

## Detailed Program Description for ACVD Website

1. Program name and location:  
University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, Saint Paul - MN
2. Is the program currently 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)  
Primary mentor: Dr. Sandra N. Koch, DVM, MS, DACVD  
Years in ACVD: 18 years  
Years as Mentor: 18 years  
  
Contingency mentor: Dr. Melissa Eisenschenk, DVM, MS, DACVD  
Pet Dermatology Clinic  
9712 63rd Ave N, Maple Grove, MN 55369  
PetDermatologyClinic.com  
Years in ACVD: 15 years  
Years as Mentor: 1 year
4. Specific requirements for applying to the program:
  - ✓ Be a graduate of an approved veterinary school or college
  - ✓ Have completed a one-year internship or 2 years of satisfactory practice equivalency
  - ✓ Be approved to practice veterinary medicine in a state of the United States of America, province of Canada, or country of citizenship
  - ✓ Be a member of a National Veterinary Medical Association
  - ✓ Be of satisfactory professional moral and ethical character
5. Length of residency in years: 3
6. Is a Master's degree or PhD required? No If so, which \_\_\_\_\_
7. When the residency was first offered? 1997  
Has it been continuous since then? Yes  
If not continual what years was the residency offered? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many residents have been accepted into the program since inception?  
11 How many of these have become board certified dermatologists? 10
9. What is the average annual dermatology caseload for the institution over the past 5 years? Approximately 3000 cases per year. Note: This number does not include internal consults.

10. What is the average total caseload seen the entire residency? 1800 cases (average cases annually times the number of years of residency). Note: This number does not include internal consults.
11. 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 560
  - b. Rechecks 900
  - c. Consults 200
12. On average, what percentage of the program's cases are dogs and cats?  
dogs approximately 80% cats approximately 20%
13. On average, how many exotic, equine and farm animal cases does the program see per year? Exotics/Zoo animals 0-1 Equine 5 Farm animals 3
14. What percentage of time is the mentor in clinics with the resident while the resident is seeing cases during the resident's first year: 100%, second: 90% and third: 80% (*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.*)
15. Does the program have access to other specialists? Yes  
If so, please list: internal medicine, urology/nephrology, neurology, surgery, cardiology, ophthalmology, oncology, anesthesiology, radiology, nutrition, pathologist.
16. Please describe your library access: There is an easily accessible online and physical library, which has all the veterinary journals and text books and many of the human journals and text books. We also have access to the main campus and medical school libraries, in addition to an extensive online journal access. The College of Veterinary Medicine has its own library. In addition, the Veterinary Library is part of the Health Science Libraries at the University which includes the Biomedical library located at the nearby Minneapolis campus. This Library allows access to hundreds of additional human and public health medical journals and books. The library also offers and supports RefWorks accounts for all residents, facilitating the building of citation databases for quick-reference and future research and publications. All these commodities are available to the residents at no charge.
17. Does the program have statistical support for their residents' research projects? Yes

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

Yes

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

Pathology, clinical pathology, endocrinology, immunology, cytology, cytogenetics, mycology, bacteriology, toxicology, virology, parasitology, urology. The resident interaction with these laboratories will depend on the resident's research project. Previous residents have worked in some of these laboratories and traditionally these laboratories have been very supportive of residents and graduate students.

19. 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: approximately 30-60 minutes per round/case discussion at least 2-3 times a week (formal and/or informal rounds with students and case based discussion with the resident alone) with a total of about 1-3 hours a week (4-12 hours per month).
- b. Journal club: about 6-8 hours/month  
Once a week, the resident(s) discuss four journal articles with the mentor(s) for about 1 and ½ to 2 hours.
- c. Histopathology training: 4 hours/month  
Once every other week, for 2 hours, the resident will review with the preceptor(s) the dermatohistopathologic slides of cases that they were primarily responsible for or cases that they consulted on. In addition, the preceptor will provide slides from a teaching set. The following format is used: the resident(s) looks at the slide first independently and write the description, morphologic diagnosis and differential diagnosis using the form provided by the Examination Committee of the ACVD. Typically, one or two slides are reviewed per session. Thereafter, the resident(s) and preceptor(s) get together to review the slides using a multi-headed microscope. There is no veterinary pathologist or ACVP diplomate present in these rounds.

The resident will also participate in the discussion of dermatohistopathology slides given by a Board certified Pathologist and pathology residents of the Pathobiology department. These discussions occur sporadically (4 to 6 times per year) in the following format: the residents are provided with the slide(s) 7 days prior to the session; they describe the findings and write the morphologic diagnosis. The resident's preceptors also attend and participate in this session.

