

**CENTER FOR PUBLIC & CORPORATE VETERINARY MEDICINE (CPCVM)  
PARTNERS WITH THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS (AAVLD)**

The Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM) is pleased to partner with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) to create opportunities benefitting not only the two organizations, but also veterinary students and the future of veterinary laboratory investigations and animal disease surveillance.

The CPCVM, a part of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine with a long history of training veterinary students and graduate veterinarians for careers in public and corporate veterinary medicine is administered through a partnership of Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland, and is ideally located in close proximity to Washington DC. The CPCVM has coordinated externship opportunities and provided summer fellowship experiences for veterinary students from every veterinary college in the country, as well as from several other countries.

Through this partnership, veterinary students with an interest in diagnostics and laboratory work will have a great opportunity to learn from AAVLD members. Many current students are interested in research and this is a good opportunity for them to gain knowledge and have access to those with expertise on the laboratory side of veterinary medicine.

The CPCVM and AAVLD will work together to educate and mentor veterinary students interested in diagnostic medicine and research, while providing them networking and potential future employment opportunities. The partnership could also provide opportunities for short-term assistance for AAVLD members from students seeking externship experiences, and should help with succession planning for AAVLD as these students then move into the profession. The CPCVM would like to expand clerkship (externship) opportunities for interested fourth year veterinary students, whereby students could spend three weeks in the laboratories of AAVLD members, assisting with and learning from projects and work being conducted.

The CPCVM will be seeking mentors for some of these students. A mentorship program is currently being developed that will be aimed at providing an opportunity for students to develop a one-on-one relationship with professionals working in similar areas of interest. It is anticipated that most of the mentoring will be done long-distance, by phone and e-mail, and the program is being designed accordingly. The intent is to develop a mutually beneficial relationship that will provide opportunities for mentors to help mold and develop the next generation of veterinary medicine field, and will provide AAVLD members an opportunity to meet and get to know these young, enthusiastic upcoming members of our profession.

This summer, we are finalizing a mentor program structure, to help ensure it will be as successful as possible. We are also hoping to identify AAVLD members who may be interested in either serving as a mentor for a student, or interested in hosting a senior student for a clerkship. I think you will find these

students to be fun to work with, excited about their new profession, and likely to be the next generation of AAVLD members. We plan to start matching students with potential mentors, and initiating more CPCVM-AAVLD interactions when the students return in the fall.

If you are interested in participating in this partnership, either as a mentor or by hosting a student for an externship opportunity, please contact Valerie E. Ragan DVM, director of the CPCVM at [vragan@umd.edu](mailto:vragan@umd.edu), or 301-314-6820.