January 05, 2017

Dear Program Director and Veterinary Scholars:

It is time to communicate the application process for the 2017 Merial Veterinary Research Scholar Award, which highlights and underscores the Merial Veterinary Scholar mission of exposing veterinary students to research and rewarding those who have excelled. Program Directors, please be sure that the 2016 veterinary scholars at your institutions receive this notification. The award is based on the following criteria:

- The Veterinary Scholar, regardless of funding source, has met the criteria to be selected as a summer scholar in line with the program mission and will submit data from the 2016 summer work only. The mission of the Merial Veterinary Scholars Program (MVSP) is to provide an opportunity for veterinary schools to expose first and second year veterinary students to biomedical research through a scholar internship program. By providing a supportive research environment in an established laboratory, together with seminars and discussion groups on careers in science, it is the hope of the MSVP that students will consider pursuing a career in biomedical research after completing their veterinary degree.

- The Veterinary Scholar attended the 2016 Merial-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium and presented her or his work in the form of a poster.

- The Veterinary Scholar completed the 2016 proposed project work plan as discussed with their Principal Investigator. Individual projects should enable the student to formulate a testable hypothesis, identify specific objectives, conduct research, interpret data and present their findings in the form of an abstract and/or poster. Demonstration of the use of biomedical research skills in specialty fields is desirable.

- The Veterinary Scholar applies for the award by the deadline of December 30th 2016. The application consists of (1) a write-up of the student’s 2016 (only) work in manuscript format, (2) a letter from the Veterinary Scholar highlighting their experiences from the summer research and a commitment to attend the 2017 Merial-NIH symposium to present their work, (3) a letter of recommendation from the Principal Investigator who mentored the student during the summer, and (4) a letter of recommendation from the MVS Program Director.

The winner will be notified of the award by the end of May 2017. The award will be presented to the recipient at the 2017 Merial-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium.

The award will include:
- A cash award of $1500 and a plaque to recognize the recipient.
- A travel stipend (amount to be determined) to present their work and attend the 2017 symposium.
- Recognition in the Merial-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium Program.

Please submit applications by February 28, 2017, electronically in PDF format (submissions will not be accepted in hard copy) to: merialscholaraward@merial.com

Best regards,

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Merial, Merial is now part of Boehringer Ingelheim