

# **ZOOLOGICAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA & THE GEORGIA AQUARIUM**

## **Description of Program:**

The Zoological Medicine service of the Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia (UGA) and the Georgia Aquarium (GA) offers a 3 year clinical residency in zoological medicine, approved by the American College of Zoological Medicine. The starting date is August 1, 2010. This program is supervised at the College of Veterinary Medicine by Dr. Stephen Divers (Diplomate of the European and American Colleges of Zoological Medicine), and by Drs. Greg Bossart and Tonya Clauss of the Georgia Aquarium. Residents completing this program will be eligible for the ACZM examinations in Zoological Medicine. The individual completing this program will have attained a broad clinical base for future involvement in a variety of nondomestic animal practices including zoos, aquaria, wildlife parks, research institutions, universities, or exotic pet referral practices.

This is a non-degree graduate student program leading to an official University Certificate of Residency. Tuition for this graduate program is \$25/semester. However, a onetime application fee of \$75 domestic, \$100 international and student fees of approximately \$755 each fall and spring/semester and approximately \$480 for summer semester are required and are the responsibility of the individual. Professional liability insurance is provided, but parking expenses (approx \$480/year) are the responsibility of the individual. Proof of insurance is required. Insurance is available through the Graduate School. Ten days of annual leave and 12 days of sick leave are available. The starting annual salary for 2009-2010 is approximately \$26, 364.

Requirements: Candidates must be fluent in written and spoken English, and foreign applicants whose native language is not English must submit TOEFL scores obtained within the previous 2 years. All applicants must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in their country of origin, and priority is given to those candidates that fulfill the following:

- 1) 2-4 years of practice experience in domestic animal, exotic, zoo or aquatic animal medicine, or completion of a 1-year small animal rotating and/or exotic/zoo/aquarium internship. General clinical competency is essential.
- 2) Previous veterinary experience at a US institution with a reference from the supervising veterinarian (e.g. externships at US veterinary hospitals, zoos, aquaria, or private practices). An externship at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, or the Georgia Aquarium can often be arranged.
- 3) Excellent academic record with previous research experience and veterinary publications. (Submission of a class rank helps in the evaluation of non-US veterinary graduates).

Approximately 2/3 of the resident's time will be spent in the Zoological Medicine service within the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and include field activities at a variety of local collections including Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail and Sandy Creek Nature Reserve. The annual hospital and field caseload per house officer is approx 500 cases/yr. In every 12 month period, the resident will spend approximately 10 months on-clinic duty and approximately 2 months off-clinics fulfilling their scholarly requirements for research and publications. Additional specialist externships, either within the College of Veterinary Medicine (e.g. anesthesia, clinical pathology, pathology, surgery, internal medicine, wildlife, avian), The University of Georgia (e.g. Ecology, Forestry) or at regional zoological institutions are also possible. The residency period at UGA emphasizes clinical training in the principles of zoological medicine and surgery, and is approximately distributed as follows: 45% avian, 35% mammals, 18% reptiles/amphibians, and 2%

fish/invertebrates. Approximately 80% of the caseload is represented by privately owned companion animals, 15% native wildlife, and 5% zoo animals. In addition to a supervising on-clinic faculty, the resident is aided by a full-time intern, certified technician, 2-3 veterinary assistants, and 3-5 senior veterinary students on 3-week elective rotations. Specialists from all disciplines are available for consultation and an extensive support infrastructure, typical of a veterinary college, is available. The resident is encouraged to attend and present at a national or international conference every year, as well as attend lectures or seminars in the College of Veterinary Medicine or on the university campus. The intern will work under the supervision of senior faculty and will be responsible for (1) participating in the daily activities of the medical service of the hospital including primary case responsibilities and case rounds; (2) participating in regular visits to Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail, and Sandy Creek Nature Reserve; (3) providing assistance in instruction and supervision of the zoological intern, and veterinary students assigned to exotics duty; (4) providing emergency weekend and night-time back-up for exotic species admitted by the small animal emergency interns within the teaching hospital (on a rotating basis with the exotic intern), with faculty support; (5) participate in the annual visit to the Georgia Southern University Wildlife Center; (6) presenting one 45-minute seminar to the College each year and active participation in zoological journal club rounds.

