

Website Summary for ACVD Website

1. Program name and location:

Dermatology Residency, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VA-MD CVM), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, 24060.

2. Has the program ever been placed on ACVD Probation within the past 8 years? No

3. Mentor(s):

a. Name: Ben Tham, DVM, DACVD

1. Years in ACVD: 6 years

2. Years as Mentor: 0

b. Name: Ivan Ravera, DVM, MSc, PhD, DECVD

1. Years in ECVD: 8

2. Years as Mentor: 1

Educator(s):

a. Name: Keith Linder, DVM, PhD, DACVP

1. Years in ACVP: 24

2. Years as Mentor: 24 (as mentor/co-mentor for Anatomic Pathology and Dermatology residents)

4. Specific requirements for applying to the program

- Possess a DVM or equivalent degree.
- Be a graduate of an AVMA-approved veterinary college or school or a graduate of an accredited and recognized school from another country.
- Have completed a one-year internship or satisfactory practice equivalency. Completion of a dermatology internship is preferred.
- Have approval to practice veterinary medicine in a state of the United States of America.
- Be of satisfactory professional moral and ethical character
- Fulfill any additional dermatology residency candidate requirements as specified by the ACVD Education Committee. A complete list of requirements may be found on the American College of Veterinary Dermatology website (www.acvd.org).
- Eligibility for admission to the graduate school programs of Virginia Tech (note: individuals from non-English speaking veterinary programs are required to take the TOEFL test and score > 230 to be eligible for the MS program).

- US citizens or legal residents and foreign nationals will be considered for this residency position. Foreign nationals will have to fulfill the requirements of the Graduate School.

5. Length of residency in years: **Three**

6. Is a Master's degree or PhD required? If so, which? **No**

7. Is the program Provisional or Established? **Provisional**

1. When was the residency first offered? **N/A**

2. Has it been continuous since then? **N/A**

3. If not continual, what years was the residency active? **N/A**

8. Is the program funded by the parent institution or an external source? (if external, name the funder) **Parent institution**

A. Is a post-residency commitment required? (if so, describe) **No**

B. What is the annual resident salary? **\$41,000**

C. Other resident benefits: (Please give a general list of benefits and then whom a potential candidate should contact to get more specific information on benefit packages)

**Sick leave is earned at 12 days per year; annual leave is 10 days per year.
Five days of professional leave for continuing education. 10 family sick leave.
Annual leave must be taken during the term of appointment. Up to 10
unpaid days for sick leave. The University will offer health insurance, and the
candidate will pay the cost associated with the cost of their plan. More
information on the benefits can be obtained from Lynette Cruise (Director of
Human Resources; lcruise@vt.edu)**

9. How many residents does the program train concurrently? **None (new program)**

A. How many residents have been accepted into the program since inception? **N/A**

b. How many of these have become board-certified dermatologists? **N/A**

10. What is the average annual dermatology caseload for the institution over the past 5 years?
With the addition of the 2nd dermatologist, the Dermatology service is expected to have at least 900 cases per year

11. What is the average total caseload seen during the entire residency?
2700 cases (average cases annually multiplied by the number of years of residency)

12. On average, how many new patients, rechecks and consults does the program see per year? (actual numbers of cases)

1. New cases: 300 - 350

2. Rechecks: 350 - 500

3. Consults: 150

13. On average, what percentage of the program's cases are dogs and cats?

1. Dogs: 80%

2. Cats: 20%

14. On average, how many exotic, equine and farm animal cases does the program see per year?

1. Exotics: 0

2. Equine: 0 - 3

3. Farm animals: 2 - 5

15. What percentage of time is the mentor physically in clinics with the resident while the resident is seeing cases during the resident's

First year: 100%

Second year: 100%

Third year: 70%

16. Does the program have access to other specialists? If so, please list: Yes
Ophthalmology, Small Animal Internal Medicine, Neurology, Anesthesiology, Soft Tissue and Orthopedic Surgery, Cardiology, Emergency and Critical Care, Oncology, Radiology, Theriogenology, Large Animal Medicine, Large Animal Surgery, Production Medicine Management, Clinical Pathology, Clinical Pharmacology, Clinical Microbiology and

Rehabilitation.

