



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



The Global
Engagement
Program

Annual Report 2019 – 2020

Creating veterinarians for an interconnected world.



Table of Contents

Administrative Details..... 3

Global Engagement Program Team..... 4

Summary of Progress 5

Travel Scholarship Recipients..... 9

Plans for 2020 - 2021 13



Administrative Details

*The Global Engagement Program **organizes, enhances, and promotes** global engagement within the College of Veterinary Medicine by supporting immersive student experiences that take place anywhere, from internationally to within our local community.*

Established: November 2018

Budget: \$20,000 for Travel Scholarships

\$6,000 for Program Leader

\$5,000 for Program Fellow

Website: <https://vet.osu.edu/departments-offices/global-engagement-program>





Global Engagement Program Team

Program Leader:



Rebecca Garabed,
VMD, MPVM,
PhD

Program Fellow:



Melanie Lopez,
BS

Faculty Steering Committee:



Amanda Berrian,
DVM, MPH, PHD



Armando Hoet,
DVM, PhD



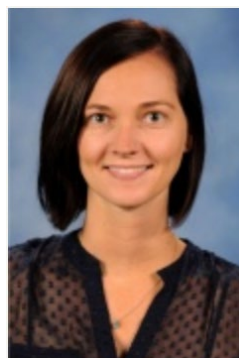
Wondwossen Gebreyes,
DVM, PhD



Nongnuch Inpanbutr,
DVM, MS, PhD



Jeanette O'Quin,
DVM, MPH



Selena Tinga,
DVM, PhD, DACVS-SA



Ramiro Toribio,
DVM, MS, PhD



Summary of Progress

In our first year (2018-2019), we created the organizational framework to support global engagement programs. In our second year (2019-2020), with the support of our new Global Engagement Fellow, we have expanded our social media footprint, updated the website, and provided more administrative support to students. As a resource for students, we have been able to connect three students with external programs to support them in global engagement opportunities. **Macon Overcast** (VME III) participated as a Veterinary Research Fellow with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). With this program, he planned externships to extend his antimicrobial resistance research through work with the FAO in Rome, Italy. **Jennifer Gonzalez** (VME I) and **Taylor Williams** (VME I) won competitive spots in the Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program. Jennifer was to perform a laboratory study in conjunction with Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and Taylor planned research with the University of Hannover in Germany. Due to COVID-19, international travel restrictions prevented the students' participation but being selected for these awards represent unique and impressive achievements.

This year, the travel scholarship program awarded 13 scholarships to support travel to three different continents. Due to the pandemic, 11 programs were canceled or re-scheduled, and those respective students were given maximum flexibility to pursue alternate experiences with their awards.

This year we have secured a new partnership with The University of Latvia to support an inbound post-doctoral research student with Dr. Selmic. We are also working on partnerships with the University of Pretoria in South Africa and the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda (Dr. Berrian) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (Dr. Hoet). Due to changing priorities, our agreement with the University of Ngaoundéré has lapsed. Through our international partnerships, we hope to see future collaborative webinars, online educational offerings, and bi-directional travel for research and education. We have also re-structured the Global Opportunities in Veterinary Medicine and Public Health course (VETPRV 7760) to align with the objective of helping students get the full benefit from their engagement opportunities.

The largest barrier for new study abroad and exchange programs remains the high cost of tuition for summer courses. The travel scholarship program provides critical resources to defray student costs associated with participating in engaged experiences and should be continued and expanded.



ORGANIZE COLLEGE RESOURCES

In 2020, we curated and organized a list of existing opportunities for veterinary students and continue to ensure that College of Veterinary Medicine programs comply with University policies. We have also created a cvm-globalengagement@osu.edu email address to improve communication with students and faculty and have organized content to share prior student experiences. Opportunities include:

Coursework –Dr. Inpanbutr’s elective course (VETBIOS 7802) offers students hands-on practice with exotic species in production, zoo, and sanctuary settings in Thailand. The next offering (delayed until 2021) will be fully incorporated and compliant with the Office of International Affairs. Several faculty members are exploring options to offer other courses through third-party providers or as group travel to avoid high summer tuition costs. The Global Opportunities in Veterinary Medicine and Public Health elective course (VETPRV 7760) changed leadership to Dr. Garabed this year and its restructuring will align it more closely with the Global Engagement Program mission.

Service Learning – All students (160+ per year) participate in the Shelter Medicine & Surgery (VMCOLL 7700.02S) and Community Practice (VMCOLL 7700.01) rotations in the fourth year of the DVM program. Both rotations include service-learning components that put students in real-world settings providing service for underserved populations of animals and people. This year the “S” designation was added to VMCOLL 7700.02 to track the service that our students are doing through this rotation. The Veterinary Outreach Medicine clinics for pre-clinical DVM student participation have been suspended but will continue in the future. MPH-VPH students continue their practicum experiences (PUBHLTH 7189), where they participate in hands-on learning with public health organizations around the world. Many of these students have been assisting with pandemic-related work, including contact tracing and data analysis. Most of our student-engaged experiences are still self-organized or organized through student groups with third-party providers for spay-neuter and preventive care outreach. While we are still collecting information about these trips and assisting students in selecting high-quality experiences, we are not yet able to track data beyond those students who apply for travel scholarships.

