

Detailed Program Description for ACVD Website

1. Program name and location:
Apex Veterinary Specialists—Dermatology
9600 East Peakview Avenue
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
2. Is the program currently or ever been on ACVD Probation? No If yes,
please describe the reasons for probation, what is being done to correct them
and when the program is scheduled to be off probation?
3. Mentor(s):
 - a. Name: Linda Messinger, DVM, Diplomate ACVD
 1. Years in ACVD: 32
 2. Years as Veterinary Dermatology Resident Mentor: 5
 3. Years as Veterinary Dermatology Intern Mentor: 2
 - Name: Jacquelyn Diamond, DVM, Diplomate ACVD
 1. Years in ACVD: 5
 2. Years as Veterinary Dermatology Resident Mentor: 0
 3. Years as Veterinary Dermatology Intern Mentor: 1
4. Specific requirements for applying to the program:
 - a. Be a graduate of an AVMA approved veterinary school or college or a graduate of an accredited and recognized school from another country.
 - b. Be approved to practice veterinary medicine in a state of the United States of America, province of Canada, or country of citizenship, and have an active veterinary license that is in good standing with the applicable jurisdiction.
 - c. Be approved to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Colorado.
 - d. Have completed a one-year rotating internship or satisfactory practice equivalency. A veterinary dermatology internship is beneficial, but not necessary.
 - e. Be a member of a national veterinary medical association (i.e. AVMA).
 - f. Abide by the ACVD Ethics Pledge and Code of Conduct, the AVMA Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics ("PVME"), and applicable laws, and not have any felony (or equivalent) convictions.
5. Length of residency in years: 3 years
6. Is a Master's degree or PhD required? No If so, which_____
7. Is the program Provisional or Established? Provisional (previously Established
—see detail below)

- a. When was the residency was first offered? 2011 Dr. Messinger was a chief mentor of the residency program at the Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado (VRCC). Drs. Thierry Olivry or Jeremy Bachtel were co-mentors depending on the resident. The Dermatology Department was closed at VRCC and Dr. Messinger moved to Apex Veterinary Specialists where the residency program is being restarted. Dr. Jacquelyn Diamond is also at Apex Veterinary Specialists. Both programs were/are in Colorado.

Has it been continuous since then? No

If not continual what years was the residency offered? 2011-2016

8. Is the program funded by the parent institution or an external source? (if external, name the funder)
 - a. Is a post-residency commitment required? (if so, describe) No
 - b. What is the annual resident salary? 1st year \$50000; 2nd year \$52000, 3rd year \$55000
 - c. 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 benefit packages)
Benefits include health insurance, dental insurance and vision insurance options, 401K, travel allowance to annual dermatology conference, paid time off. Contact Laura Miller lmiller@vetdentalms.com for more information.
9. How many residents does the program train concurrently? None
 - a. How many residents have been accepted into the program since inception? Two residents when Dr. Messinger was at VRCC
 - b. How many of these have become board certified dermatologists: 2 (100%)
10. What is the average annual dermatology caseload for the institution over the past 5 years? 3100 cases per year
11. What is the average total caseload seen the entire residency? 9300 cases (average cases annually times the number of years of residency)
12. On average, how many new patients, rechecks and consults does the program see per year? (give these in actual numbers of cases)
 - a. New cases 950
 - b. Rechecks 2150
 - c. Consults 10-20 (in house, zoo) (does not include phone consults)
13. On average, what percentage of the program's cases are dogs and cats?

Dogs 80% Cats 20%

14. On average, how many exotic, equine and farm animal cases does the program see per year? Exotics/Zoo 0-5 Equine 0-1 Farm animals 0-1

15. What percentage of time is the mentor in clinics with the resident while the resident is seeing cases during the resident's first year: at least 90%, second: at least 75% and third: at least 60%?

(This means that the mentor is either physically seeing patients with the resident or can be contacted by phone and available to see the case within one hour of being called.)

16. Does the program have access to other specialists? If so, please list:

- a. Dentistry
- b. Ophthalmology
- c. Surgery
- d. Anesthesiology

Via phone, email, text:

- a. Internal medicine
- b. Emergency and critical care
- c. Surgery
- d. Oncology
- e. Cardiology
- f. Neurosurgery/neurology
- g. Radiology
- h. Theriogenology
- i. Zoo veterinarians
- j. Human allergist (limited)

17. Please describe your library access:

The Apex Veterinary Specialists on-site library consists of current veterinary textbooks including textbooks in dermatology, dermatopathology, infectious diseases, dentistry. In addition, several journal subscriptions to both human and veterinary journals are available online (via the ACVD website). Colorado State University (CSU) Veterinary school (~65 miles away) has an extensive library of various textbooks and journals. There is also access to the University of Colorado Medical School's library (~15 miles away from).

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 proposes? Limited (potentially via National Jewish Health or CSU)

If yes, please describe the types of laboratories available and interactions that the resident may have with them. Possible access to a fully equipped research laboratory focused immunology or dermatology (National Jewish Health or CSU)

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.)

a. Case rounds:

Usually weekly or daily as well as discussions of cases while in clinics

b. Journal club:

Typically 4 days per month, outside of holidays, journal club is held at CSU and/or at Apex Veterinary Specialists for 1 hour. Three to six articles are reviewed each time. Between one and three board-certified dermatologists attend. Dr. Jeremy Bachtel is the primary board-certified veterinary dermatologist at CSU.

c. Histopathology training:

-At CSU typically four times monthly (Wednesdays, outside of holidays) dermatopathology rounds held at a multi-headed microscope. The session lasts approximately 1 hour. In-house and external cases are discussed and a clinicopathological discussion is held for in-house cases. Between 1-3 board-certified veterinary pathologists, 1-2 board-certified veterinary dermatologists, 1-2 veterinary dermatology residents and 1 veterinary dermatology intern routinely attend these rounds;

-Intense one-on-one training via an externship is available.