17. Please describe your library access:

Virginia Tech's (VT) main library, the Carol M. Newman Library, is located on the main campus and possesses hard copies of both human and veterinary medical texts, publications and journals, and offers extensive online electronic journal access. Materials not in the possession of the library are available free of charge via InterLibrary Loan Internet Accessible Database (ILLiad) – a groundbreaking interlibrary loan automation software available for publications elsewhere on the VT campus or obtained from other non-VT libraries around the world. The VA-MD CVM also has The Veterinary Medicine Library, located in the Phase III Building on Duck Pond Drive. This branch provides information services, access to collections, and additional resources to assist with the curriculum and research programs related to veterinary medicine and public health in support of the students, faculty, and staff of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM).

18. Does the program have statistical support for their residents' research projects? Yes

19. Does the program have direct access to any basic science or clinical science laboratories that the resident can use for research purposes? Yes

If yes, please describe the types of laboratories available and the interactions that the resident may have with them.

The VA-MD CVM has a robust research program that spans basic biomedical sciences in infectious (viral, bacterial, and parasitic) and non-infectious (immune-mediated and oncologic) diseases to veterinary clinical research to translational to public health. Residents have access to and the opportunity to collaborate with various Faculty Research Laboratories, Analytical Chemistry and Research Laboratories, Electron Microscopy, Flow Cytometry Resource Laboratory, and Veterinary Medical Informatics (<https://research.vetmed.vt.edu/index.html>).

20. How often do the residents and mentors have the following rounds? (For each type of rounds, please list how often they are held, how long each session is, and a detailed description of how they are conducted.)

1. Case rounds: Case rounds with students and residents are held informally during receiving days with a review at the end of each day. The mentor(s) will also meet separately with the resident each day to discuss cases.
2. Journal club: Journal reading assignments are sent electronically; the resident and mentors will participate in a journal club for 1 – 1.5 hours once a week. Additional articles are discussed by the resident and mentor as needed during receiving days to

support training in clinical dermatology.

3. **Histopathology training:** Once a week, for 1.5 hours, the Dermatology resident and mentors join the Dermatopathology Rounds led and taught by Dr Keith Linder (board-certified pathologist) for histopathology training and review of skin biopsy slides submitted from the cases seen by the resident and mentors. These Dermatopathology Rounds are held using Zoom and Philips IntelliSite Pathology Solution software for remote videoconference discussions and interactions.

4. **Basic science learning rounds:** The mentors will provide Basic Science Review Rounds discussions that cover the following topics: 1) Skin structure and function (keratins, desmosomes, cornification, skin microbiome, epidermal basement membrane, hair follicles, ceruminous and sebaceous glands, melanocytes, collagen and elastin), 2) Dermato-immunology (neutrophils, eosinophils, mast cells, antimicrobial peptides, toll-like receptors, keratinocytes and immunity, innate and adaptive immunity, complement system, T and B cell activation and cytokines), and 3) Dermatohistopathology Didactic Review (using the Skin Diseases of the Dog and Cat (Gross et al.) textbook). These rounds will either involve the mentor leading the discussions, or assigning related topics to the resident for presentation during these rounds and will be held for 1 hour once a week.

21. Resident's benefits: (Please give a general list of benefits and then whom a potential candidate should contact to get more specific information on salary and benefits packages) Full medical, dental, and vision insurance benefits (with co-pay). Contact Lynette Cruise lcruise@vt.edu for more information.

22. Does the program allow the resident to attend the NAVDF (North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum) meeting annually? **Yes**

23. Does the program pay for the resident to attend the NAVDF meeting annually? **Yes.**

24. Average number of days a resident will spend on clinics per month: **14-16 weekdays**

25. Average number of workdays a resident will spend on non-clinical pursuits per month (based on a 5-day workweek) **6 weekdays**

26. Does the resident have to take general medicine emergency duty? **No**

If so, how often: **N/A**

27. Does the resident take Dermatology emergency duty?

If so, how often: The resident is the first contact person for the emergency and critical care faculty, residents and interns. This occurs very infrequently. At least one mentor will be available if the resident needs to discuss the case.

28. Is time allotted for externships in other subspecialties or at other dermatology practices?

Yes

If so explain: The resident is encouraged to pursue externships during their second and third year of training. Experiences at a specialty practice or institution that has high equine and/or exotic dermatological are suggested. However, financial support for this externship may not be available.

29. How much time is allotted to carry out a research project (grant writing, data collection, paper preparation) during the residency (please report in number of weeks)?

The resident gets approximately 9 weeks off clinics each year (not including 2 weeks of vacation, 1-week annual NAVDF meeting, and an additional 2 weeks off for University holidays) affording them a total of 40+ weeks for the entire residency program to pursue activities related to their research project, manuscript preparation, presentations, and case reports.

