



American Veterinary Medical Foundation

REPORT TO THE AVMA HOD – July 2021

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), founded in 1963, is the charitable arm of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The mission of the AVMF is to develop charitable resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation has been able to help veterinarians help animals through a variety of education, veterinary charitable care, disaster relief, and research programs and activities.

EDUCATION

AVMF education support helps veterinary students who need financial assistance to continue their education and assists the AVMA in presenting continuing education programming so that all veterinarians have access to the most current learning and techniques to provide the best care for animals and pets.

Scholarships

By investing in the education of veterinary students, donors play a role in ensuring that future veterinarians have the skills and training necessary to treat our pets, safeguard our food supply, and protect public health.

For the 2020/21 academic year, the Foundation provided 115 scholarships for veterinary students in North America, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. We are pleased to maintain our partnership with Merck Animal Health, which has funded student scholarships over the past seven years. Merck will continue to fund this program for the 2021/22 academic year with \$300,000 representing 54 \$5,000 scholarships for students in North America and the Caribbean. In 2020-21, the Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy Endowment supported 36 scholarships for outstanding students. Future Auxiliary scholarships will be supported by the income from this permanent endowment. Individuals who established named scholarships through bequests, the Arizona VMA, and the Harold Wetterberg Foundation are also major donors to the AVMF Scholarship Program.

AVMF is very fortunate to have a dedicated pool of approximately 100 volunteers who lend their expertise in veterinary medicine to the review of scholarship applications.

Merck Veterinary Student Innovation Awards

Merck Animal Health, in partnership with the AVMF, launched the Veterinary Student Innovation Awards in 2018. This program recognizes an outstanding graduating senior at each of the AVMA accredited schools in the US and Canada who demonstrates innovative and/or entrepreneurial creativity leading to a project or idea that impacts or inspires others within the veterinary profession. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to present challenges to managing this program in 2021, with schools

conducting their award and commencement ceremonies on a virtual basis. Nevertheless, 20 schools participated in the program. Each chose a student to receive a certificate of recognition and a \$500 award.

Merck AVMA Wellbeing Educator Train-the-Trainer Program

Merck funding in the amount of \$100,000 was received for this program in December 2019 with an estimated allocation from 2020 through 2021. The AVMA Wellbeing Educator Train-The-Trainer Program expands the pool of qualified individuals to meet the need for evidenced-based wellbeing programming. Wellbeing Educators will learn critical communication skills along with micro and macro level strategies for wellbeing promotion, while simultaneously learning how to train others in the use of the program. Funding is managed through the AVMF while development and program direction and management is through the AVMA; both parties are working in collaboration and support to promote and create access and reach for this valuable resource.

Achieving, Leading and Learning (ALL) for Students

Student Chapters of the AVMA use this funding to provide programming in four key areas: Leadership, Wellness, Professional Development, and Community Outreach. The AVMA, AVMA Administrative Trust, and SAVMA contribute to these programs with a combined donation of \$287,000 in 2021.

VETERINARY CHARITABLE CARE

National Veterinary Charitable Care Grant Program

The new AVMF National Veterinary Charitable Care Grant Program provides AVMA member practitioners with a simple and effective way to offer low or no-cost necessary veterinary services to the animals of clients facing personal hardships due to COVID-19 or domestic violence. Applicants are reimbursed in full or in part for the cost of treatment using expense codes contained in the online application form.

Due to the expected volume of grant requests and the desire to provide assistance for as many animals as possible with the funds available, there is a reimbursement cap of \$500 for grant requests related to COVID-19. For requests related to domestic violence, no cap is currently in place.

The program offers a solution that helps ensure that animals get the care they need and helps families avoid choosing between financial stability and the health of their pets. The program also impacts the positive wellbeing for the veterinary community by allowing AVMA members to continue to provide high-quality veterinary medical care, regardless of an owner's ability to pay. This program is supported by Merck Animal Health, the BI Cares Foundation and generous donors.

AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund®

AVMF launched the Veterinary Care Charitable Fund® in 2015 to provide veterinarians with a simple and effective way to offer charitable veterinary services to clients facing personal hardships, as well as to support animals who are injured or rescued from abuse and neglect. The program is limited to enrolled practices.

DISASTER RELIEF

Disaster Relief and Reimbursement Grants

The AVMF provides two grant programs to help veterinarians and the animals they care for during times of disaster. Grants are available to support victims of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, wildfires and oil spills. Since September 2017, the AVMF has distributed more than \$923,600 in disaster relief and reimbursement grants to veterinarians, veterinary students, technicians, nurses, and assistants, as well as allied health organizations.

Disaster Reimbursement Grants for Veterinary Medical Care

The AVMF disaster reimbursement grants up to \$5,000 are to ensure the emergency veterinary medical care of animal victims of disaster. AVMF reimburses for the costs of medical supplies, boarding, and transporting animal victims of disasters to safety.

