Residency Program in Dermatology

Auburn University

Department of Clinical Sciences

Auburn, AL 36849

1. Introduction
   1. The Department of Clinical Sciences at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (AU-CVM) offers a residency training program in veterinary dermatology.
   2. This three-year program provides intensive training in basic, clinical and comparative dermatology and clinical investigative dermatology.
   3. The residency conforms in all requirements to the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD) Education Committee Guidelines for residency programs and is subject to routine review with modification by the ACVD.
   4. Goals of the program are to train an expert veterinary dermatology clinical scientist and to prepare them for ACVD board-certification examination qualification.
   5. All resident candidates must be able to meet entrance requirements for the AU Graduate School and must be enrolled in the AU Graduate School as either a non-degree seeking graduate student (US citizens only) or as a degree-seeking Master of Science graduate student (US citizens and nonresident aliens) throughout their residency program.
2. Program Objectives for the Dermatology Resident
   1. To develop comprehensive, state-of-the-art expertise and clinical proficiency in veterinary dermatology and confidence to independently manage routine and complex skin conditions in all domestic animals.
   2. To gain in-depth knowledge of cutaneous anatomy, physiology, pathology, microbiology, immunology and pharmacology to enhance the understanding of the pathophysiologic basis of cutaneous disease and principles of therapy.
   3. To have a general knowledge of internal medicine as it relates to diseases of the skin.
   4. To meet the criteria necessary to qualify for Board Certification by the ACVD.
   5. To develop a scholarly and inquiring approach to dermatology for preparation of future career goals of teaching, clinical research, scientific publication, and/or specialty practice to make significant contributions to veterinary dermatology.
   6. To gain experience in investigative research and grantsmanship.
   7. To have a working understanding of comparative dermatology through reading of literature and attending annual dermatology conferences.
3. Program Director and Supporting Faculty
   1. The current program director is Dr. Amelia White. The Dermatology faculty of the Auburn University Department of Clinical Sciences (AU-DCS) include Amelia White, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVD (primary mentor) and Robert Kennis, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVD (co-mentor). Additionally, there is a full time dermatology technician, Missy Streicher, CVT, VTS (Dermatology). There are several floater technicians to help as needed. Additional educators include board-certified pathologists for dermatohistopathology training: Dr. Rachel Neto, DVM, MS, DACVP and Dr. Jey Koehler, DVM, PhD, DACVP.
4. Prerequisites: The resident/applicant must meet the following requirements before commencing in the Dermatology Residency:
   1. Be a graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-approved veterinary school or college, or a graduate of an accredited and recognized school from another country.
   2. Have completed a one-year internship or **satisfactory practice equivalency**. For practice equivalency or for **any internship not administered by the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians matching program**, a letter stating the dates of training; the names, addresses and phone numbers of the veterinarians in charge of the training; and a description of the clinical experience, including opportunities for problem solving, must be submitted along with the application.
   3. 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.
   4. Be a member of the AVMA.
   5. Be of satisfactory moral and ethical character, and abide by the ACVD Ethics Pledge and Code of Conduct, the AVMA Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics, and applicable laws, the code of conduct of Auburn University, and not have any felony (or equivalent) convictions.
   6. Candidates must complete and submit the following application documents:
      1. A standard residency application form (V.I.R.M.P.).
      2. A statement of objectives for the residency and of career goals.
      3. A transcript of academic records.
      4. Three letters of reference from individuals currently familiar with the applicant's professional status.
      5. A current curriculum vitae.
      6. *Applicants who have not completed a standard North American internship* must also submit documents describing their clinical experience (See 2 above.)
   7. Applications should be mailed to:

