

SAIM Residency

Objectives

The objective of the 3-year small animal internal medicine residency is to provide graduate veterinarians with advanced clinical education and research experience allowing them to enter either the private or academic sector. A major goal of the program is to prepare veterinarians to become board certified in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Specialty of Small Animal Internal Medicine. Candidates must have previously completed a one-year rotating internship or its equivalent in practice experience. Currently the program has three options: a Non-degree option, Master's degree option and a Doctor of Philosophy degree option. The residency program is approved by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine: <http://www.acvim.org/Portals/0/RTP%20Pages/2016/Files/SAIM/Programs/S-UGA-17%203%20and%205%20year.pdf>

The residency start date will be July 15, 2017.

We strongly encourage candidates interested in the program to request interviews. Please understand that not all requests for on-site interviews may be granted based on availability.

Requests for an interview should be emailed to Dr. Smith (jorsmith0@gmail.com) and include a copy of your VIRMP Personal Statement and Curriculum Vitae.

In-person interviews are scheduled for Monday December 12, December 19 and January 9. Telephone interviews are scheduled for Wednesday December 14, December 21 and January 4.

Introduction

The University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine is located in Athens, Georgia. Athens is a community of approximately 100,000 residents located 65 miles northeast of Atlanta. The University of Georgia's new Veterinary Teaching Hospital is a state-of-the-art facility equipped to provide outpatient and hospital accommodations for the medical and surgical treatment of companion animals. Complete clinical, diagnostic, and pathologic facilities permit the intensive study of hospital patients.

The residency program director oversees the programs of all the small animal internal medicine residents. An internal medicine faculty member will be assigned to each resident and will serve as resident advisor to facilitate successful completion of the residency program.

Options

In the non-degree option, the resident spends 37 x 3 week blocks on hospital duty. The off-clinic time is spent on a required clinical or laboratory research project and preparation for board examinations. Activities planned for off-clinic time should be planned with the assistance of the residency program director or the resident advisor. Other than vacation, residents are required to remain locally available during off clinic time. You will also be expected to return follow-up calls for your patients and attend scheduled rounds.

The graduate degree (MS, PhD) programs are available from the College of Veterinary Medicine. The area of interest of the resident will determine the department in which he/she will pursue the degree. In the graduate degree option, the resident spends 34 x 3 week blocks on hospital duty and has the remaining time to pursue a research project. Time is provided for course work while on hospital duty. The PhD degree option is similar to the Master's degree with respect to total clinic duty, however, the non-clinical portion will take approximately two years longer to complete.

The residency program director and/or the resident advisor will assist the first-year resident in deciding which option to pursue. The decision should be made by the resident prior to November 1st in the year the candidate starts his/her residency. The resident must register his/her candidacy with the ACVIM within the first 90 days of entering the residency program to qualify for ACVIM credentials approval. All residents must update the ACVIM each year regarding their residency program status.

Paraclinical Training

Student rounds are held on various medical topics or in-depth case analysis for 1-2 hours each day. While on hospital rotation, the residents will be asked to lead these rounds approximately 1-2 times per block.

Residents are expected to give a variety of other presentations throughout their residency:

- * Two topics each year for a boards preparation review course with residents and faculty from internal medicine and other specialty areas.
- * One Grand Round seminar each year for senior students, interns, residents and faculty.
- * Annual continuing education conference for the local practice community.
- * One lecture each year in the pre-clinical veterinary curriculum – case discussion or a formal topic

Residents participate in resident rounds weekly with faculty. The format of these rounds varies week to week and includes journal club, journal review, morbidity/mortality rounds, and research presentations. Residents will be asked to lead these rounds on a rotating basis.

The residents have organized independent study sessions among themselves to review didactic information for the ACVIM board exams. Residents will be expected to be involved in a research project during his/her program. The results of this project must be presented to the faculty in written form ready for manuscript submission before the residency certificate will be issued.

