

MEMORANDUM

Date: 12 January 2015

To: Class of 2018 and CVM Faculty

From: Chris Sanchez, DVM, PhD, Linda Hayward, PhD, Maureen Long, DVM, PhD, and Stanley Kim, BVSc, MS, Merial Summer Research Program Directors

Re: Call for Proposals: Merial Veterinary Scholars Program at UF

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 6, 2015

We anticipate notification regarding Merial funds to support of 6-15 DVM students to gain research experience during the summer of 2015. These funds have been provided by a grant from Merial and allocations from the Dean's office and various other training sources.

Students will be selected to conduct research projects in the labs of UF faculty this summer at a stipend of \$500 per week (\$5,000 for the entire summer). This 10-week research experience will extend from the end of May - to the end of July 2015, and the student must be in Gainesville during that entire time to take advantage of special programmatic offerings unless arrangements have been made in advance with the program director and with agreement of the sponsoring faculty. The goal of this research is to have the majority of the effort take place during the stipend period. Students are eligible to receive VEM 5991 credit during the summer 2014 provided the project is completed during that period. Alternatively, the VEM 5991 requirement must be fulfilled before 3rd year Spring.

Faculty, please note that this program only provides stipend support for the student to work in your laboratory. No additional support for the specific project is available and it is expected that each faculty member will commit to provide the funds to complete the experiments that are proposed and will be required to identify the source of these funds in the application. **Additionally, students are required to enroll in VEM 5991 either during the summer of stipend support or before 3rd year Spring.**

The funding for this program is based on a high percentage of faculty sponsors having matching funds for the student's stipend. Therefore, in an attempt to continue to fund as many student stipends as possible, we are requesting that faculty mentors attempt to match half of the stipend funding, up to \$2,500. These matching funds can come from grants, overhead, faculty development or from the home department. In the application, faculty will be requested to indicate if they can participate in this match and to identify the source of funds. **While matching funding is not a requirement for submission, applications that can provide matching funds will be given higher priority by the review committee. Other factors considered during heavy application years include student GPA, number of students applicants per lab, and prior success in mentoring students to completion of both projects and VEM 5991.**

How to Apply: All first-year UF veterinary students are eligible apply. In addition, applications from non-UF first year veterinary students are welcome. Students must prepare and submit an application prepared with their proposed faculty mentor. Each student first must identify a UF faculty mentor who will host that student in his/her laboratory for the summer: <http://research.vetmed.ufl.edu/training/student-scholars-program>. Specific guidelines, including eligibility information, detailed application instructions, and the application forms, are available on the web. See the application form for application submission instructions. Please be careful to follow the guidelines and submit a complete application if you wish to be considered for funding.

Submission Deadline: The deadline for receipt of all proposals for this competition is 5:00 pm, February 6, 2015. Proposals received after the deadline will be returned. We anticipate that the Review Committee will meet by the end of February 2015. We will immediately contact each applicant via e-mail to inform them of funding decisions by early March.