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Dear Dean and Program Director:

I am delighted to inform you that applications for the **2017 Merial Veterinary Scholars Research Program (MVSP)** are being requested. Guidelines for the 2017 grant program are enclosed. As applications are very competitive, please review the guidelines carefully if you are considering submitting a proposal. 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, except for US students traveling to France and the Netherlands. Unfortunately, that component of the program will not be available for 2017.

Areas of special focus include:

- Individual school's program access on the Merial Veterinary Scholar Program's North American website
- Alumni tracking
- The European component of the program (students from France and the Netherlands will continue for 2017).

To be considered for 2017 funding, the proposal(s) must be received by email no later than **October 31, 2016**. All schools will be informed as to their funding status by January 11, 2017.

The 2017 Merial-NIH Veterinary Scholar Program Symposium will be hosted by the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC.

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 2017 MVSP Symposium in Washington, DC. For additional details on this research award please go to the Merial Scholars Web site at: www.merialscholars.com

I look forward to receiving and reviewing your application.

Best regards,

Roberto Alva, DVM, MS, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Merial Veterinary Scholars Program
Senior Director, Clinical R&D
Merial, Inc.
Enclosures

Cc: Dr. Fabian Kausche, Global Head R&D, Merial, Inc.