



**DOCTOR OF VETERINARY
MEDICINE PROGRAM**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

How Do I Find a Research Mentor?

What are your interests? Pick an area that you would like to explore - something that you want to learn more of and that you will enjoy. Think about what you would like to investigate - whether it be something that might have been touched on in class, or something you will be studying in the future.

Potential areas: Cancer, Comparative medicine, Epidemiology & Diagnostics, Infectious Disease, Immune & Regenerative therapy, Orthopedics, Neuroscience, Physiology/Metabolism, Radiologic/ Environmental health, and Reproductive Biology.

- Review faculty interests of faculty listed in these areas
- Review previously funded projects in these areas

Contact the faculty that most interest you, at least a few months in advance of our application deadline, and set up a time to meet with them. At that meeting, learn about the type of work they do and about possible summer projects. Some other questions to ask include:

- What is the scope of your potential project?
- What do you hope to achieve over the summer?
- What is expected of you in the lab?
- What is your role on the project?
- Will your mentor be available to you during the summer months?
- Will you be directed by another member of the laboratory?
- Will there be opportunity to continue your research beyond the Program end date?
- Does your mentor have sufficient funds to support your research supply needs?

If both you and your mentor are able to determine a mutually interesting project is available, draft a short research proposal (along with the dates you would work) at least two weeks prior to submission of your application. Your mentor will need to submit a letter of reference on your behalf with the following information:

- An invitation for you to join their lab for the summer
- Ability to provide research materials required for the project
- A brief synopsis of the research project and area of focus

If you need additional help or advice in finding a suitable mentor, the **NIH/Merial Veterinary Research Scholars Program Advisory Committee** is made up of faculty who have many years collective service as mentors and advisors. They are an excellent resource in your search for an appropriate research mentor. The Committee members are:

- Dr. Sue VandeWoude, Program Director, Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology
- Dr. Steve Dow, Program Director, Clinical Sciences
- Dr. Candace Mathiason, Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology
- Dr. Valerie Moorman, Clinical Sciences
- Dr. Jerry Bouma, Biomedical Sciences
- Dr. Keara Boss, Environmental & Radiological Health Sciences.

Feel free to contact them for advice at any time.