- d. Basic science learning rounds: 4 hours/month  
The primary mentor provides reading assignment and study guidelines to the residents. The mentor prepares specific questions on the various subjects of structure and function for the residents to answer. A pre-assigned subject is discussed once weekly, for about 1 hour, and the resident(s) have the opportunity to ask questions.
20. 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)  
Health and dental insurance, 15 working-day vacation/year, yearly professional development fund to assist with attendance to the NAVDF and books. Potential candidates can contact the mentor(s) for details.
21. Does the program allow the resident to attend the NAVDF (North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum) meeting annually? Yes, and the mentors strongly encourage the resident(s) to attend the NAVDF.
22. Does the program pay for the resident to attend the NAVDF meeting annually?  
Residents are provided with a fixed amount of money yearly that can be used to attend the NAVDF meetings.
23. Average number of days a resident will spend on clinics per month:  
Years 1-3: 16-17 days/month (or 195 days/year, which is equivalent to 75%/year)
24. Average number of days a resident will spend on non-clinical pursuits per month (not including Sundays or holidays):  
Years 1-3: 4 days/month (or 50 days/year, which is equivalent to approximately 20%/year)
25. Does the resident have to take general medicine emergency duty? No If so how often:
26. Does the resident take Dermatology emergency duty? No  
If so how often:
27. Is time allotted for externships in other subspecialties or at other dermatology practices? If so explain: Yes. Residents can spend up to 2 weeks in another dermatology practice, if needed to compensate for some program deficiencies (e.g. exotics, equine, behavior). However, money may not be available for this pursuit.
28. How much time is allotted off clinics for board preparation?  
Approximately 4 days a month, residents are off clinics and that time is also used for studying and board preparation.

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)? At least 8 weeks; however, the resident will be allotted the time needed to complete all aspects of his/her research project.
30. What are the other responsibilities/duties of the resident?  
The clinical duties of the resident are to see cases, report case information in the computer, write discharge letters or supervise letters written by students, write referral letters, follow-up their own cases, provide internal consults, return referring veterinarians' phone calls and emails, communicate with clients. Identify case reports with the guidance of the mentors, write case reports, write progress reports. Identify a research project, write a proposal/grant proposal, conduct the project, collect and analyze the data, prepare the manuscript for publication in a peer review journal. They are required to present their research in house to house officers, faculty, staff and students and at the NAVDF. They are also required to present at least one lecture to the first or third year veterinary students at least once during their residency program and a total of four scientific presentations to peers, local veterinarians, house officers and faculty. The mentors will supervise the resident closely during the pursuit of each of these requirements.
31. How many residents has the program had over the past 10 years? 10 (not including current resident). All of them became board certified.
32. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed credentials on the
- First submission 9/10
  - Second submission 1/10
  - Third submission or more 0
  - Never passed credentials 0
- PS. Current resident is still on her second year.
33. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) sat boards for the first time
- The year they finished their residency 9/10
  - One year after finishing their residency 1/10
  - Two or more years after finishing 0
  - They never took boards 0
34. How many / what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed the board exam on their
- First time taking the exam 5/9
  - Second time taking the exam 3/9
  - Third time or more taking the exam 1/9

d. Never passed 0

35. Is your residency program reviewed by an outside committee at your university? **Yes.**

If yes how often? **About once a year.**

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

**Carr MN**, Torres SM, Koch SN, Reiter LV. Investigation of the pruritogenic effects of histamine, serotonin, tryptase, substance P and interleukin-2 in healthy dogs. *Vet Dermatol.* 2009 Apr;20(2):105-10.

**Peterson AL**, Torres SMF, Rendahl A, Koch SN. 2012. Frequency of urinary tract infection in dogs with inflammatory skin disorders treated with ciclosporin alone or in combination with glucocorticoid therapy: A retrospective study. *Veterinary Dermatology Journal* 23:201-205.

**Gomes P**, Torres SMF, Plager DA, Jessen CR, Lee JL. 2013. Comparison of three staining methods to identify eosinophils in fixed canine skin. *Veterinary Dermatology Journal* 24:323-28.

**Young AJ**, Torres SMF, Koch SN, Eisenschenk MNC, Rendahl AK. Canine Pruritus Visual Analog Scale: how does it capture owners' perception of their pet's itching level? *Vet Dermatol.* 2019 Oct;30(5):377-e111.

**Strzok EC**, Torres SMF, Moore MEG, Armstrong AR, Koch SN. Pathology in Practice. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2022 May 15;259(S2):1-4.

**Strzok E**, Torres SMF, Koch SN, Rendahl AK. Validation of the 0-10 verbal numeric scale for assessment of pruritus severity in dogs. *Vet Dermatol.* 2022 Jun;33(3):203-e58.

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

Melissa Carr (Eisenschenk)

Andrea Peterson

Paulo Gomes

Amanda Young

Emily Strzok

**Please send completed form to Alexis Borich via email to: [itchypet@aol.com](mailto:itchypet@aol.com)**