

**Residency/ Master's Degree Program in Veterinary Dermatology**  
**The University of Georgia**  
**College of Veterinary Medicine**  
**Athens, GA 30602-7391**  
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**RESIDENCY PRECEPTOR**

Patrick Hensel, Dr. med. vet.  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Dermatology

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATORS**

Pauline Rakich, DVM, PhD  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Pathology

Michaela Austel, Dr. med. vet.

**RESIDENT**

Requirements:

- a) Must be veterinary graduate.
- b) Must have completed successfully a rotating internship or practice equivalent.
- c) Must meet ethical and moral standing in the profession and in the community.
- d) Must acquire licensure (Faculty license) to practice in the State of Georgia.
- e) Must be a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

This is a 4 year residency program, including a Master's degree providing training in clinical veterinary dermatology and dermatohistopathology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia (CVM UGA).

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The goals of the residency program are:

1. To obtain in-depth clinical training in veterinary dermatology.
2. To obtain a master's degree
3. To provide in-depth basic and applied science training as it relates to veterinary dermatology.
4. To meet the dermatological training requirements of the ACVD Credentials Committee.
5. To prepare the resident for the ACVD board exams.

**FACILITY, EQUIPMENT AND CASELOAD**

*Facility:*

The College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Georgia is a large multi-specialty Veterinary Teaching Hospital, which includes small animal medicine and surgery, dermatology, ophthalmology, oncology, cardiology, neurology, community practice,

behavioral medicine, exotic medicine, large animal medicine and surgery, and radiology. Services such as clinical pathology and diagnostic laboratory are available on site. The dermatology service is composed of two exam rooms and one large fully equipped treating area. These areas are managed by a fulltime dermatology technician. For basic and applied science training several rounds and conference rooms are available. Library services include the in-house veterinary library, the science library, which is within walking distance on campus, and the preceptor's and educator's own collection of veterinary texts. The resident has online access to most journals through the University of Georgia library system.

*Equipment:*

The following equipment in the dermatology treating and exam area is present: videoscope unit (Storz), double-headed microscope (Nikon) with screen, 2 digital cameras (Nikon Coolpix 995 and Canon EOS 10D), 2 computers (plus 1 computer in each exam room), and a small library with all current veterinary dermatology books. The preceptor and the educators have each a double-headed microscope with attached digital camera.

*Caseload:*

The dermatology service receives 16 scheduled patients per week. All cases are followed-up by phone and re-examined if possible. Besides that a variable number of dermatological consults are provided by the dermatology service to in-house patients from other services each week. This number of cases ensures that the resident meets the minimum of 500 new cases during the residency.

## **FORMAT OF THE RESIDENCY/ MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM**

The College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia offers a 4 year (208 weeks) residency in dermatology combined with a Master's degree program in dermatohistopathology. The residency provides in-depth training in veterinary dermatology and related basic and applied sciences so that the resident develops a comprehensive knowledge of the dermatologic conditions of domestic animals. The Master's degree program is designed as a focused, flexible, affordable program to train the resident in designing and conducting patient-oriented research that is of exemplary quality. The program assists the resident in fulfilling all of the requirements for board-certification in the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD).

The program will be divided as follows:

- 1) **117 weeks of clinical training** at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia. The resident will have primary case responsibility most of the time and will follow-up his/her cases. The resident will also perform consults on cases from the other services in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- 2) **52 weeks** are dedicated to complete a **Master's degree program**. This includes required coursework and research in the field of dermatohistopathology/cytology.
- 3) **27 weeks** are scheduled for completing **research projects, externship, and board exam preparation**.
- 4) **12 weeks** are allotted for **vacation** (12 days per year), and time to attend **professional meetings** of the AAVD/ACVD, ESVD/ECVD, World Congress in Veterinary Dermatology, or similar meetings.

