

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE - Summer Research Fellowship 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, pre-vet, and animal science 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 **hypothesis-driven research** under the guidance of an MWU faculty mentor.
- **Weekly colloquium** where each scholar will investigate topics in biomedical research and career development.
- **Program orientation** with seminars in research methodology and ethics.
- **Careers Chats: scholars will have an opportunity to meet with distinguished speakers** regarding careers in biomedical research.
- **Presentation of summer research results at the NVSS Conference in Ames, IA, on August 4-6, 2021.**

Requirements:

- Students in their 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 fellowship program is expected to be significant and could average 40 hours of research activity per week over the length of the 10-week program.
- Full participation in activities of the Summer Research Fellowship, 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, to the Associate Dean for Research by Sep 30, 2021.
- Students are not required to have performed past services or to agree to perform future services for the University, as a condition of receiving the research fellowship stipend.

Application components due on **January 15, 2021:**

1. A letter of interest indicating:
 - Interest in up to three mentors and their corresponding research projects. These choices must be made from the MWU faculty members and research projects listed in this document and ranked from #1-3.
 - A vision of how this experience may shape/guide the fellow into a career in biomedical research.
 - A statement of whether the applicant is/is not eligible for Federal Work Study (FWS) funds for the 2021-2022 school year and whether the applicant is willing to use FWS funds during the summer program, if eligible.
 - Students are not required to have FWS eligibility or to use eligible FWS funds for program participation. Additionally, neither FWS eligibility nor willingness to use FWS funds will be considered when ranking applications.

2. Curriculum Vitae
3. One letter of reference from a faculty member at the student's university who is familiar with the student's interest in research. The student does not have to have prior research experience to qualify for this award.

Application review process:

Applications will be reviewed by MWU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Research Committee and ranked based on:

1. Eligibility of student
2. Letter of interest
3. Letter of reference

The highest-ranking applicants will be awarded fellowships.

Number of fellowships (tentative): 20+ for CVM students, depending on funding availability.

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-SRF-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-SRF-2021.

Student fellowship awardees will be guided to a research mentor at MWU whose research project closely aligns with one of the student's choices.

The student and mentor will then develop a research proposal **by May 1, 2021** to include:

- 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 and biosketch of PI (s), both in NIH format.
- Applicable vertebrate animals, human subjects, and biosafety descriptions in NIH format (indicate MWU file #).