

Cornell Veterinary Investigator Program Program Components

Laboratory Research Experience:

The main objectives of the program are to provide veterinary students with a rigorous and rewarding exposure to biomedical research at the highest level of inquiry and to motivate students to pursue the study of research problems that are relevant to veterinary medicine. In addition to a hands-on research experience in their mentor's laboratory, it is expected that students will participate in all associated lab activities (i.e., work in progress presentations, weekly lab meetings, special seminars, department seminars, etc.).

Weekly Lunch Seminars on Current and Emerging Research Techniques:

Students meet weekly for lunch for 60 minutes to discuss specific techniques used in research. Expert faculty members are invited to lead the discussions. A total of eight lunch seminars are held to discuss: grant writing, microarrays, ethics discussion, bioimaging, functional genomics, mouse genetics, laboratory animal medicine, and special topics in toxicology.

An additional lunch session is held with the Associate Director, Center for Teaching Excellence to discuss the preparation of scientific poster for the Meril-NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium.

Laboratory Exploration:

In order to foster ongoing research interest in other scientific disciplines, each student will work with his/her mentor to showcase to participating VIP students ongoing research activities in their laboratory. Each VIP participant is required to conduct a laboratory visit as well as visit at least two other laboratories of other students in the program. The purpose of the lab visits is to increase exposure to different areas of veterinary research and to promote an interchange of information and ideas.

Boehringer Ingelheim-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium:

All students will be required to attend the annual Boehringer Ingelheim-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium and present a scientific poster.

Career Path Lunch:

A lunch session will be devoted to a discussion of different career paths for veterinarians interested in research. The discussion will be led by a panel of veterinarians representing a wide variety of potential career paths. The various experiences of these individuals will generate a lively and useful discussion of research-related career options.

Research Presentation:

At the completion of the program, participants in the program will be required to prepare and deliver a 10 minute oral presentation, allowing for five additional minutes of Q & A. The focus of the presentations will be on the future plans for their projects, allowing students an opportunity to focus on the broader scope of the research conducted in their respective laboratories. Faculty will be present to offer suggestions and encouragement. The presentations are followed by a reception and dinner.