

(July 29, 2010 Stillwater, OK) – Eighteen veterinary students at Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences spent 12 weeks of their summer vacation enrolled in a Summer Research Training Program. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, Merial, Ltd., the Morris Animal Foundation and individual primary investigators, the program is designed to expose first- and second-year veterinary students to hands-on research experiences and careers in biomedical research.



To enhance students' experiences, OSU teamed up with similar programs at Kansas State University and the University of Missouri providing a broader scope of learning opportunities for all three groups of veterinary students.

"The three colleges met in Oklahoma on July 1 and 2," explains Dr. Chris Ross, associate dean for academic affairs and co-director of the program at the veterinary center. "Hosted by Dr. Gary White, (OSU '68), OU Health Sciences Center, and Roman Wolf, (OSU '94), also with OSUHSC, we toured the University of Oklahoma's animal research facilities."

"On July 22 and 23, the groups met again, this time in St. Joseph, Mo.," adds Dr. Dianne McFarlane, physiological sciences and co-director with Ross at the veterinary center. "Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica hosted this session and presented an overview of what they do in animal vaccine development and career opportunities in corporate veterinary research and development."

According to Ross, Merial will host one final meeting for the three groups of participating college students in mid-August. The first week of August, OSU's veterinary students will present their findings as research posters at the OSU Summer Scholar's Research Day, finishing their Summer Research Training Program. All students who participated in the Summer Research Training program will have the opportunity to present their research at The National Veterinary Scholars Symposium in Athens, GA, hosted by Merial, Ltd., and the University of Georgia.

The Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is one of 28 veterinary colleges in the United States and is fully accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The center's Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital is open to the public and provides routine and specialized care for small and large animals. It also offers 24-hour emergency care and is certified by the American Animal Hospital Association. For more information, visit www.cvhs.okstate.edu or call (405) 744-7000.

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