-review of slides/ biopsies (Apex Veterinary Specialists/CSU/PennVet/Antech);

-independent study of veterinary dermatopathology textbooks

d. Basic science learning rounds:

On Wednesdays at CSU (typically 4 times per month for 1 hour) for discussion of basic foundations of dermatology. Additional supervision is provided for grant writing, project management and abstract and paper writing.

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

22. Does the program pay for the resident to attend the NAVDF meeting annually?
Yes
23. Average number of days a resident will spend on clinics per month: 12-15
24. Average number of days a resident will spend on non-clinical pursuits per month (not including Sundays or holidays): 8-9
25. Does the resident have to take general medicine emergency duty? No. If so how often: N/A
26. Does the resident take Dermatology emergency duty? No
If so how often: N/A
27. Is time allotted for externships in other subspecialties or at other dermatology practices? yes If so explain: Residents may spend 1-2 weeks per year externing in other specialties or at other dermatology practices.
28. 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)? Off clinic time (typically Mondays and part of the day on Wednesdays). Externship time can also be used for the project if part of the project.
29. What are the other responsibilities/duties of the resident?
Participation in local continuing education programs (including presenting lectures). Phone consultations. Follow ACVD guidelines for residents, develop skills necessary for clinical competency through all aspects of primary case responsibility (history, physical/dermatological examination, create problem lists and differential diagnoses, perform diagnostic testing, interpret results, formulate treatment plans, provide client and primary care veterinarian (pcDVM) communication, and follow-up). Maintain a detailed case log including case number, record number date, name, signalment, working/definite diagnosis, and follow-up dates. Develop client and pcDVM education materials for common conditions, procedures, and/or treatments. Fulfill all requirements of the ACVD education and credentials committees and submit credentials packet on or before posted deadline of 3rd year of residency. If present, help mentor pre-veterinary students, veterinary students and veterinary dermatology externs/interns.
30. How many residents has the program had over the past 15 years? 2 (via VRCC)
31. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed credentials on the:
a. First submission- 2 (100%)

- b. Second submission- 0
- c. Third submission or more- 0
- d. Never passed credentials- 0

32. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) sat boards for the first time.

- a. The year they finished their residency- 2 (100%)
- b. One year after finishing their residency 0
- c. Two or more years after finishing 0
- d. They never took boards 0

33. How many / what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed the board exam on their

- a. First time taking the exam: 1
- b. Second time taking the exam: 1
- c. Third time or more taking the exam N/A
- d. Never passed N/A

34. Is your residency program reviewed by an outside committee at your university? No
If yes how often?

35. Please list the papers published by your last 5 residents.

Gentry CM. Updates on the pathogenesis of canine and feline atopic dermatitis: Part 1, History, breed, prevalence, genetics, allergens, and the environment. *Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract* 2025 Mar; 55(2): 157-171.

Gentry CM. Updates on the pathogenesis of canine atopic dermatitis and feline atopic skin syndrome: Part 2, the skin barrier, the microbiome, and the immune system dysfunction. *Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract* 2025 Mar; 55(2): 173-187.

Meason C, Salazar R, **Gentry CM.** Alfaxalone provides reliable sedation for intradermal allergen testing in dogs and does not significantly affect results when compared to dexmedetomidine. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2023; 34(5): 404-414.

Lewis DT, Craft WF, **Rossi MA,** Pieper JB. Putative antimicrobial-associated phototoxicity in three dogs. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2023; 34(4): 355-358.

Older CE, Diesel AB, Heseltine JC, Friedeck A, Hedke C, Pardike S, Breitreiter K, **Rossi MA,** Messamore J, Bammert G, Gonzales AJ, Hoffmann AR. Cytokine expression in feline allergic dermatitis and feline asthma. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2021; 32 (6): 613-e16.

Gentry CM. Messinger L. Comparison of intradermal and percutaneous testing to histamine, saline and nine allergens in health adult cats. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2016; 27(5): 370-e92.

Banovic F, Linder KE, Uri M, **Rossi MA**, Olivry T. Clinical and microscopic features of generalized discoid lupus erythematosus in dogs (10 cases). *Veterinary Dermatology* 2016; 27 (6): 488-e131.

Rossi MA, Messinger L, Linder KE, Olivry T. Generalized canine discoid lupus erythematosus responsive to tetracycline and niacinamide therapy. *J Am An Hosp Assoc* 2015; 51(3): 171-175.

Olivry T, **Rossi MA**, Banovic F, Linder KE. Mucocutaneous lupus erythematosus in dogs (21 cases). *Veterinary Dermatology* 2015; 26 (4): 256-e55.

Rossi MA. Balakrishnan N, Linder KE, Messa JB, Breitschwerdt EB. Concurrent *Bartonella henselae* infection in a dog with panniculitis and owner with ulcerated nodular skin lesions. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2015; 26(1): 60-e22.

Rossi MA, Messinger L, Olivry T, Hoontrakoon R. A pilot study of the validation of percutaneous testing in cats. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2013; 24: 488-493.

36. Names of your last 5 residents and whether they are willing to be contacted by potential residents:

- Christina Gentry, DVM, Diplomate ACVD
- Michael Rossi, DVM, MNS, Diplomate ACVD

OK to contact previous residents.