Dr. Fred Caldwell

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1. Program Facilities
   1. The Auburn Veterinary Teaching Hospital a full service, referral teaching hospital which offers specialty services to the general public and referral services. The specialty services offered in addition to veterinary dermatology include small animal internal medicine, small animal cardiology, veterinary ophthalmology, small animal orthopedic and soft tissue surgery, veterinary radiology, small animal clinical oncology (including radiation therapy), exotic animal medicine, small animal and equine acupuncture, small animal physical therapy, equine surgery, equine internal medicine, equine sports medicine, theriogenology, food animal medicine and surgery and herd health. These services are supported by full service in-house laboratories in clinical pathology, pathobiology/histopathology, clinical endocrinology, microbiology, serology, virology, and clinical pharmacology. There is a full service pharmacy with on staff pharmacists.
   2. The dermatology service has a full time veterinary technician with veterinary technician specialty certification in dermatology. There are three, double-headed microscopes in the dermatology treatment area, and two double-headed microscopes in the mentors’ offices. One dermatology service microscope is dedicated for histopathology and has the capacity of digital imaging of microscopic specimens (Nikon Eclipse Ci-L double headed microscope with digital sight DS-Fi2 camera capture). A digital camera is available for acquisition of clinical images (digital Canon EOS Rebel Series with video recording capabilities and macro-focus lens). Two Storz video otoscopes (Xenon Nova model and WD300 model) with monitor and recording capabilities. An Aesculight CO2 LASER is available for performing routine surgical procedures that is to be housed in the dermatology department, but shared by the small and large animal hospitals. Cryotherapy utilizing either a handheld liquid nitrogen canister (Cry-Ac-3 cryogun by Brymill), a stationary probe (Frigitonics), or a hand-held nitrous oxide unit (CryoProbe®) is available for treatment of dermatology lesions. Routine diagnostic and therapeutic procedures appropriate to a referral specialty service other than radiation therapy are performed within the dermatology section. Duplicate histopathological microscope slides are provided on all skin biopsy specimens submitted for resident/faculty review and are catalogued for future reference.
   3. The AU-CVM is supported by a medical and scientific research library, professionally staffed and with computer, video and other research support facilities. The residents are provided with photocopying privileges, inter-library loan services, and photographic services. Many electronic books are available through the AU-CVM library including several major dermatology textbooks. Journal articles are maintained in the AU-CVM on-site library, or available through interlibrary loan request with ease.
2. Master’s degree program:
   1. The resident will be knowledgeable about and responsible for meeting all ACVD deadlines (see ACVD Education Committee guidelines) and all AU Graduate School deadlines (see AU Graduate Student handbook).
   2. All resident candidates must be able to meet entrance requirements for the AU Graduate School (the GRE requirement is waived, see below) and must be enrolled in the AU Graduate School as either a non-degree seeking graduate student (US citizens only) or as a Master of Science (or PhD student in some programs) graduate student (US citizens and nonresident aliens) throughout their residency program.
   3. All residents receive a tuition waiver for graduate courses and are partially subsidized for health insurance. It should be noted that graduate school fees (regardless of non-degree seeking or degree seeking status) and insurance costs amounting to approximately $3,000 per year are the responsibility of the resident and are subject to change.
   4. Residents enrolled in a Master of Science graduate program are required to take graduate courses each semester and to participate in research activities under the guidance of a faculty member. The combination of graduate courses and research activities should culminate in the successful resident achieving a Master of Science degree. Residents enrolled as non-degree seeking graduate students have the option of enrolling in relevant graduate courses to their specialty and board preparation; however, specific course enrollment may also be required by the resident’s mentor.
   5. If a nonresident alien (international) candidate is accepted into a residency program at AU-CVM, they must be enrolled in the AU Graduate School as a Master of Science (or PhD student in some programs) student due to visa requirements.
   6. The resident will adhere to the guidelines in the policies and procedures handbook for graduate studies in the Biomedical Sciences program at Auburn University. Auburn University classifies residents within the Department of Clinical Sciences as Graduate Students.
   7. Graduate School:
      1. Residency programs at AU-CVM require applicants to have a DVM degree or equivalent and to have completed an internship (or equivalent experience). If a candidate matches with Auburn through the VIRMP or is accepted for a residency program through another mechanism, admissions requirements to the Auburn University Graduate School must be fulfilled; however, the GRE requirement is waived. Original transcripts for ALL college coursework will be required.

If an international candidate is accepted into a residency program at AU-CVM, all international applicants MUST SUBMIT an OFFICIAL score on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) directly to the Auburn University Graduate School from the Education Testing Service or IELTS (International English Language Testing System). Exemptions are considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on their official government language and medium of instruction. Students MUST SCORE at least 550 on the paper TOEFL (pBT), 213 on the computer TOEFL (cBT), and 79 on the internet TOEFL (iBT) or 6.5 Overall Band Score on the IELTS to be considered for admission. On the iBT, students must score a minimum of 16 on the four component parts of the iBT (reading, listening, speaking, and writing).

* 1. Licensure:
     1. If a candidate is accepted into a residency program at AU-CVM, all requirements must be met to hold and maintain a faculty license in the State of Alabama. – See http://asbvme.alabama.gov/default.aspx and click the “licensee” and “faculty application” links for information on licensure requirements.
  2. Background Check:
     1. Employment at Auburn University is contingent upon verification of credentials and successful completion of a background check.

