

The Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Texas A&M University offers a 12-month National Institute on Aging (NIA)-funded post-doctoral fellowship (Clinical Trials Fellow) in canine longevity research. We are in our third year of this program and, to date, have recruited over 29,000 dogs from across the USA representing over 240 different breeds.

The Clinical Trials Fellow will work closely with Dr. Kate Creevy and other members of the multi-institutional team of the Dog Aging Project (dogagingproject.org), the largest, prospective, long-term study on the genetic and environmental influences on health and disease in companion dogs that has ever been undertaken. Fellows who complete this program will continue their residency or research careers better prepared to design and administer clinical trials, pose pertinent research questions, compose manuscripts, and discover new knowledge in any area of veterinary medicine, or will continue their practice careers uniquely qualified to interpret scientific literature and care for their aging canine patients.

The goal of the one-year fellowship program is to provide the Fellow with knowledge and experience in large-scale prospective clinical research through exposure to and active involvement with protocol design, participant enrollment, participant communication, big data collection, supervision of clinical trial patients and the management of a federally funded large-scale research program, the Dog Aging Project. The Fellow will work to establish systems for the collection and harmonization of specialized survey and medical history data and to develop skills in large-scale data modeling and analysis. The Fellow will be heavily involved in a phase 3 rapamycin clinical trial known as TRIAD (Test of Rapamycin in Aging Dogs). This will be a groundbreaking study; it is the first clinical trial ever with the primary objective of determining whether the study medication increases lifespan. Additionally, it will be one of the largest veterinary clinical trials ever conducted, and the Fellow will work with veterinary specialists at the seven participating veterinary teaching hospitals.

The Fellow will submit at least one first-author peer-reviewed publication prior to completion of the training program. Previous Fellows have headed projects on a variety of topics, including:

- Evaluating the ability of low-dose rapamycin to improve age-related decline in cardiac function in healthy companion dogs
- Developing a novel owner-directed survey to better characterize cause of death and reasons for euthanasia
- Describing the frequency of comorbidities and risk factors associated with canine osteoarthritis
- Evaluating the effect of low-dose rapamycin on cognitive function in healthy companion dogs
- Validating a standardized canine behavior and temperament survey

There will be up to 3 two-week clinical rotations of the Fellow's choice during the year, and the Fellow will participate in the care of patients enrolled into the clinical trials associated with the Dog Aging Project at Texas A&M University Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). The Fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in the Department's strong didactic house officer education program, which includes a house officer seminar series, weekly rotating intern topic rounds presented by faculty or residents, twice monthly rotating intern skills rounds, ECG rounds, and various specialty services' journal clubs and topic rounds.

The VMTH is a well-maintained facility with sophisticated diagnostic and patient care technology: color-flow Doppler ultrasonography, 4D transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography, digital fluoroscopy, scintigraphy, computed tomography, 3T MRI, flexible and rigid video endoscopy, nuclear imaging, direct and indirect blood pressure monitors, acid-base/blood-gas analyzers, capnographs, and pulse oximeters. Radiation capabilities include TomoTherapy and iridium implant brachytherapy. Surgical instrumentation allows complex orthopedic, thoracic, and abdominal procedures. Strong support services including nuclear medicine, clinical pathology, radiation therapy, clinical microbiology and physical rehabilitation promote optimal patient management and clinical investigation.

APPLICATION PACKAGE: Application materials should be submitted to Ms. Nicole Waltman in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (nwaltman@cvm.tamu.edu). Receipt of a complete application (letter of intent, curriculum vitae, veterinary school transcript, and names and contact information for three references) by June 1, 2021 is required. Applicants are requested to list telephone number(s) that would enable them to be contacted during the months of April 2021 through June 2021. Note that the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences will not sponsor applicants for H-1B or E-3 non-immigrant employee categories.

Highly rated candidates will be invited for a Zoom/telephone interview following application review. Our search strategy includes the possibility that we contact individuals (by telephone or e-mail) who were provided as referees, as well as additional people who were not on your reference list. Please contact our administrator (nwaltman@cvm.tamu.edu) no more than five business days after applying if you do not give permission for direct contact with individuals listed as references or others who may have interacted with you in the past.

Your letter of intent should be one to two pages in length and discuss your expectations of this Fellowship program and your future professional goals. In addition, we encourage you to describe your anticipated contributions to this project. These may include life experiences, background, past activities or unique personal characteristics that would contribute to the program in meaningful ways.

BENEFIT PACKAGE: This position is eligible for a benefits package and participation in a retirement program is required. Upon employment, you may choose to immediately enroll in a Texas A&M University System sponsored health insurance plan, provided you pay the full cost of premiums. You may also defer enrollment in a health plan until the first of the month following a 60-day waiting period from your date of hire. The costs of benefit programs are shared by the employee and Texas A&M University. The employee's cost for benefits varies with the number and types of benefit programs selected. Employees of Texas A&M University participate in the federal Social Security program and either the Texas Teacher's Retirement program (TRS) or the Optional Retirement Program (ORP). Since you will be making your benefit selections on or before your first day of work, you may want to familiarize yourself with the Employee Benefits Guide which can be found at <https://employees.tamu.edu/benefits/new-employees.html>. Fellows accrue vacation, sick leave, and compensation time.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: Texas A&M University is in Bryan-College Station, TX; a community of ~200,000, located between Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio.

Bryan-College Station – <http://www.bschamber.org/>

Texas A&M University – <http://www.tamu.edu/>

Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences – <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/>

Texas A&M University is a smoke-free workplace.

Texas A&M University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educator fully committed to maintaining diversity among our personnel in order to strengthen the success of our mission.