

Morris Animal Foundation's Future Scientists Initiative is tackling the growing shortage of animal health scientists by providing critical funding to aspiring researchers in health fields that improve the lives of dogs, cats, horses and wildlife. With skyrocketing student debt, fewer veterinary school graduates are able to pursue these research careers. As the number of veterinarians seeking PhDs is small, this means the existing pool of qualified mentors able to train new students also is shrinking.

FUTURE SCIENTISTS INITIATIVE:

- encompasses three distinct training programs
 - four-year veterinary fellowships for advanced study available to veterinarians pursuing PhDs
 - two-year fellowship training awards for postdoctoral research
 - veterinary student scholar program provides summer research opportunities that ignite an interest in research careers
- provides valuable mentoring experience for established researchers
- allows trainees to focus solely on improving the health and welfare of companion animals and wildlife
- supports aspiring researchers around the world at veterinary schools, conservation organizations, medical schools and research institutions

SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH TO HELP ANIMALS

"The most important element in veterinary research is people, and the foundation can make its greatest contribution to veterinary medicine by providing opportunities for students to become skilled in veterinary research," said Dr. Mark L. Morris, Sr. in 1948, the year Morris Animal Foundation was founded. By offering research training opportunities for veterinary and pre- and postdoctoral students, the foundation helps the next generation of scientists be ready to tackle current and future animal health challenges.

BY THE NUMBERS

COMMITMENT

TO INITIATIVE:

\$15+ million invested

419 veterinary student summer projects

98 2-year training fellowships

22 4-year training fellowships

8 special training grant partnerships

75 institutions supported

FOCUS

TOP TRAINING RESEARCH AREAS:

endocrine/metabolic
immunology
infectious disease
musculoskeletal
nutrition
pharmacology

IMPACT

IMPROVE 2016 STATISTICS:

< 1% graduating veterinary students pursue PhDs

100+ veterinary students receiving PhDs

550+ shortage of trained research mentors

OUR INVESTMENT IN TRAINING NEW SCIENTISTS

Highly trained investigators are vital to advancing the health and welfare of the world's animals. Through our Future Scientists Initiative, the foundation invests up to \$1 million each year in training programs to address the growing shortage of skilled animal health scientists.



Dr. Mary Klinck, University of Montreal

Dr. Mary Klinck's years in private practice contributed to her desire to alleviate pain and distress in animals. Dr. Klinck, a four-year fellowship award recipient, developed and validated new pain scales to identify and quantify osteoarthritis-related pain in cats. "Through this research program, I have greatly advanced my understanding of research design and analysis. These experiences will be valuable in terms of my future research in animal pain management."

Dr. Jong-Hyuk Kim, University of Minnesota

"This project helped me advance my academic career, and acquire new skills and mastery in bioinformatics, genetics, and cell and molecular biology." Dr. Kim, a two-year fellowship award recipient, studied cancer stem cell properties and discovered key early processes involved in hemangiosarcoma tumor formation. Dr. Kim recently was promoted to faculty research associate at the University of Minnesota, Department of Veterinary Clinical Science.

Jillian Minuto, The Ohio State University

Jillian Minuto, a 2015 veterinary student scholar, studied the role of the stress hormone cortisol in foals with sepsis, a life-threatening blood infection. "My involvement in the Veterinary Student Scholar Program has greatly increased my understanding of the time, effort and persistence in clinical research. Being involved in an investigation from conception through data analysis showed me that clinical research does not stop when you walk away from the bench."

Special Training Partnerships

Morris Animal Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution are partnering to train a new wildlife researcher to investigate two emerging skin diseases in rhinoceros and giraffes. Other partnerships include the Blue Buffalo Nutrition Fellowship Training Program on vitamin D supplementation for dogs with cancer, and a pathology residency training program at Colorado State University to support our Golden Retriever Lifetime Study.



ABOUT MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION:

Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science to advance animal health. The foundation is a global leader in funding scientific studies for companion animals, horses and wildlife. Learn more at morrisanimalfoundation.org.

Contact us at 720 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 174A, Denver, CO 80246, or by calling 800.243.2345.