

Oncology Residency

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Oncology Program at the University of Georgia is excited to offer a 3-year residency training program in veterinary oncology. The objectives of this residency are to provide a non-degree, advanced clinical training program in companion animal oncology and to offer experience in both clinical and basic oncologic research. This program will prepare veterinarians for board certification in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), Specialty of Oncology. Candidates must be highly motivated and have previously completed a one-year rotating internship or its equivalent in practice experience.

The University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine is located in Athens, Georgia. Athens is a community of approximately 120,000 residents located 65 miles northeast of Atlanta. The College's Small Animal Hospital annual caseload is approximately 25,000, with the Oncology Service seeing over 3,400 cases/year. Our 187,000 square foot state-of-the-art Veterinary Teaching Hospital opened in March 2015 and features cutting edge technology and green space. Complete diagnostic imaging, clinical pathologic, and histopathologic services and facilities provide support to our service. We are staffed with specialists in all veterinary specialties including surgery, internal medicine, neurology, cardiology, ophthalmology, emergency and critical care, dermatology, anesthesia, diagnostic imaging, anatomic and clinical pathology, nutrition, and zoological medicine. The integrated oncology service at UGA includes 3 ACVIM board-certified oncologists, 1 ACVR board-certified radiation oncologist, 3 medical oncology residents, 2 medical oncology technicians, 2 radiation oncology technicians, and multiple veterinary assistants. A fourth medical oncologist/tumor biology researcher joined the team in August 2016. We have a varied caseload and actively participate in clinical trials. A Varian Trilogy® System Linear Accelerator is onsite and we offer intensity modulated radiation therapy and stereotactic radiation therapy. In addition, Sr-90 plesiotherapy is available.

The resident will spend the majority of time working on the Oncology Service. Clinical duties will be conducted under direct supervision of the oncologists and will include diagnosing and treating companion animals with cancer, managing radiation patients, providing consultations for doctors from other hospital services and surrounding general practices, and contributing to the education of senior veterinary students working in the teaching hospital. While oncology residents do not have general emergency responsibilities, they are expected to provide back-up for interns managing patients of the oncology service presenting after-hours on emergency. This duty is rotated between oncology residents. Rotations through other hospital services, such as internal medicine, radiation oncology, radiology, and pathology are expected.

Time off clinics will be provided to allow the resident to complete and publish a research project pertaining to oncology. This time will be tailored to the resident's research interests. Residents are encouraged to participate in clinical trials and basic research projects are also possible.

Residents participate in daily patient rounds. All-specialty ACVIM rounds and oncology resident rounds/journal club are held weekly; oncology residents are expected to attend and participate in these rounds to expand their knowledge base and help prepare for the ACVIM board examinations. All past residents of this program have passed the ACVIM general and oncology specialty examinations. Additionally, attendance at weekly Hospital Grand Rounds Seminars is mandatory, and oncology residents are expected to present annually. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend the Veterinary Cancer Society Annual Conference each year. To complete the residency requirements, the resident will be expected to give a scientific presentation at the VCS Annual Conference or the ACVIM Forum.

VACATION, COMPENSATION, FEES, AND UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

For every 12 months of training, 10 days of vacation time are provided for residents, as well as 12 days of sick leave. Although there are no state funds to support resident or faculty travel, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital provides each resident with \$2,000 each year to offset professional dues

and expenses associated with travel to one professional meeting annually. The beginning annual stipend is \$30,450. All programs are graduate programs, leading to an official University certificate of residency. A one-time application fee of \$75 (\$100 for international students) and tuition and student fees (approximately \$3000/year) are the responsibility of the individual selected for the program. The 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, 2017. Please visit the following website for additional information regarding health insurance fees (<http://www.hr.uga.edu/student-health-insurance>).

International applicants are required to provide 2 official, certified copies of their academic records from each institution of higher education attended. These records must include all course work. Photocopies are not acceptable. Separate proof of degree(s) is also required. All graduates of veterinary colleges not within the United States or Canada are considered international applicants regardless of citizenship. If the original language of the academic record is not English, a certified English translation must be attached to the original. Candidates must be fluent in written and spoken English. Foreign graduates whose primary language is not English MUST provide TOEFL scores (see <http://www.toefl.org> for details), AND the scores must not be more than 2 years old. Foreign applicants who have completed 1 year of academic study in the US can provide a university transcript in lieu of TOEFL scores.

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. More detailed information for international candidates is available through the Office of International Education (<http://international.uga.edu/oie>).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Residents are selected through the American Association of Veterinary Clinician's Veterinary Intern and Resident Matching Program (VIRMP). 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.

The successful candidate will be licensed to practice by virtue of a faculty license. The faculty license permits veterinarians from non-AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) accredited vet schools to practice within the graduate programs of UGA and satellite institutions, and may be obtained without examination.

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.

The residency start date will be July 15, 2017. Please refer to the Department of Small Animal and Medicine website for further information (<http://www.vet.uga.edu/SAMS>).

Questions about the program should be directed to:

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