



Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

Tuskegee Veterinary Scholar Program (TVSP)

Co-sponsored by The Human Health Services Centers
of Excellence Grant, The National Institutes of Health
(NIH) T35 Grant and The Merial Veterinary Scholar
Program (MVSP)



Veterinary
Scholars Program

Meet Our Research Faculty



Abdela



Alexander



Bedi



Gilbreath



Nashar



Samuel



Sayegh



Wirtu



Yehualaeshet

Introduction

Veterinarians are uniquely qualified to study both animal and human diseases. This is due to the fact that they work on several species that possess many normal (physiological) and abnormal (pathological) similarities. Therefore, veterinarians form a special and a highly qualified group of biomedical researchers who translate basic discoveries into clinical applications through using various animal models.

Research Interests:

Our researchers conduct their work in several areas of interest. Such areas include:

- 1. Cancer and Cancer Therapeutics**
- 2. HIV / AIDS**
- 3. Food Safety and Microbiology**
- 4. Nanotechnology and Drug Delivery Systems**
- 5. Reproductive Physiology**
- 6. Control of Food Intake**



Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program (TVSP)

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) offers a structured Summer Research Program to first, second and possibly third year veterinary students. This program is known as **The Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program or TVSP**. The purpose of this program is to introduce students to high quality biomedical research to help them explore it as a possible career opportunity for them following their graduation from the veterinary program. This program is **co-sponsored by The Human Health Services Centers of Excellence Grant, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) T35 Grant and The Merial Veterinary Scholar Program (MVSP)**.

Description of the Program:

The TVSP is a 12-week program and the MVSP and its matching portions from Tuskegee is a 10-week program. During these periods students will be exposed to all aspects of biomedical research. Along with their mentors they will design experiments based on the student's interest and the mentor's expertise. The trainees will conduct high quality research by learning many laboratory techniques, analyzing data, presenting data as well as participating in various management and business oriented seminars and journal clubs in the college. The trainees will develop a better understanding of the career options in research that are waiting for them when they graduate e.g. drug discovery, academia or governmental agencies. At the conclusion of this experience, the trainees will attend the **Merial-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium. The 2017 Merial NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium will be sponsored by AAVMC-NIH-Michigan State University and it will take place August 3 – 6, 2017 at the National Institutes of Health in Washington DC.**

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to making this research experience a professionally enriching experience for all participants.

The Research Training

- 1. Each applicant will work a total of 40 hours per week**
- 2. Trainees funded by the Merial Veterinary Scholar Program and their matching**

trainees from Tuskegee will work for a minimum of 10 weeks (May 22, 2017 – July 28, 2017)

- 3. Trainees on the Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program other than the MVSP and their matching trainees from Tuskegee will work for a minimum of 12 weeks (dates are flexible)**
4. Prior to their engagement in research, fellows will attend training sessions related to
 - a. Institutional animal care and use policies
 - b. Laboratory animal center policies and procedures
 - c. Research ethics and proper response to allegations of scientific misconduct
 - d. Biohazards and biosafety policies
5. Fellows will start an introductory orientation by different faculty to learn about expectations, experiences and goals
6. Fellows will rotate through the different laboratories and observe the different projects and techniques utilized by our researchers in their laboratories
7. Fellows will then join a laboratory of their interest
8. Fellows will then:
 - a. Learn appropriate technique to conduct the proposed work
 - b. Learn appropriate laboratory protocols related to conducting proper research e.g. book keeping, measurements, animal handling and injections, making graphs and analyzing data etc.
 - c. Attend laboratory meetings and journal clubs
 - d. Attend various college seminars
 - e. Attend and present at the Center for Disease Control research day
 - f. Attend and present at the Annual Biomedical Research Symposium
 - g. Attend and present at the Phi Zeta Veterinary Research Day
 - h. Participate in a trip to the Merial manufacturing facilities in Athens and Gainesville, GA.
 - i. Attend and present their data in the annual Merial-NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium. **The 2017 Merial NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium will be sponsored by AAVMC-NIH-Michigan State University and it will take place August 3 – 6, 2017 at the National Institutes of Health in Washington DC.**
9. The research faculty will have a weekly, journal club, meeting with the fellows to discuss their progress and expectations
10. At the end of the 12 week training period fellows are expected to have an exit interview to summarize and document their expectations, experience and future goals
11. All fellows are expected to do at least one oral presentation and one poster presentation during their training
12. All fellows are expected to participate in the Phi Zeta research day and the Annual Biomedical Research Symposium held at the TUCVM campus

Trainees will also learn:

1. **Scientific writing and presentations**
2. **Preparing resumes and cover letters**
3. **Writing grant proposals**
4. **Using library resources to support research**
5. **Leadership and Teamwork**
6. **Making career choices**

Choice of a Faculty Mentor:

For trainees who are not familiar with our researchers and their specialties this is a list faculty mentors who will be participating in the TVSP. Please click on the links to view individual fields of interests and various accomplishments.

[TU Faculty Mentors.pdf](#)

[MSU Faculty Mentors.pdf](#)

Application Process

At the time of applying, students must be enrolled in the veterinary program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Each student should have no less than a 2.5 GPA.

Prior experience in research **is not required**. Tuskegee University is the number one diverse veterinary college in the United States. We welcome applicants from under-represented groups to join our program.

Here are steps to consider when applying to the TVSP:

- Please check the different faculty profiles ([links above](#)) and decide on a mentor that you would like to join his / her laboratory
- Contact the mentor to see if he / she is willing to work with you to meet your specific interests / needs / expectations
- Complete the application by clicking the Word or PDF links: [Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program Application.docx](#) or [Merial Veterinary Scholars Program Application.pdf](#)
- Letters of recommendations can be from Tuskegee or other institutions
- Submit application by email or mail To:

Tuskegee Veterinary Scholars Program
Office of Research and Advanced Studies
Williams-Bowie Hall Room 2002
College of Veterinary Medicine
Tuskegee University
Tuskegee, AL 36088
Tuskegee University
Email: hughleyt@mytu.tuskegee.edu

Application Deadline is Friday, February 10, 2017 and selections will be made and students will be informed by Wednesday, February 15, 2017. The program will begin on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 for Tuskegee University students and on other dates for non-Tuskegee students based on their each student's academic schedule.

For more information about the program please contact

Ayman I. Sayegh
Associate Dean for Research and Advanced Studies
Summer Research Experience Program
TU College of Veterinary Medicine
E-mail: sayeghai@mytu.tuskegee.edu

Telephone: (334) 727-8149

Financial Support

The TVSP is **Co-sponsored by The Human Health Services Centers of Excellence Grant, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) T35 Grant and The Meriel Veterinary Scholar Program**

Student trainees receive a minimum stipend of \$5,619 for the entire 12-week program. Stipends for all non-Tuskegee students include a minimum of \$1,320 for living expenses (\$110 per week).

For information on the **National Meriel Veterinary Scholar Program** please click here:

<http://www.merialscholars.com/>

The NIH also offers its own competitive summer training programs for interested veterinary students. For further information see: <https://www.training.nih.gov/programs>