1. Clinical Program Description
   1. The Dermatology clinics are organized into 50-51 weeks of clinical receiving five full days per week. The service remains open during the annual North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum (NAVDF) (reduced case load, one dermatologist stays behind), and residents are required to attend NAVDF (and the resident education day) each year. The service is open during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday time with the exception of University mandated days off. When the teaching hospital is on emergency-only status, dermatology consultations will be provided as needed by the resident and/or mentor on-call. In addition, the service performs an average of 6 to 12 in-house consultations per week, including approximately one large animal/equine/exotic case per month. The current clinical case load surpasses the minimum ACVD requirement for clinical residency training (ACVD requirement: 2921 cases over 3 years or 973.6 cases per year; AU Dermatology service: average 2334 cases per year seen over years 2018-2023). The resident will maintain an updated case log in accordance with the ACVD Education guidelines.
   2. The time allocated to clinical duty, elective rotations, research responsibilities, and personal leave are reasonably flexible each year depending on the needs of the resident, their involvement/goals for research training, and the ACVD Education guidelines.
   3. The resident will be under the direct supervision of the faculty dermatologist. However, the resident will have primary case responsibility for dermatology patients in all aspects of diagnosis and therapy. In general, the mentor will directly supervise the resident during clinical receiving for 98% of cases in their first year, 95% of cases in their second year, and 90% of cases in their third year.
   4. In accordance with the ACVD guidelines, a log will be maintained of all cases for which the resident has primary responsibility. This log will contain patient identification, signalment, and tentative/final diagnosis(es). This log will be used for submission of the Annual Residency Report to the ACVD education committee as requested.
   5. Clinical Program - Year I
      1. During the first year of the residency, the dermatology resident (referred to as resident) will be assigned to the Dermatology service (DS) for 37 weeks (185 days) of clinical receiving.
      2. Weekly designated time will be used for journal club, book review and histopathology as directed by the mentors.
      3. Requested time off for personal leave, research, or elective rotations must be approved by the mentor.
      4. The first year resident will be required to rotate in Companion Animal Internal Medicine for 2 weeks (10 days) at the mentors’ discretion. Otherwise, clinical time will be spent assigned to the dermatology service.
      5. There will be 6 weeks (30 days) available for clinical research.
      6. The resident will have up to 2 weeks (10 days) of personal leave. University holidays are in addition to the 2 weeks of personal leave, and residents will be responsible for back-up duties on these holidays (responsibility will be spread evenly amongst residents).
      7. The resident will not participate in routine emergency duty with other specialty residents and interns with the exception of responding to dermatological emergency cases that are received by other services.
      8. Dermatology residents will share responsibility for responding to after-hours dermatology-related phone questions from the AU-CVM emergency (ER) service. Rarely, the resident and/or mentor may come in after-hours for dermatological emergency cases received through the ER service.
      9. The degree-seeking residents will be required to attend graduate classes for a Master’s degree. Non-degree seeking residents may be required to attend graduate classes at the discretion of the resident program advisors. Classes are typically within the AU-CVM but attendance on main campus may be needed. The resident will be excused from clinical responsibility to attend class. Every attempt will be made to schedule classes so that they will not interfere with clinical receiving. Classes will be selected based on suitability to dermatology board-certification preparation and research preparation. These classes account for the “book chapter” review training for board examination preparation and, along with journal club and histopathology, equates to 5 weeks (25 days) of nonclinical training per year for a total of 15 weeks (75 days) of nonclinical training over the course of the residency.
      10. The resident will be expected to attend the annual NAVDF or World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology (WCVD) conference.
      11. All periods of leave from clinical duty requires the approval of dermatology faculty and coincide with optimal time from clinical responsibility.
   6. Clinical Program- Year II
      1. Reappointment to the second year of the residency program is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the first year's requirements and the approval of the AU Residency Committee and ACVD Education Committee.
      2. Designated off clinics time of 6 weeks and nonclinical training of 5 weeks per year is identical to Year I.
         1. An optional 2 weeks (10 days) on an extramural rotation may be considered to be taken from the 6 weeks of off clinics time.
         2. University holidays (2 weeks) are in addition to the 2 weeks of personal leave, and residents will be responsible for back-up duties on these holidays (responsibility will be spread evenly amongst residents).
      3. Requested time off must be approved by the mentor.
   7. Clinical Program- Year III
      1. Reappointment to the second year of the residency program is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the first year's requirements and the approval of the AU Residency Committee and ACVD Education Committee.
      2. Designated off clinics time of 6 weeks and nonclinical training of 5 weeks per year is identical to Years I & II.
         1. An optional 2 weeks (10 days) on an extramural rotation may be considered to be taken from the 6 weeks of off clinics time.
         2. University holidays (2 weeks) are in addition to the 2 weeks of personal leave, and residents will be responsible for back-up duties on these holidays (responsibility will be spread evenly amongst residents).
      3. Requested time off must be approved by the mentor.
      4. Residents will not be allowed to accumulate large blocks of time to take at the end of the residency period. Instead, time should be evenly dispersed over the year to avoid scheduling conflicts with the dermatology service.
