



NCVP

National Center for Veterinary Parasitology

2021: Major Achievements

Excellence in Residency Training

Five veterinarians supported as full-time residents in veterinary parasitology.

- Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Kathryn Duncan, Oklahoma State University
- Merck Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Caroline Sobotytk, Texas A&M University
- Elanco Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Katy Martin, Iowa State University
- Zoetis Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Nicole Szafranski, University of Tennessee
- IDEXX Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Timothy Wu, Cornell University

Our current and former (and future!) residents continue to amaze and impress.

- Dr. Kathryn Duncan, BI Resident at Oklahoma State University, received the 2021 AAVP-CAPC Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease for her research on ticks and tick-borne infections.
- Dr. Timothy Wu, IDEXX Resident in Veterinary Parasitology at Cornell University, passed the board exam for the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, the first step in his goal of becoming double boarded in pathology and parasitology.
- Dr. Caroline Sobotytk, the Merck Resident in Veterinary Parasitology at Texas A&M University, completed her final year of clinical training under Dr. Gui Verocai and will soon take the board examination through the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.
- The NCVP will soon welcome Dr. Ranju Manoj, the newest Merck Resident in Veterinary Parasitology who will train under the guidance of Drs. Mani Lejeune and Dwight Bowman at Cornell University. Dr. Manoj earned her PhD from the University of Bari in 2021 and both a BVSc and MVSc at Madras Veterinary College in Chennai, India.
- Former NCVP Residents now on faculty at veterinary colleges include Dr. Lindsay Starkey (Auburn University), Dr. Alice Lee (University of Florida), Dr. Ruth Scimeca (Oklahoma State University), Drs. Jeba Jesudoss Chelladurai and Brian Herrin (Kansas State University), Dr. Cassan Pulaski (University of Georgia), and Dr. Ashley Steuer (Texas Tech University).

Clinical Veterinary Parasitology Research Grows

Small grants support clinical parasitology research for AAVP members.

- The small grants program continues to flourish with almost \$800,000 disbursed to further the veterinary parasitology research efforts of AAVP members at 27 different institutions and counting. Our annual request for proposals continues to generate much interest and outstanding submissions from across the discipline.
- In 2021 we received proposals requesting more than \$200,000 in funding to address research questions focused on parasites important to companion animals, horses, livestock, and wildlife.

NCVP-supported research is moving parasitology forward.

- The research supported by the NCVP small grants program each year allows AAVP members to generate new data in a variety of fields including anthelmintic resistance, diagnostic parasitology, genomics and parasite virulence, and zoonotic helminths. Results are presented annually at AAVP.
- NCVP grant recipient and residents alike share their discoveries at national scientific conferences, in virtual seminars, and through peer-reviewed publications. Together we are advancing understanding of parasite systems and bolstering the careers of veterinary parasitologists.

Advancing Parasitology through Symbiotic Partnerships

Champions for parasitology, together.

- Our partners in parasitology – AAVP, the American Society of Parasitologists (ASP), the veterinary health industry, practitioners and specialists in the American Heartworm Society (AHS), the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC), and the European Scientific Counsel on Companion Animal Parasites (ESCCAP) – all continue to engage with and support the Center and enthusiastically embrace NCVP programs and resources.
- Our expectation of active AAVP membership for NCVP residency applicants and NCVP grant applicants underscores our clear support for the central professional organization in veterinary parasitology while also creating opportunities for parasitologists to achieve their research and career goals.
- In 2021 we began to develop focused parasitology training programs for veterinarians with the United States Department of Agriculture, building on our experiences working with veterinarians in industry and the FDA CVM, to further strengthen the discipline.
- By opening our resources to all – from the image database and specimen sharing program to our residency training and small grants initiative – we are helping to build a broad and deep parasitology support network for a very able and talented group of scientists. As we all know, *“talent wins games ... teamwork and intelligence win championships”* (Michael Jordan). NCVP is dedicated to creating a large team of parasite champions.

Collaborative relationship with the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists.

- Our talented NCVP residents again hosted an outstanding clinical case clicker session with a hybrid format that allowed all to engage is what has become a favorite AAVP annual meeting session for many.
- AAVP educators are supported by NCVP through our specimen distribution system and with our growing website infrastructure for the AAVP Education Committee and veterinary parasitologists worldwide. In 2021, specimen distribution expanded to include veterinary technician programs, a change that has been met with great delight.

Further Development of the NCVP

Residency training and sponsor support are cornerstones of the NCVP.

- As NCVP Residents continue to complete their PhD degrees and earn board certification, they have also begun to take the reins to direct the future of the field. NCVP and all our sponsors and partners can rest assured that the future of parasitology is in excellent hands.
- The NCVP is fortunate to continue to support a full slate of residents, with additional talented and bright future parasitologists exploring opportunities for residency support in 2022 and beyond.
- Veterinary students, veterinarians, and other scientists are seeking parasitology training experiences at record numbers, completing in person and virtual externships and filling AAVP-student chapter meetings and virtual seminars to capacity. Together, we can channel this excitement into the next generation of parasitologists.

2022: Next Goals

Opportunities abound in veterinary parasitology, and 2022 is already shaping up to an exciting year for the discipline with much to celebrate – more boarded parasitologists as our residents meet the challenge of the ACVM examination, additional MS and PhD degrees earned as our graduate students progress through their training, and new colleagues welcomed as leaders in industry and academia. Through it all, NCVP will be there, supporting the efforts of our fellow parasitology champions and working towards an ever-brighter future for the discipline.

Without our sponsors' steadfast commitment, none of these achievements would be possible. Thank you.



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