



# NCVP

National Center for Veterinary Parasitology

## 2023: Major Achievements

### Residency Program Success Continues to Grow

*Six veterinarians supported as full-time residents in veterinary parasitology.*

- Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Sarah Myers, Oklahoma State University
- Elanco Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Katy Martin, Iowa State University
- IDEXX Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Timothy Wu, Cornell University
- Merck Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Ranju Manoj, Cornell University
- Zoetis Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Nicole Szafranski, University of Tennessee
- NCVP Resident in Veterinary Parasitology – Dr. Sawsan Ammar, University of Calgary

*NCVP residents have gone on to great success in industry and academia.*

- Dr. Kathryn Duncan, former BI Resident in Veterinary Parasitology, completed her PhD in May 2022, passed the ACVM (Parasitology) board examination in November 2022, and embarked on a new role at Merck Animal Health as a Senior Professional Service Veterinarian—Parasitology Field Specialist.
- Additional former NCVP Residents accepting leadership roles in industry include Dr. Jessica Rodriguez (Senior Principal Scientist, Global Companion Animal Therapeutics, Zoetis), Dr. Yoko Nagamori (Head of Parasitology, Global Diagnostics, Zoetis), and Dr. Ashley Steuer (Clinician, Zoetis).
- Former NCVP Residents now on faculty at veterinary colleges include Dr. Lindsay Starkey (Oklahoma State 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. Caroline Sobotytk (University of Pennsylvania).

### Outstanding Returns on Investment in Clinical Veterinary Parasitology Research

*Small grants support clinical parasitology research.*

- The NCVP grants program has become established as a sought-after and valued source of funding among members of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP). As we approach disbursing a total of \$1M USD, we continue to be amazed by how the grant recipients have utilized this modest funding to make significant strides in the field. To date, almost 30 institutions have received funding, allowing the NCVP to attain its objective of creating a wide-ranging support system for veterinary parasitology research.
- This year we increased the maximum funding for individual grants to \$25,000, a change that was met with great enthusiasm from our colleagues in the field. Indeed, we received a record number of grant applications requesting an all-time high total of almost \$500,000 in funding to support research on a variety of parasites of companion animals, ruminants, horses, and wildlife.

*Results from NCVP-supported research shared with the larger field.*

- Research made possible by NCVP funding was found in abundance at the 2023 AAVP meeting in Lexington, where grant recipients and residents shared cutting-edge research findings with the larger parasitology community.
- The high-quality scientific publications NCVP-funded parasitologists contribute to leading journals also serve to further the discipline, and NCVP's support persists in driving significant contributions to the field. To view a compilation of these publications, kindly refer to the NCVP newsletters found at [NCVetP.org](https://www.ncvetp.org).

## Building on our Progress

### *Sharing parasitology resources*

- NCVP is proud to maintain strong connections with numerous parasitology organizations who share our vision. From our valued colleagues at the AAVP, the American Society of Parasitologists, and the American Heartworm Society, to the veterinary health industry, commercial and state-operated parasitology diagnostic laboratories, as well as specialists and general practitioners providing veterinary care to their patients and herds — NCVP remains dedicated to the larger “Team Parasitology.”
- NCVP supports AAVP—the central veterinary parasitology professional organization in North America—in all our programmatic efforts, including requiring AAVP membership for all grant and residency applicants, creating teaching resources requested by AAVP members, and participating in educational outreach efforts with AAVP.
- The 2023 AAVP President’s Symposium entitled “The Future is Now” included a key contribution from NCVP. Dr. Ruth Scimeca, former NCVP Resident and current Co-Director, opened the Symposium with a presentation entitled “Supporting Parasitologists, Advancing Parasitology” that highlighted NCVP achievements over the past decade. She then joined a panel of veterinary parasitologists that included former and current NCVP Advisory Board members Drs. Tim Geary, Lindsay Starkey, and Pablo Jimenez Castro. This pivotal symposium will no doubt shape the conversation about veterinary parasitology for many years to come, and NCVP was delighted to be part of the conversation.
- AAVP once again hosted NCVP’s interactive clinical case session at the annual meeting. With support from the NCVP team, residents shared their most interesting cases complete with engaging audience participation questions to keep the energy high. This familiar closing session for the AAVP meeting has become a fan favorite, allowing the parasitologists in attendance to end the meeting on an upbeat note as we collectively marvel at the beauty and mystery of veterinary parasites.
- NCVP teaching resources are a highly regarded element of the educational repertoire available to AAVP members. Our yearly specimen gift sets, parasite sample distribution system, and constantly growing collection of images and videos offer a wealth of exceptional materials that help to instill a love and appreciation for parasites in veterinary parasitology students of all academic levels.

## Further Development of the NCVP

### *Residency training and sponsor support remain cornerstones of the NCVP.*

- Interest in NCVP residency funding reached an all-time high in 2023 and all indications suggest the trend of increasing numbers of applications will continue. With six residents currently supported, four of whom plan to take the board examination by the end of 2024, the future is very bright indeed.
- As positions become available, we expect to recruit additional outstanding residents who will continue to move the discipline forward. NCVP is fortunate to have the support of our sponsors, providing us with the resources and expertise necessary to cultivate exceptional parasitologists committed to the veterinary profession.

## 2024: Next Goals

Looking ahead, the NCVP is thrilled about the many exciting developments on the horizon. We are eagerly anticipating the continued progression of our residents' training, the invaluable contributions from MS and PhD graduates to research in the field, and the inspiring rise of former residents to leadership positions in academia and industry. In addition, we anticipate that new leadership opportunities within NCVP and new advisory board members will imbue the Center with even more energy and enthusiasm for future success. 2024 might just be the best year yet.

*The generous support of our sponsors makes NCVP possible. Thank you for helping shape the future of parasitology.*



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