(Note: Must be a licensed veterinarian and current member of AVMA)

Disaster Relief Grant for Veterinarians and Veterinary Students

The AVMF disaster relief grants up to \$2,000 are for assisting veterinarians and veterinary students with necessities due to a disaster. The grants cover items such as clothing, temporary housing, transportation, and meals that are needed immediately following a disaster. **(Note:** Must be an individual who is a current student at, or a graduate of, a veterinary medical school accredited by the AVMA Council on Education, or a veterinarian that currently holds or formerly held a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in any US state or territory)

The COVID-19 pandemic created financial hardship for the veterinary community. As a result, AVMF received generous donations from Hill's Pet Nutrition, Zoetis, NAVTA, and VCA Animal Hospitals to fund nearly 500 grants of \$500 each to veterinary technicians, nurses, and assistants.

COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant Program for Veterinarians

The COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant Program for Veterinarians, sponsored jointly by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) and VCA Animal Hospitals, has been created to assist those qualified individuals who have experienced significant financial hardship due to COVID-19.

The program is intended to help **AVMA-member veterinarians** who have been affected by COVID-19-related job loss or illness (i.e., inability to work) by providing a \$500 grant to serve as emergency relief and to help pay for basic necessities (e.g., food, clothing, housing costs, and medical care not covered by medical insurance).

Another significant development is the receipt of a generous bequest of 1.6 million dollars to support disaster relief. This bequest was received in 2020, and will be distributed over ten years to support AVMF's disaster relief programs

RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Foundation has partnered with the Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation since 2017 to fund research grants with a focus on veterinary pharmacology. This funding supports research into new or currently approved medications for combatting diseases and conditions of companion and food animals as well as projects that ensure the safety of food products from treated livestock. These areas have historically been underfunded by traditional granting agencies.

The following research grants were supported in 2020-21:

Veterinary Pharmacology Research Grant Recipient

Dr. András Komaromy, Michigan State University - \$30,000

Safety and efficacy of topically administered latanoprostene bunod (Vyzulta™) in glaucomatous dogs with ADAMTS10-open-angle glaucoma (ADAMTS10-OAG)

Veterinary Pharmacokinetic Research Grant

Dr. Amy McLean, University of California – Davis - \$14,287.12

Pilot Study comparing blood and urine concentrations and pharmacokinetics of Flunixin Meglumine oral, injectable and transdermal in donkeys (Equus asinus)

American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology Resident Grant

Dr. Brent Credille – University of Georgia - \$19,872

Disposition of Ampicillin Trihydrate in Healthy Calves and Calves Infected with Mannheimia haemolytica

Other Research Activities being supported by AVMF include:

Early Stage Investigator Awards

- This program was suspended in 2020 due the pandemic but will be offered again in future years.

Second Opportunity Summer Research Scholarships

- Five students were awarded with \$5,000 each to assist with expenses related to conducting a 10+ week summer research project experience. Each has indicated that they will still be performing a summer research project, with perhaps some pandemic-driven modifications to their original plans.

- ***AVMF/EveryCat Health Foundation Research Award (formerly Winn Feline Foundation)***

We are deeply appreciative of the donors who help make these programs possible.

AVMF LEADERSHIP GUILD

The new AVMF Leadership Guild recognizes individuals and other partners who donate \$1,000 or more annually to help the AVMF maintain and expand the scope of its charitable programs. Members of the AVMF Leadership Guild are major contributors to the Foundation and committed to our mission to develop charitable resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health. We invite you to join us and become a Founding member when you make your donation by October 1, 2021.

WEBSITES and SOCIAL MEDIA

The Foundation maintains two websites: www.AVMF.org for the Foundation and www.vccfund.org for the AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund.

The AVMF Facebook page has 33,234 page “followers,” which is an increase of 8.1% since July 2019.

MEETINGS and CONVENTIONS

The AVMF staff and volunteers participated in the virtual AVMF exhibit booth at the following events:

AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference
SAVMA Symposium
AVMA Convention

OPERATIONS

The Foundation Board of Advisors (BOA) provides input, advice, and guidance to the AVMF Board of Directors in furtherance of the Foundation’s mission, activity, service, and programs. The BOA is a standing committee of the AVMF and reports to the AVMF Board of Directors.

The BOA is comprised of members of the AVMF Board of Directors, one of whom is the director representing the Auxiliary to the AVMA; one voting member nominated by the Student American Veterinary Medical Association; and additional at-large, voting members. Most of the at-large members are AVMA members. All BOA members are appointed by the Board of Directors.

The BOA meets twice each calendar year, or as necessary to fulfill its duties. Up to two in-person meetings are authorized per year as needed. Conference calls and virtual meetings take place on a monthly basis.

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