Compensation

For every 12 months of training, 10 days of vacation are provided for residents, as well as 12 days of sick leave. Vacation time may be taken by prior application and notification of the residency program director. You must officially sign out with the Departmental office before taking vacation. Currently each resident will receive \$2,000/year in professional fee returns that may be used for professional travel or equipment. All equipment purchased with these funds is the property of the University. All purchases using these funds must be approved by the director of the residency training program. The current beginning annual stipend is \$30,450. This is increased each year. 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 \$3,000/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.

Resident Evaluation

In order to adequately monitor this training program, the resident will be evaluated twice yearly by the entire internal medicine faculty and other faculty with whom the resident has worked. Student and intern evaluations conducted each block are also considered. Residents will be required to maintain a clinical case log which may also be used in evaluation and for ACVIM documentation. Audit of case records may also be a part of the evaluation process. Residents are also required to keep logs of their research, publication, and teaching activities on a yearly basis. These logs will be reviewed during the bi-annual formal review process.

The resident will be evaluated prior to re-appointment for the second year of the residency program and following the completion of the second year. The medicine faculty will consider results of the evaluation process and satisfactory completion of the residency requirements prior to recommending a Certificate of Residency for the individual. The resident must have completed the residency project and have compiled a written report in a form suitable for publication to fulfill that requirement. Master's or PhD candidates will complete course work and prepare a thesis according to the requirement of the graduate school.

Residency Training Experience

This training program will depend in large measure on echelon teaching. Within the framework of senior faculty, third-year resident, second-year resident, and first-year resident, direct communication in terms of consultation, observation, demonstration, and constructive criticism will contribute to the resident's education. The resident will also be expected to pursue independent study. As previously described, modes of education to be utilized in this training program include: case material, clinicopathologic conferences and seminars, research investigation, and utilization of basic science expertise.

Residency Program Time Plan

A. Non-Degree Option

Year 1

The major impetus during the resident's first 12 months of training will be the development of clinical and problem solving skills. This will be established by daily exposure to the medical faculty and diversity of clinical cases. Consultation with and supervision by, the faculty of the college of veterinary medicine will be the mainstay of this phase of the training program. In addition, participation in veterinary student rounds, resident rounds, didactic teaching experiences, and departmental seminars will be required.

The resident will function in the Teaching Hospital Monday through Friday. He/she will have responsibility for emergency transfers and in-patients on Saturday and Sunday. The first-year resident will be expected to be on-clinics during the Christmas and New Year vacation. Internal medicine residents also provide primary back up for the interns on emergency duty. This may be limited to phone contact, but may also require after-hours presence in the hospital. Internal medicine residents also rotate responsibility for emergency endoscopy. Faculty backup is available at all times. It is anticipated that the resident will be involved in hospital duties and functions for approximately 60 hours weekly.

The daily activities for medicine residents are dictated by the schedule of their assigned service. Currently, 2 medical teams control the teaching and service obligations for small animal internal medicine cases admitted to the Teaching Hospital. An emergency service admits and provides initial triage and stabilization of internal medicine patients presenting on emergency. These patients may be transferred to the internal medicine service the following day. The combined internal medicine services are composed of 2 faculty clinicians, 3 technicians, 1-2 residents, 1-2 interns, and 6-9 fourth year veterinary students. Critical care specialists are available for consultation on critical patients. The service and teaching objectives allow broad training in small animal medicine. Teaching rounds for students are conducted every weekday in different formats: didactic, topic rounds, or case-based rounds. Separate faculty-run clinician rounds for interns and residents are held daily to discuss all in-house cases and perplexing cases requiring follow up care.

Specialty services consisting of cardiology, oncology, emergency/critical care, and neurology operate separately. The resident will rotate on and off these services, as well as clinical pathology and diagnostic imaging during the program. Other specialty services include anesthesia, surgery, ophthalmology, and dermatology. Residents wishing to rotate through these services may do so during their 2 elective rotation blocks.

The resident functions as part of the educational team and is expected to critique the student's ability to solve clinical problems effectively and efficiently. Residents are expected to develop teaching skills such that they can effectively lead rounds and direct students through a problem-oriented approach to medical action. It is expected that the resident will have daily, in depth discussions with students on their shared patients. During any portion of the day, residents may need to supervise or assist interns assigned to their medical service. Residents are expected to be knowledgeable of current literature pertaining to their cases.