   8. Hospital responsibilities
      1. The resident is expected to adhere to all AU-CVM protocols and to exhibit responsibility, initiative and professional dress and demeanor at all times.
      2. Medical records must be completed in a timely manner and an ACVD case log maintained and up to date.
      3. Provide clinical service in the area of dermatology as needed during assignment to the clinical rotation including scheduled appointments, in-house consultation, and phone or email consultations with the guidance of the mentor.
      4. Supervise day-to-day care of patients admitted to the hospital.
      5. Assist in the clinical teaching of students assigned to the dermatology service including daily rounds and case rounds discussions along with mentors.
      6. Provide optimal client service and prompt, professional communications with referring veterinarians.
2. Didactic Training
   1. Didactic training includes all non-clinical aspects of dermatology training such as case rounds, journal club, basic sciences subject matter review, dermatohistopathology, research/research publication, and ACVD case report requirement (see ACVD Education Guidelines). A minimum of 165 days (1320 hours) over 3 years will be dedicated to didactic training and off clinics time.
   2. Rounds and Seminar Program
      1. In the first year of the residency, the resident will present one class lecture to the third year veterinary students in VMED 9810
      2. In the second year and third years of the residency, the resident will present up to two class lectures in VMED 9810.
      3. The resident is expected to attend and participate in scheduled M+M (morbidity and mortality) rounds and department house officer seminar series. Each resident is required to present one seminar per year at the department house officer seminar series, and they may present a case for M+M rounds yearly if a suitable case exists.
         1. The seminar topic in the first year will relate to the original research idea.
         2. The seminar topic in the second year will relate to a dermatology topic.
         3. The seminar topic in the final year will relate to the original research conducted by the resident.
         4. An Auburn DCS faculty member(s) will be selected by the resident to mentor both case presentations and seminar preparation. Manuscripts submitted for publication will be reviewed, revised and coauthored by an Auburn DCS faculty member(s).
         5. Seminars will be approximately 40 minutes in length with an additional 10-15 minute question/discussion period to follow.
         6. Each seminar presentation will be evaluated by the audience (faculty and house officers only) using an established form.
   3. Clinical Case and Topic Rounds, Journal Club, Subject Matter Review, and Dermatohistopathology
      1. The resident will participate in and be expected to conduct routine (daily) dermatology clinical case and topic rounds in the clinic rotation with veterinary students and the mentor.
      2. Participation in regularly scheduled dermatology journal club and basic science subject matter review sessions will be integrated within the semester schedule with the exception of holidays and personal leave time. Resources will include veterinary dermatology textbooks, journal articles, and other resources deemed important by the mentor(s). A complete reading list is available in the ACVD Education guidelines.
         1. Prepare one to two multiple choice questions for each journal article discussed for review by the mentor weekly.
         2. Prepare topic summaries to serve as study guides for review by the mentor.
      3. The resident will participate in scheduled dermatohistopathology rounds weekly, and will review and interpret all individual case skin biopsy samples submitted by the dermatology department.
         1. The resident is required to review all biopsies obtained by the DS prior to the subsequent conference and expected to complete an analysis form for selected cases. The total time devoted to the sessions is expected to include 2-4 hours/week with 1 hour weekly with dermatologist and/or pathologist.
         2. The resident will prepare disease summaries to serve as study guides after slide interpretation for review by the mentor.
   4. Research and Scholarly Activity
      1. The resident will be required to design, obtain funding for (unless already obtained), perform, and document results in a publishable form of a research project under the guidance of an appropriate mentor including the dermatology faculty. The project will be presented at the annual dermatology meeting or another approved meeting (see ACVD Credentials Committee Guidelines) during the resident's second or third year.
         1. Sources of Support: The resident will submit the research proposal to the organized research funding provided by the ACVD and AAVD. Additional outside sources will be identified by the mentor(s). Limited funds may be provided by the Department of Clinical Sciences.
         2. One research manuscript suitable for publication in a referred journal during the course of the residency will be required, as outlined in the ACVD guidelines. Any additional publications of additional research or case reports will be strongly encouraged. The publication will include a DCS faculty member(s) as co-author(s). This publication may be a retrospective or prospective research study. A copy of this manuscript will be submitted to the ACVD Credentials Committee.
      2. The resident will complete one traditional case report as required by the ACVD Credentials Committee. Additional case report publications are encouraged but not required.
   5. Continuing Education/Travel/Support
      1. The resident is expected to attend the annual veterinary dermatology meeting (NAVDF or WCVD) and will receive annual support if available. Attendance at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology or other similar national or international dermatology meetings is encouraged.
         1. Participation in the resident’s forum as well as the scientific meeting is required.
         2. The department may have a limited amount of travel funding available to the resident on a yearly basis, contingent on budgetary constraints.
      2. The resident is encouraged to attend continuing education meetings sponsored by the AU-CVM and local, regional, or national veterinary organizations. Attendance must be approved by the resident’s advisor and AU Resident Committee Chairman or department head. The resident will be encouraged to present continuing education seminars at AU-CVM Annual Conference. Proceeds from this program may be used to support resident travel, book purchases, or university allowed expenditures.