Approximately 1/3 of the resident's time is spent at The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health at the Georgia Aquarium and provides a unique opportunity to gain experience in the field of aquatic animal medicine at one of the largest aquariums in the world. The Center encompasses areas of animal nutrition, water quality and pathology and clinical services. The staff consists of 4 veterinarians, 2 pathologists, 1 parasitologist, 1 nutritionist, 2 certified veterinary technicians and 1 pathology technician. The GA has a state of the art veterinary hospital with equipment comparable to that found at a teaching hospital and provides veterinary and preventive health care for a collection consisting of aquatic mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, elasmobranch and teleost fish and invertebrates. The resident will assist the Center's staff with the daily operation of clinical animal care and the pathology, husbandry and research programs for a wide variety of taxa. The resident will be responsible for performing diagnostic procedures and administering treatments in addition to assisting with the maintenance of clinical records, daily case rounds and implementation of a program of preventative medicine. Additionally, the resident will assist with marine mammal stranding cases at the aquarium's new Dolphin Conservation Field Station at Marineland, Florida and be able to participate in an ongoing Atlantic bottlenose dolphin health assessment project in the Indian River Lagoon, Florida. Research collaborations exist with the Avian and Wildlife Laboratory, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami, Florida and the Marine Mammal Research and Conservation Program, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

The ACZM requires that all residents receive, in addition to clinical training, some exposure to investigative approaches during their residency. A Residency Research Project is a requirement of all Residents in the Department of SAMS, and the awarding of a Resident Certificate is dependent on completion of this project and acceptance for publication by March of the third year. Limited funds are available through the Pamela de Journo Endowment Fund for the residency research project, but grant submission for extramural grants is encouraged under faculty mentorship. In addition, residents are also required by the ACZM to submit FIVE first-author manuscripts for publication (incl a clinical research project and no more than 4 case reports) by March of the third year. A major aim of this residency program is to graduate veterinarians who are eligible to take the ACZM examinations in zoological medicine. To attain this goal, it is necessary to complete the publication requirements by March of the 3rd year. Assuming this goal is met, the resident will be eligible to sit the exam in the fall of the same year as completing the residency. The successful candidate will be licensed to practice within the College of Veterinary Medicine by virtue of a faculty license. The faculty license permits veterinarians from non-AVMA (American

Veterinary Medical Association) accredited vet schools to practice within the residency program of the hospital, and may be obtained without examination. [To obtain a regular Georgia state license, one must be a graduate of an AVMA-accredited institution or have completed the requirements of the ECFVG (Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates, <http://www.avma.org/defaultecfvfg.asp>) program of the AVMA, and take the Georgia State Board examination. The residency cannot be used to satisfy the clinical evaluation portion of the ECFVG because of the licensure requirements.]

International applicants are required to provide two official/certified copies of their academic records from each institution of higher education that the applicant has attended. These records must include all course work. Photocopies are not acceptable. Separate proof of degrees is also required. If the original language of the academic record is not English, a certified English translation must be attached to the original. Applicants who graduated from a non-English language veterinary school must submit official TOEFL scores (see <http://www.toefl.org> for details). These scores must not be more than two years old. Foreign applicants that have completed a year of academic study in the US can provide a university transcript in lieu of TOEFL scores. A valid US driving license is required. All applications must be made through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians Veterinary Internship and Residency Matching Program, further details available from [www.virmp.org](http://www.virmp.org). Potential applicants are encouraged to contact and/or visit UGA/GA for further information ([www.vet.uga.edu/zoo](http://www.vet.uga.edu/zoo); ). Alternatively, representatives from these facilities are usually present at the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine, Association of Avian Veterinarians, Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians, and Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians.

**To apply please contact the matching program at [www.virmp.org](http://www.virmp.org)**

For questions about this program;

*UGA Contact-*

Dr. Stephen Divers BVetMed DZooMed MRCVS DACZM Dip. ECZM(herp) FRCVS, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, email: [sdivers@uga.edu](mailto:sdivers@uga.edu), tel: 1-706-206-7753, [www.vet.uga.edu/zoo](http://www.vet.uga.edu/zoo)

*Georgia Aquarium Contact-*

Dr Gregory D. Bossart, VMD PhD, Senior Vice President and Chief Veterinary Officer, Georgia Aquarium, 225 Baker Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30313, email: [gbossart@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:gbossart@georgiaaquarium.org), tel: 404-581-4304, [www.georgiaaquarium.org](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org)