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August 24, 2011

Dear Dean and Program Director:

I am delighted to inform you that applications for the **2012 Merial Veterinary Scholars Program (MVSP)** are being requested. Guidelines for the 2012 grant program are enclosed. If you are considering submitting a proposal, I ask you to review the guidelines carefully. Questions regarding the grants program can be directed to my attention at the above contact information.

The application process is the same as it was last year. Areas of special focus include:

- Individual school's program access on the Merial Veterinary Scholar Program's North American website
- Alumni tracking
- The pilot program for 3 students from France and 3 from the Netherlands will continue for 2012. Please indicate in your application if you will be willing to host a student from those institutions.

To be considered for 2012 funding, the proposal(s) must be received by email no later than **October 31, 2011**. All schools will be informed as to their funding status by November 30, 2011.

The 2012 Merial-NIH Veterinary Scholar Program symposium will be hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University.

I also ask that you share within your College of Veterinary Medicine information regarding the Merial Veterinary Research Award Program for Graduate Veterinarians. This research award program is open to veterinarians who have completed graduate research or residency programs and provides a \$2500 honorarium and the opportunity to present her/his research at the 2012 MVSP Symposium in Colorado. For additional details on this research award please go to the Merial Scholars Web site at: www.merialscholars.com

I am looking forward to and the review of your application.

Best regards,

Roberto Alva, DVM, MS, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Clinical R&D
Merial Limited

Enclosures

Cc: Program Directors

2012 Program Changes/Additions

International:

- We are continuing the Pilot Program for the students from the veterinary schools of France and the Netherlands. If you choose to host a student from either country, please note that funding for these European students will be in addition to the funding each school is granted as part of their application. Merial will also cover for travel expenses from the point of origin and back, including traveling cost to attend the 2012 MVSP Symposium in Colorado. You will be informed by me in early 2012 of the names of the students that are authorized by their schools to apply for the program. Only those students that are authorized by their schools in France and The Netherlands will be sponsored by Merial.
- Funding students to attend the summer symposium –
 - In 2012, Merial will fund travel and registration to the summer symposium for a maximum of four Merial scholars per school. Schools may continue to send more students by securing funding from an alternate source for travel and registration.
 - Please pay attention to Question 15 in the questionnaire regarding contact information regarding the process of payments.

Alumni Tracking:

Please provide alumni tracking for the Merial Veterinary Scholars up to five years or beyond if available. The tracking information should be filled out in the attached excel spreadsheet and submitted with the application package by October 31th 2011.

2012 Merial Veterinary Scholar Program – Instructions to Applicant Schools -- Highlights in blue

Program Mission

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 hoped that students will consider the pursuit of a career in biomedical research as one of their options after completing their veterinary degree.

Funding Requirements

- Funding for the program will be provided by Merial. Funding for approved proposals will be for one calendar year and must be used within the calendar year provided. Any remaining funds must be documented in the program review.
 - Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and proposals are closely reviewed against required criteria. Grant awards requesting funding up to a maximum of \$20,000 (USD) will be considered.
- Merial funding can be used only for stipends of students who are enrolled in the MVSP. The funding request should be based, with one exception (see travel expenses of non host-school students below) directly upon the number of scholar stipends requested. The funding request for Merial Matching funds for each student stipend must be consistent with the 2011/2012 NIH T35 established rate.
 - Merial funds must not cover travel (with the one exception to specifically support travel cost for non-host scholars to and from the host institution at beginning and end of the program).
 - Merial funding must not be used for 1) indirect costs (fixed and administrative), 2) capital expenses 3) research materials, or 4) graduate, post-doctoral or residency stipends.
- The Merial grant is a matching grant. Each school must match the funding provided by Merial for the program. College matched stipends equal to the Merial stipends may be obtained from college budgets or other grants; the source of the matching funds must be clearly stated.
- It is expected that each school will provide the necessary funding to cover the proposed extracurricular activities outlined in the submission as these are considered an integral part of the Merial experience and by extension, the selection process.