## PROGRAM PLAN

- 1) During the 117 weeks of clinical training the following is expected from the resident:
  - Take primary case responsibility for dermatology cases. This includes: History taking, physical examination, formulation a problem list and differential diagnosis, performing appropriate tests, formulating treatment plans, follow-up, and communication with clients and referring veterinarians. The dermatology service is receiving 4 days per week. Four appointments are scheduled for each receiving day, for which the resident will have primary responsibility. For a total of 65 weeks (260 days) the resident will be under direct supervision of the preceptor, Patrick Hensel, Dr. med. vet., ACVD. This results in a total of **1040 primary cases under direct supervision of the preceptor**. It will be the resident's responsibility to follow-up these cases. For the remaining 52 weeks (206 days) of clinical duty the resident is expected to consult with the preceptor or clinical educator on a daily basis.
  - Provide consultation for veterinarians and in-house patients.
  - Instruct and supervise senior students during their dermatology rotation.
  - Maintain a detailed case log including: date, owner's name, signalment, diagnosis and follow-up evaluation. Detailed medical records will be maintained on all cases at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Georgia.
  - Review and write a descriptive report of all skin biopsies from cases seen by the resident.
  - Perform at least one clinically oriented research project.
  - Give at least one seminar/scientific presentation per year related to dermatology. These presentations will be supervised by the preceptor.
- 2) During the 52 weeks of the Master's degree program the following is expected from the resident:
  - Take required courses such as: Microscopic Pathology, Cellular Pathology, Special Problem Class (skin portion of diagnostic oncology), Statistic Course, and Biopsy Practicum.
  - Conduct a research project research in the field of dermatohistopathology or cytology in the Department of Pathology with a Departmental faculty advisor that is a member of the University graduate faculty. This includes performing literature searches, designing the research project, and writing a grant proposal.
  - Reading all histopathology slides from skin submitted to the Diagnostic laboratory of the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Georgia.
  - Attend Dermatohistopathology rounds every other week and weekly journal club.
- 3) During the 23 weeks of non-clinical training the following is expected from the resident:
  - Have completed all research projects by the end of the third year. The results will be presented at the AAVD/ACVD, ESVD/ECVD Meetings, or World Congress in Veterinary Dermatology during the second or third year. The results will also be submitted to refereed journals for publication.
  - Externship (3 to 4 weeks) at another College of Veterinary Medicine or Dermatology specialty practices, which are recognized by the ACVD/ECVD as a residency supervisor for dermatology residents.
  - Complete all credentials required from the ACVD, prepare for and take the ACVD board exams.
- 4) Basic and Applied Science Training. During the residency the following Basic and Applied Science Training will be provided:

- *Dermatohistopathology*: Histopathology rounds at least twice monthly (>160 hours total) with the preceptor and/or the pathologist (Dr. Pauline Rakich, DVM, PhD, DACVP). The resident will be trained in histologic principals, normal histoanatomy of the skin, in the use of appropriate dermatopathological vocabulary, and histology of skin diseases of domestic animals. For each session the resident will prepare 4 unknown dermatohistopathologic slides, or slides from the resident's clinical cases, in a written report, including histological description, morphologic diagnosis and if possible aetiological diagnosis. The resident has to present the slides during dermatohistopathology rounds and the written reports will be evaluated by the pathologist. The textbook "Skin Diseases of the Dog and Cat: Clinical and Histopathologic Diagnosis" by Lee Gross et al. will be used for directed reading. A teaching set of dermatohistopathologic slides will be available for the resident to review.
- *Journal Club*: Will be held one hour weekly (169 hours total). Pertinent articles related to dermatology from current veterinary journals, and comparative dermatology and review articles from human journals will be selected and discussed. The resident will also be strongly encouraged to participate in the journal club session of the internal medicine (IM) section of the CVM UGA, which is held one hour weekly (144 hours total).
- *Book review*: Will be held one hour weekly (169 hours total). The purpose of these sessions is to assure that the resident acquires an acceptable level of knowledge in the following areas: function & structure, bacteriology, mycology, virology, parasitology, immunology, oncology, nutrition, internal medicine, genetics, and pharmacology. The reading list includes:
  - "Skin Diseases of the Dog and Cat" by Lee Gross et al.
  - "Small Animal Dermatology" by Muller et al.
  - "Large Animal Dermatology" by Scott
  - "Equine Dermatology" by Scott and Miller
  - "Cellular & Molecular Immunology" by Abbas
  - "Current Veterinary Therapy XII, XIII" by Kirk and Bonagura
  - "Canine and Feline Endocrinology and reproduction" by Feldman
  - "Veterinary Clinics of North America: "Exotic Animal Practice: Dermatology"
  - "Veterinary Dermatopathology" by Gross et al.
  - "Advances in Veterinary Dermatology" Volume 4 & 5
  - "Infectious Diseases of the Dog and Cat" by Greene
- *Continuing Education*. The resident will attend the weekly one hour seminars presented to staff and students here at the CVM UGA. The resident will be strongly encouraged to attend the AAVD/ACVD Meeting each year of the residency.

