

The Zoological Medicine service of the Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia (UGA), Zoo Atlanta (ZA), and the Georgia Aquarium (GA) offer a 4-year graduate program which includes a residency (which is compliant with both the American and European [Zoo Health Management] Colleges of Zoological Medicine) and a Master's Degree (MS) in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (zoological medicine). Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to consult www.aczm.org and www.eczm.eu websites for detailed information on general residency requirements. This is a demanding program that necessitates dedication, enthusiasm, motivation, clinical competency, as well as excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.

First year residents, selected through the VIRMP, are invited into the program with advancement to the 2nd and subsequent years' dependent upon satisfactory progress. In the event that the graduate student is not retained, he/she will be awarded a certificate of specialty internship. Individuals completing this program will have attained a broad clinical base for future involvement in a variety of nondomestic animal practices including zoos, aquaria, wildlife parks, research institutions, universities, and exotic pet referral practices. A minimum of THREE peer-reviewed journal publications must be submitted by March 1st of the 4th year. At least one must be an original, hypothesis-driven research project. The remaining two can be original research or multiple-case series - single animal case reports are rarely acceptable. All 3 papers must stem from residency activities (not prior employment). Limited (intramural) funds are available for research, but grant submission for extramural grants is expected under faculty mentorship. The certificate of residency is provided when all clinical, research and publication requirements have been met. It is anticipated that graduating residents will sit for the ACZM (or ECZM) examination within 12 months of program completion.

First and Second Years at UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital

The first and second years are spent in the Zoological Medicine service within the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the College of Veterinary Medicine (Athens, GA), under the supervision of Drs. Stephen Divers and Jörg Mayer (both Diplomates of the European and American Colleges of Zoological Medicine). The clinical work includes animals presented to the hospital as well as field activities at a variety of local collections including Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail and Sandy Creek Nature Reserve. The current annual hospital and field caseload is approx. 1200 cases, and is composed of 14% reptiles, 40% avian, 45% mammals, and 1% amphibians/fish/inverts. Approximately 80% of the caseload is represented by privately owned zoological companion animals, 15% native wildlife, and 5% zoo/aquarium animals. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital is a \$100m, state-of-the-art, tertiary referral center and is well equipped with dedicated avian, herp, small mammal, and wildlife hospitalization facilities; digital radiography, fluoroscopy, ultrasonography, 64 slice CT, nuclear scintigraphy, 3T and 7T MRI; chemotherapy and linear accelerator; flexible and rigid diagnostic and surgical endoscopy; microsurgery, radiosurgery, Nd-YAG, diode and CO2 lasers; large pharmacy staffed by qualified pharmacists; and access to all major veterinary specialties. In addition, there is a fully accredited clinical pathology lab on site and a state-licensed diagnostic lab on campus.

Nine weeks of non-clinical time is provided for graduate classes, conference attendance, other rotations/externships, research, writing, and includes 2 weeks for vacation. In addition, time is available for graduate classes during the clinical work week. During the second year, the resident is given primary responsibility of the Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail (cervids, felids, rodents, raptors, marsupials, mustelids, bears, alligators, snakes, turtles, amphibians, and invertebrates) and Sandy Creek Nature Reserve (freshwater and marine fish, snakes including venomous species, turtles including loggerhead sea turtles, invertebrates). The limited zoo caseload allows the residents to plan their own immobilizations and preventative health programs with faculty guidance. Additional specialist rotations, either within the College of Veterinary Medicine (e.g. anesthesia, clinical pathology, pathology, surgery, internal medicine, diagnostic imaging, emergency and critical care; wildlife), The University of Georgia (e.g. Ecology) or at regional zoological institutions, under ACZM diplomate supervision, are also possible within the 9 weeks of allocated time. The residents are encouraged to attend and present at a national or international conference every year, as well as

attend lectures or seminars in the College of Veterinary Medicine or on the university campus.

The residency period at UGA emphasizes clinical training in the principles of zoological medicine and surgery. In addition to a supervising on-clinic faculty, the residents are aided by 2-3 certified technicians, 1-2 veterinary assistants, and 2-4 senior veterinary students on 3-week elective rotations. Specialists from all disciplines are available for consultation and an extensive support infrastructure, typical of a veterinary college, is available. The resident will be responsible for (1) participating in the daily activities of the zoological medicine service of the hospital including primary case responsibilities and clinical case rounds (typically 730am to 6pm Monday to Friday); (2) participating in regular visits to Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail, and Sandy Creek Nature Reserve; (3) providing assistance in instruction and supervision of veterinary students assigned to the zoological rotation; (4) providing emergency weekend and night-time back-up for zoological species admitted by the small animal emergency interns (each resident is on call during weekends and weekday evenings 50% of the time); (5) presenting one 45-minute seminar to the College each year and active participation in zoological journal club and didactic rounds; (6) obtaining their USDA accreditation for health certificates and TB testing. Clinical case rounds are held at least once, and generally twice a day, and a DACZM is always on site. During these first 2 years the resident will choose 3 additional credit hours from a selection of graduate level courses in order to fulfill the requirements for a MS degree. Many courses are available and can be used to suit specific student interests (e.g. infectious diseases, pathology, population health, statistics, experimental study design, conservation, etc).