30. What are the other responsibilities/duties of the resident?

The resident has teaching responsibilities, including teaching while receiving cases and conducting case rounds and topic rounds with veterinary students. The resident also participates as a co-instructor in didactic lectures for DVM students and three 2-hour dermatology techniques labs for 1st-year veterinary students. The resident is also required to present a 20-30 minute seminar twice a year; the audience of these seminars are faculty, residents, interns, students, and staff. Residents are Master's Graduate students and must fulfill the requirements for their MS degree at the end of the program. Completion of the Graduate Program (MS degree) is a co-requisite to successful completion of the residency program and receipt of a Certificate of Residency.

31. How many residents has the program had over the past 6 years? N/A (New program)

32. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed credentials on the: N/A (New program)

- a. First submission? N/A
- b. Second submission? N/A
- c. Third submission or more? N/A
- d. Never passed credentials? N/A

33. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) sat boards for the first time: [N/A \(New program\)](#)
- a. The year they finished their residency? [N/A](#)
 - b. One year after finishing their residency? [N/A](#)
 - c. Two or more years after finishing? [N/A](#)
 - d. They never took boards? [N/A](#)
34. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed the board exam on their: [N/A \(New program\)](#)
- a. First time taking the exam? [N/A](#)
 - b. Second time taking the exam? [N/A](#)
 - c. Third time or more taking the exam? [N/A](#)
 - d. Never passed? [N/A](#)
35. Is your residency program reviewed by an outside committee at your university? [No](#)
- If yes, how often? [N/A](#)
36. Please list the papers published by your last 5 residents. [N/A](#)
37. Names of your last 5 residents and whether they are willing to be contacted by potential residents: [N/A](#)

Submit updated Website Summary to Alexis Borich via email at itchypet@aol.com

Appendix 5: Contingency Plan

If a program has a single primary mentor, a contingency plan must be included in the program description detailing who will take over as mentor if the primary mentor is unable to fulfill his/her obligations to the resident. A diplomate may serve as a contingency mentor and they may only provide contingency support for one residency program at a time. They must agree to assume both the financial obligations (e.g., salary) and training responsibilities for the remainder of the residency program if needed. A signed letter from the contingency mentor acknowledging their commitment must be submitted with the application packet (see template below).

This contingency plan must be communicated to any prospective residents and the resident must agree to assume the costs of moving to the location of the contingency mentor. A signed letter of acknowledgement from the resident must be submitted to the Education Committee (see template below). If a resident has already been identified prior to program application, this letter should be submitted with the application packet. If a resident has not yet been identified (e.g., if you will be matched through VIRMP after your program is approved), then the letter should be submitted after the resident is identified and before the July program start date.

Contingency Mentor Letter Template:

Date

Dear ACVD,

I, (insert name of contingency mentor), have agreed to serve as contingency mentor for (insert name of primary mentor) if they are unable to fulfill their obligations to the (insert name/location of program) residency program. I agree to assume both the financial obligations (e.g., salary) and training responsibilities for the remainder of this residency program if needed. This is the only program for which I am a contingency mentor.

Sincerely,

(Signature and printed name of contingency mentor)

Resident Contingency Acknowledgment Letter Template:

Date

Dear ACVD,

I, (insert name of resident), am aware of and accept the contingency plan for (insert name/location of program). In the event that (insert name of primary mentor) is unable to fulfil their training obligations, I agree that any expenses incurred in moving to the location of (insert name of contingency mentor) are my responsibility.

Sincerely,
(Signature and printed name of resident)

Appendix 6: Caseload Calculation

1. Calculating caseload: A program's caseload will be deemed inadequate if their total caseload over the 3-year residency period is below the average residency caseload of academic programs with the same number of resident positions minus 1.5 standard deviations. A program's caseload will be deemed excessive if their total caseload over the 3-year residency period is above the average residency caseload of private practice programs with the same number of resident positions plus 1.5 standard deviations.

2. To calculate its own total residency caseload, a program will first calculate a yearly caseload average over a 5-year period. If a program does not have an easy way to retrieve their yearly caseload, they can tally their monthly caseload for a 3 to 4-month period each year then extrapolate their yearly caseload average from this. Once a program has calculated their average yearly caseload, this number is multiplied by 3 to give a program's total caseload over a residency period.

3. The Education Committee will utilize these numbers to generate the average total residency caseload plus the standard deviations for both academic and private practice residencies with the same number of residents. These averages and standard deviations will be officially updated every 5 years. The current averages and standard deviations may be provided on request.