The resident's knowledge will be evaluated 4 times per year by short quizzes, composed of multiple choice questions and short essay questions. A 4 hour mock test will be performed at the beginning and at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of residency. If areas of weakness are detected, special emphasis will be put on these.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

- 1) This document will be filed with the Education Committee of the ACVD. The resident will get a copy of this document as well as of the ACVD Residency Program Description.

- 2) The resident will complete and submit the ACVD Education Committee registration form at the beginning of the residency.
- 3) Residents whose internships were not through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians have to complete and submit a Practice/Internship Equivalency Form to the ACVD Education Committee for approval.
- 4) The resident will keep a case log according to the current format of the ACVD Education Committee. The log will include: record number, signalment, diagnosis, and indication whether the case was followed.
- 5) The resident must complete and submit a yearly ACVD Progress Report form.
- 6) The resident will receive a written personal evaluation each year. The evaluation will be based on the performance on the clinical floor, evaluation of histopathology reports written by the resident, quizzes and mock tests.
- 7) A copy of this evaluation will be forwarded to the ACVD Education Committee along with the yearly ACVD Progress Report and case log.

## SCHEDULE

### *General schedule during clinical training*

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8 - 9 am		IM Journal Club			CE Seminars
9 - 10 am	Receiving clinical cases	Receiving Clinical cases	Receiving clinical cases	Receiving clinical cases	Dermatohisto- pathology Rounds
10 - 11 am					
11 - 12 am					
1 - 2 pm					Derm Journal Club
2 - 3 pm					Book Review
3 - 4 pm					
4 - 5 pm	Rounds	Rounds	Rounds	Rounds	

### *Specific schedule for each year of residency*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year:**
- *Research:* 37 weeks to complete coursework and start research project required for Master's degree program.
  - *Clinical Training:* 12 weeks under direct supervision of the preceptor.
  - *Basic and Applied Science Training:* Weekly journal club and book review, and histopathology rounds twice monthly.
  - *ACVD Credentials:* - Submit yearly ACVD Progress Report form and case log.
  - *Miscellaneous:* 3 weeks for professional meeting and vacation.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year:**
- *Research:* - 15 weeks to complete research project and Master's degree program.
  - Prepare clinical research project.
  - *Clinical Training:* - 25 weeks under direct supervision of the preceptor.
  - 3 weeks of clinical service under indirect supervision.
  - *Basic and Applied Science Training:* Weekly journal club and book review, and histopathology rounds twice monthly.
  - *ACVD Credentials:* - Submit 1 to 2 case reports.
  - Submit yearly ACVD Progress Report form and case log.
  - *Miscellaneous:* - 6 weeks off clinics for completion of research, publication and board preparation.
  - 3 weeks for professional meeting and vacation.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year:**
- *Research:* - Complete clinical research project.
    - Present the results of the research projects at the Annual AAVD/ACVD Meeting.
    - Submit the research results for publication.
  - *Clinical Training:* - 25 weeks under direct supervision of the preceptor.
    - 15 weeks of clinical service under indirect supervision.
  - *Basic and Applied Science Training:* Weekly journal club and book review, and histopathology rounds twice monthly.
  - *ACVD Credentials:* - All case reports have to be submitted in the third year.
    - Submit yearly ACVD Progress Report form and case log.
  - *Miscellaneous:* - 9 weeks off clinics for completion of research, publication and board preparation.
    - 3 weeks for professional meeting and vacation.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Year:**
- *Clinical Training:* 3 weeks under direct supervision of the preceptor.
    - 34 weeks of clinical service under indirect supervision.
  - *Basic and Applied Science Training:* Weekly journal club and book review, and histopathology rounds twice monthly.
  - *ACVD Credentials:* - Submit complete Credentials package.
    - Submit yearly ACVD Progress Report form and case log.
  - *Miscellaneous:* - 3 weeks for professional meeting and vacation.
    - 12 weeks for studying for board exam at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year.