Scholar Selection

- As the program mission is to provide students with an initial exposure to a research experience, preference will be given to programs which provide opportunities for students who do not have past research experience.
- Promotion of a school's program to non-host scholars outside its own campus should be enhanced by a user-friendly website and by notification of the Merial program directors and/or Associate Deans at other funded and non-funded veterinary schools. On the application table, each school should indicate in the submission the number of scholars, and the number of non-host school scholars its program is proposing to accommodate.

2012 Meriel Veterinary Scholar Program – Instructions to Applicant Schools (continued) – Highlights in blue underlined text

Research

- Research can occur anytime in the calendar year but preference will be given to summer projects.
- 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 (e.g. Pathology, Toxicology, Laboratory Animal Medicine, Pharmacology, Clinical, and Imaging) is desirable.
- Subsequent presentations/publication on the research should clearly acknowledge that the research was supported in whole or in part by the MVSP.

Extracurricular Activities

- The school program should have a clearly defined set of activities to enable students to learn about the broad aspects of careers in research. Examples include interactive workshops on ethics in research, grants writing, journal clubs, decision making/leadership, preparation of Curriculum Vitae, and letters of application for work; off campus visits to research centers with discussion and presentations by outside faculty from academia, government and industry. Identification and goals for each of the proposed trips and workshops should be provided in the proposal, along with procedures in place to ensure scholars' attendance is possible at the workshops and trips.
- Activities should only be listed in the proposal where it has been confirmed in advance that the school will provide the required funding.
- Attendance at the 2012 Meriel symposium by the Meriel Program Director and a representative number of the funded scholars is mandatory.
- Effective for 2012, Meriel will fund travel and registration to the symposium for a maximum of 4 MVSP scholars per school. Schools may continue to send more students by securing funding from an alternate source for travel and registration.
 - Definition of MVSP scholars for purposes of the application – a student who receives half of their funding from Meriel – a student costs \$5K
 - If Meriel provides \$10K to a school and the school matches with \$10K that equals \$20K for that school's program, which equals 4 Meriel scholars.
 - If Meriel provides \$20K to a school and the school matches with \$20K that equals \$40K for that school's program, which equals 8 Meriel scholars.

Student Application Deadline

- The student application deadline for the program should be the first week of February 2012 to facilitate the student application process and provide uniformity for those students applying to non-host schools.

2012 School Application Process

Please forward by October 31, 2011, the 2012 submission as an electronic copy in PDF format and the alumni tracking information by completing the Excel spreadsheet provided to Dr. Roberto Alva at roberto.alva@meriel.com. Submissions will not be accepted by hard copy.

The application package must be made using the application template which follows and must include these items:

- One application signed by the Dean or Associate Dean of Research of the college.
- Each application for funding in the following calendar year must be no more than three pages in length and include the objective, program description, process and budget. Information which is requested in the table of section I do not need to be duplicated in the 3-page narrative in Section II. Additional lines within each box on the table may be added, if needed to provide complete information.
- All colleges that have been funded in 2011 must submit a 2011 program review at the time of 2012 funding application

2012 Merial Veterinary Scholar Program – Instructions to Applicant Schools (continued) -- Highlights in blue underlined text

Program submissions must be complete in content to be considered for funding.

Programs will be evaluated based upon the following guidelines:

40% 2011 Program Review (if applicable)
Host school website review
Merial Scholars tracking information

60% 2012 Program Proposal (research; seminar program and extracurricular activities)

Schedule: October 31, 2011:	Deadline for MVSP applications
November 30, 2011:	Schools notified of funding status via email
March 30, 2012:	2012 funding circulated

Website Requirement

All schools, once notified of approved funding for 2012, must post their program by December 15, 2011 on the MVSP website: www.merialscholars.com. A link should be provided at this site that will access the web page of the MVSP at the funded school. Similarly, the MVSP web page of the funded institution should also contain a link to the national website listed above. The MVSP web page at the funded school should be easily found from the main veterinary college home page of the funded institution and should contain a complete description of the program, a list of potential mentors and summary of their research interests (with contact information), proposed extracurricular activities for the program, and have text acknowledging the summer program is funded in part by Merial Veterinary Scholars Program summer symposium (or related text). Application information and submissions must be available online. Stipend information and availability of the program to students from non-host veterinary schools should be included on the web page.

