5 to 2-line spacing).



Photos by Henry Moore, Jr.

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D. Letter from the faculty mentor:

One page letter signed by the faculty mentor (also with a 1 inch margin, 12 pt font and 1.5 to 2 line spacing) providing the following information:

- a. Brief description of the role of the student in the proposed work, including the design of the project, the writing of the proposal, the conduct of the study, analysis of the results, and writing of any resultant publication (if applicable).
- b. A statement verifying that the student is not currently on academic probation.
- c. Indicate the source and sufficiency of funds for the proposed research (exclusive of stipend funds). Stipends will not be awarded if the funds needed for the research itself are not already in place at the time of application.
- d. The mentor must also guarantee that the required matching stipend funds (\$800) are available from a grant or departmental sources.
- e. If funding is from departmental sources, the mentor's letter must be co-signed by the department chair.
- f. If the study involves use of live animals, the mentor should indicate the status of IACUC approval.

Proposal evaluation

The following criteria will be considered when evaluating the proposals:

1. **Scientific merit of the proposal.** Includes evaluation of the study rationale, hypothesis, derived specific objectives, justification of the significance of the work, approach, data analysis, the expected outcomes, and their interpretation.
2. **Grantsmanship.** Includes evaluation of the overall clarity, logic, and feasibility of the proposal.
3. **Candidate.** Includes evaluation of the student's participation, commitment, and benefit to future career.
4. **Mentor.** Includes evaluation of the mentor's commitment and environment.

A collated **electronic PDF** copy of your **complete application**, which includes applicant and mentor letters, must be emailed to: **Dr. Robert Mealey** (rhm@vetmed.wsu.edu) **by 5pm on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.**

You will receive notification of the disposition of your application by Wednesday, March 14, 2018. Please direct questions concerning the appropriateness of your research topic to the CVM Associate Dean of Research (Dr. Robert Mealey - rhm@vetmed.wsu.edu).



For information on the Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program, visit www.merialscholars.com