

## COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE - PetSmart Charities Summer Scholar Program 2020

### Goals of this program:

- Maximize the opportunity for students to further their education and training by learning to conduct laboratory-based biomedical research under the supervision of a faculty mentor.
- Encourage veterinary students to consider careers in biomedical research following graduation.

### Key features:

- Fellowship is provided for **10 weeks during the of Summer 2020.**
- Stipend of \$4,900, half of which will be paid at the beginning and half at the end of the 10-week program.
- Students conduct **laboratory-/evidence-based research** under the guidance of faculty mentor.
- **Colloquium** where each Scholar will present a seminal research article to peer group once during Summer.
- **Distinguished speaker seminar series** regarding careers in biomedical research.
- **An opportunity to attend and present at the NVSS in San Diego, CA, on July 31-August 2, 2020.**
- **An opportunity to meet the PCI Veterinary Outreach leadership.**

### Requirements:

- Students in the first- and second- year of the veterinary medical program are eligible.
- Student has to maintain good academic standing leading to and during the summer fellowship.
- Time commitment for the fellowship program is expected to be significant and could average approximately 40-hours of research activity per week over the length of the 10-week program.
- Full participation in activities of the program and activities stipulated by faculty mentor, such as lab meetings, etc.
- Student provides final update, approved by faculty mentor and Associate Dean for Research, to PetSmart Charities by September 30, 2020.
- Student will present the research findings as a poster at the MWU Research Day in April of 2021.
- Scholars are not required to have performed past services or to agree to perform future services for the University, as a condition to receiving the research fellowship stipend.

### Topics:

**Topics appropriate for this research stipend include: Shelter Medicine, Human-Animal Bond, or Community Medicine (as defined below).**

### Proposal development format:

- Student identifies a faculty mentor, based on research interests, and prepares a research proposal with guidance of faculty mentor.
- Length: 3 pages of detailed research proposal, Font: Arial 11, single-spaced, Page margins: 0.5 inch on all sides.
- 3-page research proposal must contain the following sections: Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Innovation, Research Design, Time-line, and Specifics of Student Involvement. Preliminary data are not required.
- Separate sections of Literature Cited, applicable Vertebrate Animals, Human Subjects, and Biosafety descriptions in NIH format (indicate MWU file #).
- A letter of support from the faculty mentor and biosketch of PI(s) in NIH format.

### Proposal review process:

- Proposals will be reviewed by MWU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Research Committee and ranked based on:
  1. Proposal topic (shelter medicine, human-animal bond, or community medicine)
  2. Value of research in improving the health and well-being of homeless or medically insecure animals
  3. Eligibility of student
  4. Quality of proposed research project
  5. Extent of student involvement
  6. Letter of support
- The applicant acknowledges that PCI representatives may be consulted in the evaluation process.
- The highest-ranking applicant will be awarded the fellowship.
- **Number of fellowships: 1 for CVM students**

### Important dates:

- **Application submission deadline January 17, 2020.** Email application as a single PDF file to Kathryn Wycislo, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Director of CVM Summer Research Fellowship Program, [kwycis@midwestern.edu](mailto:kwycis@midwestern.edu) with subject: **MWU-PCC-2020**.
- **Awards announced no later than February 7, 2020.** For additional information, please email Ashlesh Murthy, MD, PhD, Associate Dean for Research, [amurth@midwestern.edu](mailto:amurth@midwestern.edu) with subject: MWU-PCC-2020.

### Definitions:

#### **Human-Animal Bond**

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) defines the Human-Animal Bond as "a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals that is influenced by behaviors that are essential to the health and well-being of both."

#### **Animal Welfare**

Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behavior, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment. Protecting an animal's welfare means providing for its physical and mental needs.

Ensuring animal welfare is a human responsibility that includes consideration for all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia.

#### **Shelter Medicine**

Shelter Medicine is a field of veterinary medicine dedicated to the care of homeless animals in shelters or other facilities dedicated to finding them new homes.