<Cover Memo Template – to be pasted on school letterhead>

Dr. Roberto Alva
Senior Director, Clinical R&D
Merial Limited
706 552 2708
roberto.alva@merial.com

<Dean of School or Associate Dean of Research>
<Telephone Number>
<Email address>

<Dean's Letter text here>

<Signature, Dean or Associate Dean of Research>
<Title Dean or Associate Dean of Research>

Merial Veterinary Scholars Program Funding Application Template

I. Descriptive Information

1. School Name:	
2. MVSP Application Year:	2012
3. Name of Program Director(s): Telephone number: Email Address:	
Proposed 2012 Program	
4. Total number of Merial student slots planned – encompassing both Merial funding and school matching funds? (example: if 1 student = \$5K then \$10K requested from Merial + the school’s matching \$10K; equals a total of \$20K or planned funding for 4 Merial scholars)	
5. Amount of 2012 matching funds (for student stipends and non-host student travel only) requested from Merial? (using above example = \$10K)	
6. Total number of MVSP slots planned for non-host students?	
7. Would you be willing to plan for one of your non-host slots would be for a student from Utrecht or the French veterinary schools?	
8. When combining Merial and school matching funds, the amount of stipend per week students will receive (Merial program support should be consistent with NIH T-35 stipend – if not please briefly explain)	
9. Will the Merial funds be used only for stipends and non-host student travel? (yes/no)	
10. What is the source of matching funds?	
11. Duration of the Merial funded research program in weeks (if not weeks, please specify)	
12. If an award is made to your school, will your website be live by December, 15, 2011? (yes/no)	
13. If an award is made, will your website comply with the website requirements described in the Instructions to Applicant Schools? (yes/no)	
14. If an award is made, to whom should the check be made payable?	
15. Contact person (e.g. business office) who can address questions to ensure proper receipt and processing of the MVSP award check (questions may include: W9s, W8s, tax ID numbers, new Vendor Accounts, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: • Telephone: • Email address:

2011 Program Review	
1. Number of Merial Slots planned for non-host students at your school in 2011?	
2. Number of non-host student(s) who received Merial funding at your school in 2011?	
3. What were their home institution(s)?	
4. Did the program director attend the 2011 Merial/NIH Symposium? (yes/no)	
5. How many veterinary students from the MVSP attended the 2011 Merial/NIH Symposium?	
6. If known, how many veterinary students with T35, university, or other funded research attended the 2011 Merial/NIH Symposium?	
7. Regarding your 2011 Merial program website – did it have a link on the Merial Scholars overall Program website? (e.g. non host students could go to the Merial overall Scholars Program website and click on a link to navigate to the program at your school)	
8. Regarding your 2011 Merial program website - were both host school and non-host students able to apply electronically (includes via email) (yes/no)	

II. 2012 Program Proposal (this section on 2012 not to exceed 3 pages, 10 pt Arial font, 0.5 inch margins)

A. Program Objectives and Description (include any relevant program synergies or touch points with related research or summer programs for veterinary students at your school)

B. Research and extracurricular activities information including Workshops/Trips – plans and goals;

C. Advertising and application processes, including criteria to be used for Scholar Selection and criteria to be used for Mentor Selection

D. Program Budget

III. 2011 Program Review (if funded in 2011)

A. Proposed changes to 2012 program from 2011 and previous years and reasons why or why not

B. Synopsis of all extra-research activities organized for the 2011 program

C. Director's and scholars' review of the 2011 symposium and suggested changes to the future symposia

ATTACHMENT 1: Merial scholar Alumni (from your institution only – information is not needed for non-host students.)

An update of Merial scholar alumni from your institution in the new **Excel format** that provides:

- 1) The scholars' by identifying number, initials or name.
- 2) Year of MVSP scholarship.
- 3) Year of DVM.
- 3) Career paths to date (minimum to first employment post veterinary graduation) using categorical classification where possible (e.g. advanced education, private practice, industry, etc.).
- 4) Please indicate the total MVSP alumni tracked in each year relative to the total veterinary school alumni number in each year (% tracked).

ATTACHMENT 2: All student and faculty exit interviews and program evaluation forms
(Please include unedited responses from scholars and mentors - Comments may be provided anonymously)