



Summary of Changes for Application

2010 Program Changes/Additions

International:

- We are piloting an expansion of the MVSP to formally include veterinary students from Utrecht and French veterinary schools as participants in the existing program.
- We know several schools already have/had international students participate as non-host students in your programs and found their participation to be a rich addition for both the school and the student.
- On the application we added a question on whether you would be interested to use one of your non-host student slots to host a student from Utrecht or the French veterinary schools. Merial will cover the travel costs to/from the US for these non-hosts, international students from Utrecht and the French veterinary schools as part of the pilot program.

- Definition of MVSP scholars for purposes of the application –
 - A student who receives half of their funding from Merial – a student costs \$5K
 - If Merial provides \$10K to a school and the school matches with \$10K that equals \$20K for that schools program, which equals 4 Merial scholars.
 - If Merial provides \$20K to a school and the school matches with \$20K that equals \$40K for that schools program, which equals 8 Merial scholars.
- Funding students to attend the summer symposium –
 - Effective for 2010, Merial will fund travel and registration to the summer symposium for a maximum of 4 Merial scholars per school. Schools may continue to send more students by securing funding from an alternate source for travel and registration.
- Question 16 on the application reworded - we can no longer just "mail a check"
 - The revised question asks for a contact person (e.g. the business office) who can address financial questions and ensure proper receipt of the MSVP award check
 - Note – this likely will NOT be the Program Director

2009 Program Review Table

- Removed 2 questions from the table; did not add any new questions

Alumni Tracking:

- Please provide MVSP alumni tracking information in Excel format (or table in Word is acceptable) and not PDF format to facilitate MSVP Committee with its statistics generation.

- Overall – 43% (2003 – 2008) of MVSP scholars pursue careers in research vs. 17% of non-scholar alumni. This information is very important and allows the MVSP Committee to continue to secure funding.

- Thank you in advance for providing in Excel or Word format so that we may continue to demonstrate the business value to Merial leaders for this program.

2010 Merial Veterinary Scholar Program – Instructions to Applicant Schools -- [major changes in blue underlined text](#)

Program Mission

The mission of the Merial Veterinary Scholars Program (MVSP) is to provide an opportunity for veterinary schools to expose actively enrolled 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 2009/2010 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 intern 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 internship 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, school should indicate in the submission the number of scholars, and the number of non-host school scholars its program is proposing to accommodate.
 - [For 2010, Merial is piloting an expansion of the MVSP to formally include veterinary students from Utrecht and the French veterinary schools as participants in the existing program. Merial will cover the travel costs to/from the US for these non-host students from Utrecht and the French veterinary schools as part of the pilot program.](#)
 - [Please note the added question to this effect on the application table on whether your school would be interested to use one of your non-host student slots to host a student from Utrecht or the French veterinary schools.](#)

2010 Merial Veterinary Scholar Program – Instructions to Applicant Schools (continued) -- [major changes 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, 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 2010 Merial symposium by the Merial Program Study Director and a representative number of the funded scholars is mandatory.
- [Effective for 2010, Merial 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 Merial – a student costs \\$5K](#)
 - [If Merial provides \\$10K to a school and the school matches with \\$10K that equals \\$20K for that schools program, which equals 4 Merial scholars.](#)
 - [If Merial provides \\$20K to a school and the school matches with \\$20K that equals \\$40K for that schools program, which equals 8 Merial scholars.](#)

Student Application Deadline

- The student application deadline for the program should be the first week of February 2010 to facilitate the student application process and provide uniformity for those students applying to non-host schools.

2010 School Application Process

Please forward by October 31, 2009, the 2010 submission as an electronic copy in PDF format and the alumni tracking information in Excel or Word to Dr. Roberto Alva at roberto.alva@merial.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 in section I does 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 2009 must submit a 2009 program review at the time of 2010 funding application

2010 Merial Veterinary Scholar Program – Instructions to Applicant Schools (continued) -- [major changes 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% 2009 Program Review (if applicable)
Host school website review

60% 2010 Program Proposal (research; seminar program and extracurricular activities)

Schedule: October 31, 2009:	Deadline for MVSP applications
November 28, 2009:	Schools notified of funding status via email
March 30, 2010:	2010 funding circulated

Website Requirement

All schools, once notified of approved funding for 2010, must post their program by December 15, 2009 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 Funding Application Template

I. Descriptive Information

1. School Name:	
2. MVSP Application Year:	2010
3. Name of Program Director(s): Telephone number: Email Address:	
Proposed 2010 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 2010 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)	
Deadline for receipt of 2010 Scholar applications (MM/DD/YYYY) (first week of February requested)	
12. If an award is made to your school, will your website be live by December, 15, 2009? (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:

2009 Program Review	
1. Number of Merial Slots planned for non-host students at your school in 2009?	
2. Number of non-host student(s) who received Merial funding at your school in 2009?	
3. What were their home institution(s)?	
4. Did the program director attend the 2009 Merial NIH Symposium? (yes/no)	
5. How many veterinary students from the MVSP attended the 2009 Merck-Merial NIH Symposium?	
6. If known, how many veterinary students with T35, university, or other funded research attended the 2009 Merck Merial NIH Symposium?	
7. Regarding your 2009 Merial program website – did it have a link on the Merial Scholars overall Program website (eg 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 2009 Merial program website - were both host school and non-host students able to apply electronically (includes via email (yes, no?	

II. 2010 Program Proposal (this section on 2010 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. 2009 Program Review (if funded in 2009)

A. Proposed changes to 2010 program from 2009 and previous years and reasons why or why not

B. Synopsis of all extra-research activities organized for the 2009 program

C. Director's and scholars' review of the 2009 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 **Excel format** that provides:

- 1) The scholars' by identifying number, initials or name
- 2) Year of MVSP scholarship,
- 3) Career paths to date (minimum to first employment post veterinary graduation) using categorical classification where possible (e.g. research, academic, residency, private practice, 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)