1. Resident Evaluation and Reappointment
   1. The resident will receive a once to twice yearly performance evaluation to provide a continual evaluation of progress within the program. Every 6-12 months, the AU-DCS Residency Committee will review and discuss the resident evaluations and provide feedback. Any major concerns regarding resident performance will be brought to the attention of the ACVD Education Committee.
      1. The AU-DCS Residency Committee is composed of a faculty representative of each house officer program and an appointed chair. It will be responsible for:
         1. Bi-annual review of the resident's progress.
         2. Annual recommendation for reappointment of the resident.
         3. Review of the residency program prior to placement in the matching program.
   2. The resident is responsible to organize other meetings with the chosen graduate committee as deemed necessary. The dermatology faculty will be included as committee members.
   3. A detailed ACVD Resident Assessment Report will be completed once yearly by the resident for submission to the ACVD per ACVD Education Guidelines.
   4. A Benchmarks Annual Evaluation will be completed by the mentor and discussed with the resident prior to submission to the ACVD Education Committee annually. The ACVD Resident Minimum Competency Assessment will be utilized during these resident annual reviews.
   5. Reappointment for the second and third year of the residency program is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the previous year's requirements. Following the review process, the committee will make a recommendation to the Head of the DCS Department to either:
      1. Continue the appointment for the following year unconditionally or with probation.
      2. Award a certificate upon satisfactory completion of the residency training program.
      3. Recommend non-reappointment.
         1. In the event of an unsatisfactory performance, the committee will have the option, in conjunction with the program mentor, of recommending non-reappointment for the subsequent year of the residency program. Such recommendation will be forwarded to the Head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences for action. If non-reappoint is the action chosen by the Head of the Department, the resident will be given 90 days’ notice of termination.
   6. Upon completion of externship visits in other programs, the resident will prepare a review of the rotation and case log to present to the faculty mentor(s) within one month of return. The goal is to share strengths and weakness of the out-rotation experience.
   7. The resident will update curriculum vitae yearly for review by the mentor.
2. **Summary of Proposed Clinical Schedule:**
   1. The program described above will result in a minimum of 4440 hours (555 days, 111 weeks) of clinical training over a three year period with a minimum of 500 cases over three years; a minimum of 1320 hours (165 days) of nonclinical training over a three year period with time allotted for research, journal club, basic science review, dermatohistopatology; and 6 weeks of personal leave plus University holidays over a three year period. Time off clinics will be adjusted by the mentors dependent upon the needs of the research time.

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| **Year of Residency** | **Dermatology Service** | **Internal Medicine Service** | **Externship** | **JC/Histopath/Basic Science Training** | **Research** | **Vacation** |
| 1 | 37 (185) | ± 2 (10) | 0 (0) | ±5 (25) | 6 (30) | 2 (10) |
| 2 | 37 (185) | 0 (0) | ± 2 (10) | ±5 (25) | 6 (30) | 2 (10) |
| 3 | 37 (185) | 0 (0) | ± 2 (10) | ±5 (25) | 6 (30) | 2 (10) |

\*Time for each area represented in 5-day work weeks (days).

Minimum Clinical Days: 555 full 8hr days, 4440 hr total

Minimum Nonclinical Days: 165 full 8hr days, 1320 hr total

Minimum Vacation Days: 2 weeks vacation and about 2 weeks of University Holidays per year; 12 weeks total