BACKGROUND

The American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology (AAVD) recognises the paucity of individuals trained to undertake research in veterinary dermatology, and wishes to make available funding for a research scholarship for up to 4 years. The ultimate goal is to train an individual who will have a career in research, advancing the science of veterinary dermatology. Applications should show clearly that the end result will be a successfully completed PhD. Although the acquisition of clinical skills is not a part of the planned programme, applicants who have clinical experience are likely to receive preference in the application process.

The institution, the potential scholar and the intended mentor and program of research must all be named in the application, and all will be evaluated as part of the selection process.

CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO APPLICATIONS

Institutions eligible
Applications will be welcomed from any institution of higher learning, and need not necessarily come from a veterinary school or college. As examples, applications from medical schools or basic science departments within a biomedical setting would be entirely appropriate. Interdisciplinary research is encouraged, and if the named departments is not within a veterinary school or college, it would be expected that some formal or informal contact with a veterinary institution would be maintained.

The named research scholar
The scholarship is limited to graduates with a degree in veterinary medicine from an AVMA approved school or one of similar standing. As the intent of the scholarship is to improve the standing of veterinary research within the United States, it is likely that the successful application will name a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Criteria taken into account in the selection process should include:

- GRE, SAT scores, or other tests of scholarly aptitude
- Performance in pre-veterinary degree courses
- Academic performance in veterinary school
- Evidence of potential for a research career in the form of completed student research projects and publications
- As it is hoped that the successful applicant will embark upon a career in clinical research, evidence of aptitude for the practice of clinical veterinary medicine or pathology, will be important. Indeed the successful applicant is likely to be enrolled in, or have completed a
residency in dermatology, internal medicine or pathology with an emphasis on dermatopathology.

**Combined clinical/pathological and research training**
Applications are welcomed from individuals seeking combined residency/PhD training programmes. However, in this event, the clinical/pathological training should ordinarily be completed first.

**The research supervisor**
It is likely that the successful applicant will join a number of other postgraduate research students in a well-funded laboratory with an established track record of successfully completed PhDs.

**The research project**
The project must aim to develop research skills in a basic science that is relevant to veterinary dermatology, and the chosen topic should have some relevance to this discipline. The goal is not merely the successful completion of the project, but that the training will securely equip the scholar for a long-term and successful research career.

**Use of experimental animals**
The Academy recognizes the need, in some projects, for the use of experimental animals. At all times their use must be compliant with all federal, state, local and institutional guidelines.

**CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO THE AWARD**

**Stipend**
The scholarship will carry a stipend of $28,000 per annum, increasing by $500 each year for the duration of the award, together with an allowance to cover the applicable fees. The award is made for up to 4 years, dependant upon satisfactory annual progress reports. It is hoped that the sponsoring institution will provide basic health benefit coverage.

**Research and other costs**
The Academy will make available a sum not exceeding $2000 per annum for travel or other general support. It is expected that the required research costs will be covered by grants held by the sponsor. The Academy does not pay institutional overheads.

**Reporting**
Within one calendar month of each anniversary of the commencement of the scholarship, a progress report, detailing both the academic status and the research project should reach the Chair of the Postgraduate Studies Committee. It should consist of two parts, namely a factual report completed by the scholar, and a confidential report submitted by the supervisor. In addition, if allowable by the institution and the funding agency, copies of grant progress reports should also be forwarded.
Publications and papers at research conferences
It is anticipated that the research will lead to publications in high quality refereed journals. It is a condition of the award that the support of the Academy is acknowledged in all of these. Furthermore, in all presentations of research work given at scientific meetings, the appointee should be described as "The American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology (or AAVD) Research Scholar". Presentation of results at the North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum is expected.

Notice of termination
If there is a failure to submit the required reports in a timely manner, or if, in the opinion of a majority of the Academy's Postgraduate Committee, such reports reveal unsatisfactory progress, the Academy reserves the right to terminate the scholarship with 3 months written notice.

SELECTION PROCESS
The Academy has delegated the selection process to its Postgraduate Studies Committee with confirmation by the AAVD Board of Directors.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
The application should follow the attached guidelines. Six copies should be sent to Philip Roudebush, AAVD Scholarship Chair, P.O. Box 148, Topeka, KS 66601 by June 01, 2005. Questions can also be directed to Dr. Roudebush at 785-368-5844 or phil_roudebush@hillspet.com.
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY

Guidelines for Research Scholarship Application

**Details of the Institution**
- Name of University
- College/School
- Department

**Details of proposed appointee (to be supplied only when a candidate is selected)**
- Name
- Address
- Preveterinary Education:
  - Institution attended
  - Dates
  - Cumulative GPA
- Veterinary Education:
  - Institution attended
  - Dates
  - Cumulative GPA

Please give details of research experience, and any abstracts or other publications resulting in:
- Preveterinary education
- Veterinary education

Please give details of career since graduating from veterinary school

Please give a brief synopsis of your reasons for wanting to embark upon a research career (limit 500 words)

**Proposed Research Supervisor**
- Name
- Address
- Degrees, institutions and years when obtained
- Names of current research students, and their year of study
- Please give details of postgraduate students supervised during the past 10 years, together with their current posts
- Please give details of current research funding
- Please give 5 most pertinent publications during the past 5 years

**Details of research project**
This should be given in the following format:
1. Summary, not to exceed 200 words
2. Background to the problem and its importance, not to exceed 500 words
3. Specific research aims and objectives, not to exceed 100 words
4. Research plans and methods, not to exceed 750 words
5. Importance of the problem to veterinary dermatology, not to exceed 200 words
6. Research budget, and details of sources of other funding sources that will enable completion of the project.

**Letters of support (to be supplied only when a candidate is selected)**
Letters of support are required from the proposed research supervisor and from two other individuals who are able to comment on your suitability for a research career. Please indicate the names of those who you have asked to supply such letters. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that they are sent directly to the AAVD Executive Secretary by the closing date.