One of the goals of the residency program is to provide the resident with research experience,

preferably through a short-term controlled research project or clinical study. The first year resident, with assistance from his/her faculty advisors, will choose and begin a project to be completed during the second or third year of residency.

Year 2

The second year resident will continue participation in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital internal medicine program. The second-year resident will be expected to be on-clinics during the Thanksgiving vacation. He/she will conduct the data collection phase of his/her research project. Completion of one or more manuscripts for publication to partially fulfill ACVIM requirements for board certification, and for the residency is expected. The resident will also be provided 3-6 weeks immediately prior to the general examination to finish preparation for that examination. Other study time may be taken on earlier blocks as arranged.

Year 3

During the third year, the resident will continue participation in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital internal medicine program. A portion of this time will be spent as chief resident in charge of one of the internal medicine services. This will allow maximum utilization of accumulated medical knowledge and expertise. Areas of weakness will become apparent and provide stimulus for improvement. While off duty, the research project will be completed and written for publication in a refereed journal. The resident will also be provided 3-6 weeks prior to the certifying examination to complete preparation for that examination.

Suggested Time Schedule Non-Degree Residency

Total blocks on = 37, blocks off = 14

Year 1. Blocks on = 14, blocks off = 3 for project; attend 1 meeting

Year 2. Blocks on = 12, blocks off = 5 for project data collection; write manuscript; attend ACVIM meeting; take general exam

Year 3. Blocks on = 11, blocks off = 6 for finishing writing project; study for boards; attend ACVIM meeting; take certifying exam

B. Master's Degree Option

This is intended to be a three-year program incorporating the same experiences, responsibilities, and opportunities as outlined for the non-degree option above except that the resident will concurrently obtain an MS degree in a related discipline in lieu of the short-term research project. The graduate advisor and resident program director will facilitate scheduling to permit the resident to realize both clinical and graduate degree requirements of this program. Extramural funding may or may not be required, depending on the nature of the project, but the resident's stipend is covered by the department for the 3 years of residency.

C. Doctor of Philosophy Degree Option

This is intended to be a five-year program incorporating the same experiences, responsibilities, and opportunities as outlined for the non-degree option above except that the resident will concurrently obtain a PhD degree in a related discipline in lieu of the short-term research project. The graduate advisor and resident program director will facilitate scheduling to permit the resident to realize both clinical and graduate degree requirements of this program. Funding will be contingent on extramural resources available to the faculty mentor.

Suggested Time Schedule Graduate Degree Residency

Total blocks on = 34, blocks off = 17

Year 1. Blocks on = 14, blocks off = 3 for project; attend 1 meeting

Year 2. Blocks on = 10, blocks off = 7 for project data collection; write manuscript; attend ACVIM meeting; take general exam

Year 3. Blocks on = 10, blocks off = 7 for finishing writing project; study for boards; attend ACVIM meeting; take certifying exam

Application Process

The Department selects residents through the centralized Veterinary Intern/Resident Matching Program conducted by the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians. Application will include a curriculum vita, including work experience and class standing, a statement of objectives for the residency, and 3-4 letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's clinical aptitude. Graduate school applications for the PhD or MS degree options are handled separately.

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 in the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Professional liability insurance is covered only for work performed at the Teaching Hospital; it is the resident's responsibility to acquire professional liability insurance for work performed elsewhere, if necessary.

Medical Insurance

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 offered through the UGA Graduate School at a reasonable rate. This coverage will be available beginning August 1, 2017. Each resident is responsible for securing his/her own health insurance. Please visit the following website for additional information regarding insurance fees (<http://www.hr.uga/student-health-insurance>).

International Applicants

Successful 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>). Offers to international applicants are contingent upon successful application for the appropriate visa.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

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.

Questions about the program should be directed to:
Dr. Jo Smith, Residency Director for Internal Medicine
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College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Georgia

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706-542-3221

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