For every 12 months of training, 10 days of vacation time are provided for residents as well as up to 12 days of sick leave. The annual stipend is \$32,631. This is a non-certificate graduate program, leading to an official University certificate of residency. A one-time application fee of \$75 and tuition and student fees (approximately \$3000/year) are the responsibility of the individual selected for the program. Required fees allow access to the Ramsey Student Activities Center (sports complex) and Gilbert Student Health Center, as well as access to student tickets for athletic and cultural events. Parking fees (up to \$240/year currently) are an additional expense.

Proof of medical insurance coverage and proof of immunization for measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, tetanus, hepatitis B, and rabies are required. Health insurance is the responsibility of the individual. Medical insurance is available through the Graduate School at a reasonable rate, but may be waived if proof of other coverage is provided. Coverage through the Graduate School will be available beginning August 1, 2020 Please visit the following website for additional information regarding health insurance fees <https://hr.uga.edu/students/student-health-insurance/>.

Third Year at Zoo Atlanta

The Zoo Atlanta animal collection will provide the resident exposure to a wide range of zoological species. The resident will work directly with Drs. Sam Rivera, Kate Leach, and Megan Watson. Dr Rivera is an adjunct faculty at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, and a Diplomate of the European and American Colleges of Zoological Medicine. Dr Watson is a diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine. Dr Rivera will be the primary resident supervisor and in charge of ensuring the resident completes the tasks assigned in preparation for ACZM or ECZM board certification. The resident will have daily rounds of the ongoing cases with the attending veterinarians and will play an active role in the management of clinical cases at the zoo. Ten hours a week will be spent researching giant panda clinical data for publications. The resident will also participate in topic discussions/journal reviews once a week. The resident will be responsible for providing clinical veterinary care of the Zoo Atlanta animal collection focusing on surgery, anesthesia, emergency response, preventative health care, medical case management, and critical care. Teaching veterinary and veterinary technician students is expected. The resident will participate in training of veterinary staff in emergency chemical immobilization procedures and will participate in the training / on the job education of technicians, assistants, interns, volunteers, and other staff members assigned tasks related to animal health care including but not limited to, the animal hospital, medications, animal handling and restraint, anesthesia, husbandry and emergency preparedness. The resident will

participate in the development and implementation of standard operating procedures for animal health care. The resident will be expected to maintain animal health records up to AZA, AAZV and USDA standards. The resident will be expected to assist in providing veterinary advice in all veterinary care related issues at Zoo Atlanta and/or outside agencies when requested. A close working relationship with veterinary technicians and consultation with appropriate curators when needed in the daily assessment and planning of medical care for all animals in the collection is expected. The resident will help to make sure all quarantine requirements for animals are met in a timely manner. Additional duties include: Interaction with zoo keepers and curators to ensure animal health care is proceeding as planned, participation in emergency procedures, participation in implementing changes in animal care as related to animal health maintenance of individual animals, assisting in the review/development of standard operating procedures for animal health care, and participation in necropsy and pathology assessments of the animal collection. The resident will also assist in providing guidance and instruction to zoo hospital staff and animal care staff on safe handling of animals, hazardous materials, drugs, etc.

Fourth Year at Georgia Aquarium

The fourth year of the program is spent at The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health at the Georgia Aquarium. Dr Michelle Davis, Diplomate of the European and American Colleges of Zoological Medicine, and adjunct faculty at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine) will be the primary resident supervisor and in charge of ensuring the resident completes the tasks assigned in preparation for ACZM or ECZM board certification. The resident will also work with the associate veterinarians, Drs. Chelsea Anderson and Sarah Miller, and the vice-president of animal and environmental health, Dr Tonya Clauss. Working at the aquarium provides a unique opportunity to gain experience in the field of aquatic animal medicine at one of the largest AZA-accredited aquariums in the world. The Center encompasses clinical medicine, animal nutrition, and gross pathology. The Animal Health staff consists of 3 clinical veterinarians, 1 administrative veterinarian, an Animal Health Coordinator, 4 veterinary technicians, and 1 veterinary technician assistant. A nutritionist is also on staff at the Aquarium, and pathology services are provided by the University of Georgia pathology service. The Georgia Aquarium has a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital with equipment comparable to that found at a teaching hospital and provides veterinary and preventive health care for a collection consisting of aquatic mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, elasmobranch and teleost fish, and invertebrates. The resident will assist the Center's staff with daily operations and clinical care for a wide variety of taxa. The resident will be responsible for performing diagnostic procedures and administering treatments in addition to assisting with the maintenance of clinical records, daily case rounds and implementation of a program of preventative medicine. The resident will also have the opportunity to assist with cases at a Georgia Aquarium satellite facility, the Animal Care Facility in Atlanta. The opportunity may also arise for the resident to participate in off-site scientific field studies or other research endeavors as research collaborations exist with the Avian and Wildlife Laboratory, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami, Florida and the Marine Mammal Research and Conservation Program, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Application Requirements

