

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE - PetSmart Charities Summer Scholar Program 2021

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 (June 1- August 9) during the of Summer 2021.**
- 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.
- **Weekly colloquium** where each scholar will investigate topics in biomedical research and career development.
- **Distinguished speaker seminar series** regarding careers in biomedical research.
- **Presentation of summer research results at the NVSS Conference in Ames, IA, on August 4-6, 2021.**
- **An opportunity to meet the PCI Veterinary Outreach leadership.**

Program 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.
- Student must have successfully completed VMEDG 1510 Understanding Veterinary Literature.
- Orientation in the faculty mentor's laboratory through successful completion of the VMEDG 1301/1302 Research Elective in Spring 2021, prior to the start of the summer program.
- Time commitment for the summer 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 Summer Scholar Program, as stipulated by the Program Director and/or Associate Dean for Research.
- Full participation in research and/or laboratory activities, as stipulated by the student's assigned faculty mentor, such as lab meetings, experiments, etc.
- Presentation of research findings as a poster and/or oral presentation at the 2021 NVSS Conference and as a poster at the MWU Research Day in Spring 2022.
- Student provides final project update, approved by faculty mentor and Associate Dean for Research, to PetSmart Charities by September 30, 2021.
- Students 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.

Topic of interest:

Provision of accessible, need-based veterinary care (guidelines given 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, Timeline, 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 (provision of accessible, need-based veterinary care)
 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 15, 2021.** Email application as a single PDF file to Ashlesh Murthy, MD, PhD, Associate Dean for Research, amurth@midwestern.edu with subject: **MWU-PCC-2021**.
- **Awards announced no later than February 5, 2021.** For additional information, please email Ashlesh Murthy, MD, PhD, Associate Dean for Research, amurth@midwestern.edu with subject: MWU-PCC-2021.

Guidelines for topic of interest (provision of accessible, need-based veterinary care):

Communities of need

The specific community of need must be identified and a reported component of the research findings. Proposed communities of need should have barriers to veterinary care. Example barriers to veterinary care include, but are not limited to, transportation, housing, language, socioeconomic, or cultural.

Patients

Patients must be owned, non-equine companion animals that lack regular veterinary care.

Example research topics

- Methods to reduce barriers to veterinary care.
- Best practices in community medicine.
- Pricing structures/business models to provide accessible veterinary care.
- Enhancement of veterinary cultural competencies.
- Community impact when accessible veterinary care is provided.
- One Health and/or Human-Animal Bond impacts when veterinary care is provided in collaboration with human or veterinary social services.