



Roberto Alva, DVM, MS, Ph.D.
Merial Limited
Office: 706.552.2778
roberto.alva@merial.com

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Dear Dean:

I am delighted to inform you applications for the **2010 Merial Veterinary Scholars Research Program** (formerly Merck-Merial Veterinary Scholar Research Program) are being requested. Guidelines for the 2010 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.

There are a few changes to the application process this year. Areas of special focus include:

- individual school's program access on the Merial Veterinary Scholar Program's North American website
- alumni tracking
- pilot program to invite students from France and the Netherlands veterinary schools to send scholars to participate in the program at participating veterinary schools in North America.

Please note the program is now the Merial Veterinary Scholars Program (MVSP) and that references to this program should use its new name.

To be considered for 2010 funding, the proposal(s) must be received by email no later than **October 31, 2009**. All schools will be informed as to their funding status by November 28, 2009.

The venue for the 2010 Merial Veterinary Scholar Program summer symposium has already been selected. We are very excited to announce it will take place at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.

I also ask that you share information with the veterinary community at your school about the Merial Veterinary Award Program whose objective is to promote interaction among veterinary students and graduates. The Merial Veterinary Awards Program is open to veterinarians who have completed graduate research or residency and provides a \$1,000 honorarium and the opportunity to visit Merial and meet with our respective scientific communities. Details regarding this program are included as separate enclosures in this mailing.

I am looking forward to your interest and application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roberto Alva".

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

Enclosures