How Do I Find a Research Mentor at CSU?

- 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. Also think about what type of work environment (ie highly structured, size of lab, experience level of mentor, lab location) you would find most comfortable.
  - Potential areas: Cancer, Comparative medicine, Epidemiology & Diagnostics, Infectious Disease, Immune & Regenerative therapy, Orthopedics, Neuroscience, Physiology/Metabolism, Radiologic/ Environmental health, 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. Initial email contact is fine; most mentors will appreciate a well written brief email message with a CV attachment. Include an explanation of your research experience, reason for your interest in their lab, and request to meet in person. This contact would ideally occur at least a month in advance of our application deadline. Some questions to ask might include:
  ▪ What is the scope of lab research project and what projects are available for summer research?
  ▪ What are the lab expectations?
  ▪ What is your role on the project?
  ▪ Who will you be working with in the laboratory? What is the mentor’s role in the lab?
  ▪ Will there be opportunity to start labwork before the summer and/or continue your research beyond the Program end date?
  ▪ What is the ‘culture’ of the lab?
  It is reasonable to ask for a tour of the lab and ask about how the lab work will be funded.

- Work with your mentor to draft a short research proposal (along with the dates you would work) 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 available to assist in your search for an appropriate research mentor. The Committee members are:
  ▪ Dr. Sue VandeWoude, Sue.VandeWoude@colostate.edu; Program Director, Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology
  ▪ Dr. Steve Dow; Steven.Dow@colostate.edu; Program Director, Clinical Sciences
  ▪ Dr. Randy Basaraba; Randall.Basaraba@colostate.edu; Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology
  ▪ Dr. Kevin Haussler; Kevin.Haussler@colostate.edu; Clinical Sciences
  ▪ Dr. Jerry Bouma, Gerrit.Bouma@colostate.edu; Biomedical Sciences
  ▪ Dr. Susan Kraft; Susan.Kraft@colostate.edu; Environmental & Radiological Health Sciences