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| Date: | 9/27/2021 | | |
| House Officer Type: | Residency | | |
| Service Line: | Zoological Medicine | | |
| Number of positions available for 2022: | 1 | | |
| Advertisement placement: | VIRMP | | |
| Additional information for SAMS Admin: | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Posting Description: | | | |
| 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 Masters 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. An original, hypothesis-driven research project is required, as is publication of a MINIMUM of THREE peer reviewed journal manuscripts by 1st March of the final (4th) year. All three papers must stem from program 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. 1500 cases, and is composed of 14% reptiles, 40% avian, 45% mammals, and 1% amphibians/fish/inverts. Approximately 85% of the caseload is represented by privately owned zoological companion animals, 10% 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.  First year residents have 36 weeks on zoological medicine, 3 weeks on emergency critical care, 3 weeks block on small animal anesthesia, and 9 weeks of non-clinical time.  Second year residents have 33 weeks on zoological medicine, 3 weeks of large animal anesthesia, 3-6 weeks of elective clinical time, and 9-12 weeks of non-clinical time.  The 9-12 weeks of non-clinical time is provided for graduate classes, conference attendance, 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. 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 during elective or non-clinical 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 nurses, and 2-4 senior veterinary students on 3-week elective rotations. Zoological medicine is a fully integrated service within the hospital, and specialists from all disciplines are available for consultation and an extensive support infrastructure, typical of a veterinary college, is available. Afterhours emergencies are seen by the emergency care service, with the zoo med resident/faculty available for consultation and support. Emergency cases are transferred to the zoological medicine service the following morning.  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 1/3 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).  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, Megan Watson and Kate Leach. Drs Rivera and Watson are adjunct faculty at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, and Diplomates 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 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 working on a giant panda research project for publication. 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 the training 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 management 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.  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. There is currently no DACZM specialist at the Georgia Aquarium, but efforts are underway to secure a residency supervisor before July 2022. In the meantime, the current resident is supervised by the vice-president of animal and environmental health, Dr Tonya Clauss, and aided by Drs Chelsea Anderson and Sarah Miller. 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.  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](http://www.virmp.org)  \*\*Although COVID-restrictions prevent visits by candidates this year, we may schedule zoom interviews in the new year before the applicant ranking deadline. Prospective candidates are advised to review the following videos for information on the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the zoological medicine service: <https://tinyurl.com/ZOOLOGICALMEDICINE> | | | |
| Questions about the program should be directed to: | | 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  Zoo Atlanta Contact-  Dr. Sam Rivera, DVM, MS, DABVP(avian), DACZM, DipECZM(ZHM), Zoo Atlanta, email: [srivera@zooatlanta.org](mailto:srivera@zooatlanta.org)  Georgia Aquarium Contact-  Dr. Tonya Clauss, DVM, MS, Georgia Aquarium, email: tcaluss@georgiaaquarium.org |
| Email: | | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Telephone-: | | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **All Applicants**  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 ECVFG 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 outside of the residency program.  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 required and is the financial responsibility of the individual. Medical insurance is available through the Graduate School at a reasonable rate, but may be waived if proof of coverage is provided. Coverage through the Graduate School will be available beginning August 1, 2022. Please visit the following website for additional information regarding health insurance fees <https://hr.uga.edu/students/student-health-insurance/> .  Be advised that the UGA policy will not take effect until August 1, 2022, so you will need to independently obtain health insurance to cover yourself from July 14, 2022, until August 1, 2022.  For every 12 months of training, 10 days of vacation time are provided for House Officers (Residents/Interns), as well as up to 12 days of sick leave. The intern class splits ER coverage responsibilities during the holiday break between approximately December 22, 2022 and January 3, 2023, so an additional 4-6 days of leave are provided during this time.  This is a non-certificate graduate program, leading to an official University certificate of completion. 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. 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. Access to student services is not accessible until the fall semester begins. Parking fees (approximately $240/year) are an additional expense and can be payroll deducted (monthly or yearly).  House Officers (Residents/Interns) 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. The University of Georgia does not participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Please consider this information if you desire to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness or other loan repayment programs.  **International Applicants**  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 who 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. International applicants are required to arrive three weeks prior to residency start date in order to obtain social security number, veterinary licensure, and driving license.  International students matching to our program must participate in a mandatory health insurance program provided by the University of Georgia (information can be found at: <https://hr.uga.edu/students/student-health-insurance/mandatory-plan/> ). Proof of immunization for measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, chicken pox, hepatitis and rabies is required.  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 <https://isl.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/09/Social_Security_Office-TheBasics.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 Global Engagement (https://globalengagement.uga.edu). Offers to international applicants are contingent upon successful application for the appropriate visa.  **Additional Information**  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 UGA College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to enhancing the diversity, equity and inclusion of the College and the Veterinary Profession.  Please refer to the following website which includes answers to most frequently asked questions as well as additional information about our program: <https://vet.uga.edu/education/intern-residency-programs/intern-residency-programs/>  We will conduct virtual interviews and will extend requests for interviews after the application deadline. In-person interviews will not be conducted this year. Applications MUST be complete in the VIRMP system by the VIRMP deadline to be considered. Materials processed by the VIRMP after the deadline will not be reviewed, and applications will be considered incomplete. If you have submitted all of your materials to the VIRMP by the deadline, but they have not been processed, please contact the VIRMP directly. 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.  Please email for further information on this program or refer to the Department’s website (<https://vet.uga.edu/education/academic-departments/small-animal-medicine-and-surgery/>).  The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital tour:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMIR0Ayz6ys&feature=youtu.be>. | | |