



Jules and Ruth Cass Clerkship in Laboratory Animal Medicine, ULAR, OSU

The Cass Clerkship is available to OSU students only as it is an Institutional Award for OSU. Students will have access to a member of the Veterinary Faculty at all times during this internship. There will be an entrance interview with the Training Program Director during which expectations for the summer will be discussed at length.

Skills Development

Specific Skills that students will be expected to develop as a result of participation in this program include (but not limited to):

- Expand clinical skills through participation in clinical rounds and presentation of cases to senior staff
- Broaden knowledge base of basic husbandry, biology, and diseases of common laboratory animal species
- Become familiar with basic pathology of common lab animal diseases
- Observe and participate in animal surgeries (large animal, rodent and microsurgery)
- Become familiar with rodent sentinel health programs, quarantine, rodent shipping and receiving, vendor health surveillance and facility quality assurance measurements
- Learn basic principles of managing large laboratory animal colonies
- Participate in research protocol evaluation and gain exposure to research techniques pertaining to animal use
- Become familiar with the USDA and OLAW regulatory requirements
- Learn the fundamental principles of biohazard and occupational safety
- Become familiar with resources related to laboratory animal medicine including publications, web sites, organizations and continuing education

Didactic Component Specific didactic aspects of the summer program will include:

- Attend the weekly two-hour clinical seminar series. This seminar series is part of the regular didactic training for the Laboratory Animal Medicine training program and summer externs will attend according to which section is being taught when they are here (course number VPM 7895)
- Weekly veterinary meetings
- Weekly clinical meetings with veterinary technical staff
- Weekly journal club aimed at board preparation for Laboratory Animal Residents covering ILAR, JAALAS, Lab Animal and Comparative Medicine journals (course number VPM 8851 Special Topics in Veterinary Preventive Medicine)

- Monthly Clinical Medicine seminar series with attending veterinarians and Laboratory Animal health technicians (LAHTs)
- Monthly AALAS continuing education classes for all ULAR staff
- OSU Veterinary Summer Student Research “Brown Bag” seminars in which topics selected by the veterinary summer students are presented in an informal setting designed to generate discussion.
- Wet labs are taught routinely as part of senior year veterinary student rotations and training courses for graduate students and veterinary technicians (local Bradford School) externs will be expected to attend and participate (set up, participate, teach, clean up)
- Students will be expected to participate in a clinical research project or to work up a clinically relevant disease or case report and prepare a presentation at the end of summer and a poster later in the year for the CVM Annual Research Day.
- Students will rotate through the Experimental Surgery Core, Clinical Medicine, Quality Assurance Laboratory and Animal Care Program (see below)
- Numerous veterinary, basic and medical science seminars are presented daily at OSU, relevant seminars will be pointed out to students by their primary mentor and attendance will be encouraged
- Students will be encouraged to attend facility staff meetings as called by facility Supervisors within the individual facilities.
- Students will be expected to participate in training for Principal Investigators in general animal handling techniques and basic techniques such as blood collection and injections.

Rotations:

Experimental Surgery Core Rotation: Students will spend a minimum of one week in the ULAR surgery suite. The Director of this core, Dr. Stephanie Lewis, has developed a check sheet to be used with visiting veterinary externs that outlines the expectations for skills and concepts that will be covered during this week rotation. Additionally during this week, students will be expected to participate and help with any scheduled surgeries, including protocol review (prior to the surgery), surgical preparation, anesthesia and monitoring, and post-operative recovery.

Clinical Medicine Rotation: Students will spend a week working with the Laboratory Animal Health Technicians within the ULAR facilities working with the small (rodent) and larger (rabbits, cats, dogs, non-human primates, pigs) and other animal species available. Training includes animal handling, clinical rounds, medical techniques, equipment review and protocol review for ongoing studies.

Quality Assurance Laboratory (QA Lab) Rotation: Students will spend 2-3 days working in the OSU QA LAB. Students are introduced to the concept(s) of the rodent health report, SOP development for health assurance programs, quarantine facilities, shipping and receiving (primates and rodents), and the complex issues associated with disease control and eradication in an academic research setting. Additionally, students spend time collecting samples in the facility and then processing them in the lab.

Exposure to Management of an Animal Care Program

Students will rotate through the ULAR “facility” for a minimum of one week. Students will be expected to complete husbandry and hood usage training with the husbandry staff trainer and spend at least one day each in cage wash, animal receiving and providing cage change out in a rodent room under the direct supervision of the facility trainer or the ULAR senior facility staff. This provides the student with a better understanding of the everyday issues faced by personnel and provides a basis for discussion of vivarium management and staffing concerns.

Exposure to Postdoctoral Training Program

Students will be expected to work with current Laboratory Animal Residents (2 yr ACLAM approved Laboratory Animal Specialty training program) in all aspects of clinical cases including interaction with Researchers, diagnostic work ups, treatments and necropsies. Students will perform daily rounds with the Residents and will rotate through all facilities serviced by ULAR.

Evaluation Process:

Students will have access to a member of the Veterinary Faculty at all times during the externship. Attending Veterinarians will provide feedback both to the student as well as the Director of the Training Program. During the exit interview students will be provided an opportunity to provide feedback to the Director on both the strengths and perceived weaknesses of the summer experience in addition to being provided an evaluation of the student's performance in the summer experience.

Selection: Students will be selected based on their CV, letter of intent, copy of transcripts and letter of reference and interview. Preference will be given to students with strong academic qualifications and an expressed intent to pursue a career in laboratory animal medicine and/or research.

Application Timeline: The application timeline follows the information for the ASLAP Summer Fellowship in Laboratory Medicine.

Applications should be submitted to:

lamresidency@osu.edu

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