Candidates must be fluent in written and spoken English, and foreign applicants whose native language is not English must submit TOEFL scores obtained within the previous 2 years. All applicants must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in their country of origin, and priority is given to those candidates that fulfill the following:

1. Completion of a 1-year small or large animal rotating internship is preferred (or 2-3 years of practice experience in domestic animal, exotic, zoo and/or aquatic animal medicine). General clinical competency is essential.
2. Excellent academic record with previous research experience and veterinary publication. (Submission of a class rank greatly helps in the evaluation process).
3. Previous veterinary experience in the US with a reference from the supervising veterinarian (e.g. externships at US veterinary hospitals, zoos, aquaria, or private practices). An externship at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Zoo Atlanta, and/or the Georgia Aquarium can

often be arranged.

4. This is a demanding program and applicants can expect long days, and will need excellent organizational and interpersonal skills - demonstrable collegiality and ability to work as part of a clinical team are essential.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact and/or visit UGA/GA for further information <https://vet.uga.edu/hospital-clinic/hospital/our-services/exotic-animals/>. Alternatively, representatives from UGA, ZA and GA are usually present at the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine, Association of Avian Veterinarians, Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians, and Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians. To apply please contact the matching program at www.virmp.org

The current salary stipend is 1st year \$32,631 The start date is July 15th 2021.

The successful candidate will be licensed to practice by virtue of a faculty license. This license permits veterinarians from non-AVMA-accredited veterinary schools to practice within UGA graduate programs, and may be obtained without examination. Whereas the regular Georgia state veterinary license requires graduation from an AVMA-accredited veterinary school or successful completion of the ECFVG program, this is not a requirement for the faculty license. A faculty license enables the license holder to practice only within the scope of the residency program. Professional liability insurance is covered only for work performed as a UGA resident; it is the resident's responsibility to acquire professional liability insurance for work performed elsewhere, if necessary.

Residents at the University of Georgia are classified as graduate students, and thus for the purpose of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program are not considered to be full time employees. Please consider this information if you plan to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness or other loan repayment programs.

International applicants are required to provide two official/certified copies of their academic records from each institution of higher education that the applicant has attended. These records must include all course work. Photocopies are not acceptable. Separate proof of degrees is also required. If the original language of the academic record is not English, a certified English translation must be attached to the original. Applicants who graduated from a non-English language veterinary school must submit official TOEFL scores (see <http://www.toefl.org> for details). These scores must not be more than two years old. Foreign applicants that have completed a year of academic study in the US can provide a university transcript in lieu of TOEFL scores. A valid US driving license is required. Foreign applicants are required to arrive 3 weeks prior to residency start date in order to obtain social security number, veterinary licensure, and driving license, etc.

It is crucial that international candidates consider application processing times well ahead of the program start date. Please note that it may take up to 10 days to obtain a social security number. Information about this process can be found at http://issis.uga.edu/docs/Student_Section/Obtaining_a_Social_Security_Number.pdf. A social security number is required in order to apply for a Georgia veterinary faculty license, and it may take up to 30 additional days to receive this license. International applicants should be prepared to arrive 28 days prior to their official start date. More detailed information for international candidates is available through the Office of International Education (<https://globalengagement.uga.edu>).

The University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status in its programs or activities.

All applications must be made through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians Veterinary Internship and Residency Matching Program, further details available from www.virmp.org.

For questions about this program

University of Georgia Contact-

Dr. Stephen Divers BVetMed DZooMed DACZM DipECZM(Herp,ZHM) FRCVS, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, email: sdivers@uga.edu, tel: 1-706-206-7753,

Zoo Atlanta Contact-

Dr. Sam Rivera DVM, MS, DABVP(avian), DACZM, DipECZM(ZHM), Senior Veterinarian, Zoo Atlanta, email: srivera@zoatlanta.org, tel:1-404-624-2817

Georgia Aquarium Contact-

Dr. Michelle Davis DVM, DACZM, DECZM(ZHM), Senior Veterinarian & Clinical Residency Coordinator, Georgia Aquarium, email: midavis@georgiaaquarium.org, tel: 1-404-581-4023