1. Overview

- Since 2010 the Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) Veterinary Scholars Program (BIVSP - renamed from MVSP in 2017 following the acquisition of Merial by BI) included two European countries. Each summer the veterinary schools of France and the Netherlands selected six veterinary students (three from each country), who participated to the BIVSP summer research training at one of the US veterinary schools. In 2018 the program was extended to include the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany, and for 2019 it is planned to add the remaining four German vet schools.

- BIVSP since several years offers the possibility to do a summer research training in Europe to North American vet students. From 2019 onwards, the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany, will additionally offer research places. Thus, in 2019 a total of eight North American veterinary students will have the possibility of a 9 - 11 week research experience in an established laboratory at one of the participating European veterinary schools (three in France, three in the Netherlands and two in Hannover, Germany).

- The selection of the students wishing to do a summer research training in Europe will be managed by the French, Dutch and German BIVSP Program Directors based on the submitted application (see also items 3 and 4 below).

- By providing a supportive environment where students can experience research in an established laboratory, participate in introductory courses and attend seminars on research careers, BI hopes that students will gain an informed insight into a career in biomedical research. At the same time, doing research work in a foreign country will provide the students with the opportunity to discover a new environment and culture.

- Each veterinary student selected to participate in the BIVSP Europe will receive a stipend of $US 5000. Fifty percent of those funds are provided by BI, and 50% by the hosting veterinary school.

2. Participating Schools

- Lyon, France (http://www.vetagro-sup.fr/index.php)
- Nantes, France (https://www.oniris-nantes.fr/)
- Paris (Alfort), France (http://www.vet-alfort.fr/)
- Toulouse, France (http://www.ENVT.fr/)
- University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany (https://www.tiho-hannover.de/en/university/)

The research topics proposed by the schools for the 2019 training are/will be published on the BIVSP website in early 2019 (link). At all six schools the students will be supervised by experienced research staff and participate in all relevant activities organized within and outside the research group. They will participate in all laboratory meetings and lectures, and will have to regularly present their work. They will be directly under the supervision of the mentor who is responsible for the research subject. Extracurricular activities will be organised by the schools. All students will present the results of their research work in the form of a poster at the 2019 BI-NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium to be hosted by the Tufts University July 25 – 28, 2019, at Worcester State University located about 5 miles from Cummings School and about 40 miles west of Boston.
### 3. Pre-requisites for application to European BIVSP program:

- 1st or 2nd year veterinary students
- Motivation letter for a training at a European vet school and for veterinary research (in English)
- Curriculum vitae
- A good level of academic performance (“good students”)
- Three recommendation letters
- No prior BIVSP experience in the US, Canada or Europe
- For France: good working knowledge of French language for the needs of the daily life (N.B.: phone or Skype interview for the finalists)

*Please use the application form on the BIVSP website for your submission to the European schools.*

### 4. Deadline for submission of application: **25 January 2019**

**Applications to be addressed to the BIVSP Program Directors at the respective vet schools:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For French vet schools:</th>
<th>For Utrecht Faculty of Veterinary Medicine:</th>
<th>For University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Philippe Berny</td>
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*Please use the application form accessible on the BIVSP website (“Apply here”).*

**Tentative time schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selection of students by French, Dutch or German BIVSP Program Director based on submitted applications and phone interviews as appropriate</td>
<td>by 4 February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students chose research topic and host vet school (if in France) for their training</td>
<td>by 11 February 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrival of selected students at host vet school</td>
<td>w/c 13 May 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return of selected students to the US for participation to the BIVSP Symposium</td>
<td>w/c 22 July 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIVSP Symposium</td>
<td>25 – 28 July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students return to their home cities</td>
<td>29 July 2019</td>
</tr>
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5. **Answers to some practical questions students will have**

5.1 **How do I identify my research project?**

The research topics available at each of the participating European vet school will be published on the BIVSP website by mid-January 2019. If this is not yet available, do not hesitate to contact the respective BIVSP Program Director (see item 4.)

5.2 **How much will we receive for stipend and how will that be provided (ahead of time preferably)?**

Each vet student who has been selected to participate in the BIVSP receives a stipend of $US 5000. 50% of those funds are provided by BI, 50% by the hosting vet school.

$US 2500 of the stipend will be provided to the student by the BIVSP Program Director of the home school before he/she leaves for Europe. The funds for that are expected to arrive at the host school in April 2019. The student will receive the other 50% of the stipend ($US 2500) upon arrival at the host school in Europe.

Some practical aspects regarding receipt of the stipend in France: It is a legal requirement for the students to open a bank account in France to which the school can then transfer the stipend. The students will be assisted by the host school in that approach.

5.3 **How will our airfare be arranged? Will we be provided with funds to purchase the ticket?**

Students are expected to arrange for their air travels to and from Europe as soon as they have received their funds (see under 5.1) and once all administrative formalities (e.g. passport) linked to the training in Europe have been completed.

In case students wish to already go ahead and purchase their ticket with their private funds prior to receiving the official BIVSP stipend, they are of course free to do.

5.4 **When are we expected to arrive at the host vet school and to start our research training?**

The recommended start date for the students is preferably 13 May 2019. This is to ensure that the students can finish their research projects before returning to the US for the BI-NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium in w/c 22 July.

If a student has a problem to respect these dates, the schools may be able to show some flexibility, but need to be informed without delay. The details are to be discussed between the student concerned, the BIVSP Program Director at the home school and the French, Dutch or German Program Director, respectively, as well as with the Supervisor in the host laboratory.

5.5 **Will our housing be covered or are we expected to locate housing and pay?**

The students are expected to pay for housing, meals, and other day to day expenses. The host school will assist the students in finding appropriate accommodation for the period of their stay in Europe. The expenses for that and the daily life have to be covered by the student from the $US 5000 stipend he/she has received through his home school prior to leaving the US and upon arrival at his/her host school.

5.6 **Will we need to have a visa or other papers to work there this summer (such as a letter of invitation or other?)**

In France and in the Netherlands, for a stay shorter than 3 months, no visa is required. Moreover, the responsible person at the Office for International Affairs at the home school as well as the one at the host school or the French, Dutch or German BIVSP Program Directors, respectively, will be pleased to assist with any questions.
5. Answers to some practical questions students will have (cont’d)

5.7 Regarding the trip to the BI-NIH symposium at to be hosted by Tufts University - is it safe to assume that we can arrive at Worcester State University located about 5 miles from Cummings School and about 40 miles west of Boston, on 25 July and leave 28 July 2019?

Yes, it would be sufficient to arrive in the afternoon of 25 July and to plan for a departure on 28 July 2019.
Boehringer Ingelheim (Merial Ltd.) in the US (Melesa Gary) will take care of the hotel reservations and registration for the symposium for the participating students.
The logistical and program details in relation to the symposium will become available around May/June 2019 and be communicated to the students at that moment. Transport from the airport to the location of the symposium is usually handled by the organizers of the event.

5.8 How should the students manage the travel from Europe to the symposium at Worcester State University, MA?
There are two possibilities: the students either go directly from Europe to Worcester State University, MA, and organize the travels by themselves. Given the very few days available between the end of the research training and the symposium, this might be the most realistic scenario.
The alternative would be for students to go back to their home school first and come to the symposium together with the other BIVSP students from their own university. In the latter case Boehringer Ingelheim (Merial Ltd.) in the US can assist the students with the booking of the tickets and will assume the expenses.