Research Experience – College of Veterinary Medicine graduate and professional students (DVM, MS, MPH-VPH and PhD) continue to travel and work in communities as a part of their dissertation research, thesis research, summer research, or culminating project. An example of such work can be seen in [Dr. Hammons’ profile](#). Research activities are perhaps our most well developed and educational offering in global engagement as students tend to spend longer periods doing highly engaged work. Although international activities have been suspended through 2020, we continue to support students in planning future work.



ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

With the initiation of a travel scholarship opportunity in 2019, funded as a one-year pilot by Dr. Thomas Mack, we were able to make globally engaged travel more accessible to CVM students. In April 2019, we received two applications and awarded one scholarship. In September 2019, we received 20 applications and were able to award 13 ([see profiles](#)). These travel scholarships allowed students to enhance their engaged experiences. For example, two students funded in the September 2019 cycle were able to extend their travel with Dr. Inpanbutr's Thailand course to explore independent interests in biomedical research and wildlife conservation.

Having a website makes it easier for students to identify potential global engagement opportunities. And requiring a designated contact for global engagement to apply for the scholarship has helped students to plan and ensure that a well-rounded program will be developed. The program director has also taken on the role of advising the International Veterinary Student Association chapter at Ohio State to help ensure that student-driven activities are shared and are compliant with University policies. Dr. Tinga participates in the Faculty Steering Committee as well as advising the new Veterinary Students Without Borders club that will help connect students with outreach opportunities. The program director is also adapting the curriculum of the VETPREV 7760 (Global Opportunities in Veterinary Medicine) course to make the curriculum a better wrap-around for students to prepare for and process the learning they do during engaged experiences. The first test of this curriculum happened in Spring 2020 and was well received. The instructors will continue to improve the offering based on student feedback.

In the process of enhancing compliance, the program director is:

- Harmonizing the College's travel policy to comply with zoo-sanitary recommendations of USDA and other international animal health organizations.
- Trained and authorized to conduct visual compliance checks on inbound international visitors to streamline the process of clearing short-term visitors.
- Updating guidance documents provided by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee on external collaborators to cover the ethics of use of animals in teaching and service-learning activities conducted by our students.

We expect to have final documents for the travel policy and responsibilities for animal care and use in the next year, after they have been through final reviews.



PROMOTE CVM GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

We have begun the process of promoting CVM Global Engagement both internally and externally through social media and press releases about our opportunities and our students' experiences.

This year the hired Fellow has worked on:

- Making structural and organizational edits and additions to our website,
- Connecting student organizations with the Program,
- Creating travel narratives with previously funded students, and
- Updating the Program's communication strategy through new channels.

The program director also actively participates in campus-wide programs with the Office of Service-Learning, Office of International Affairs, Global One Health initiative, and Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health to keep abreast of new opportunities, make others aware of Program activities, and participate in creating new opportunities for our students.



Selected Travel Scholarship Highlights

2019 Experiences

Many students who applied for the scholarship, used the funds to aid in traveling to Thailand with the VETBIOS 7193 course, led by faculty committee member Dr. Inpanabutr. Below are some of the students who traveled to Thailand and a comment on the program and/or the scholarship.

Angelica Mendoza, DVM Class of 2022



"This trip gave me the opportunity to experience what it would be like to work with these animals and solidified my choice in pursuing a career in zoological medicine. Our hands-on experience involved working with elephants, macaques, aquatic species, and assisting with acupuncture on domestic species.

Having received the scholarship relieved a bit of that stress for me as I was provided the funds to secure better travel accommodations in terms of airfare and lodging and have the peace of mind that is so elusive while planning a trip abroad. The scholarship enabled me to focus more on planning my trip and less on worrying about my comfort and safety."

Janis McGill, DVM Class of 2021

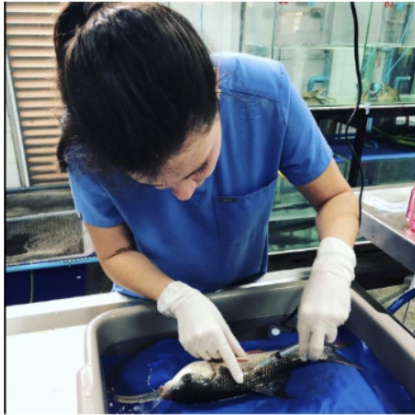
"I had the opportunity to travel to Thailand to learn about wildlife, veterinary medicine, and the culture.

The current curriculum at Ohio State does not provide hands on or didactic learning for treating animals of zoological or exotic species. While in Thailand I got the opportunity to work directly with Elephants, tigers, palm civets, and aquatics, animals I've never been in direct contact with before. I was able to learn from the excellent veterinary faculty at Chiang Mai University about how to handle, examine, and treat their wildlife species."





Grace Krazan, DVM Class of 2022



“There is a sense of wanting to make the most out of any situation when someone who does not personally know you, gives you the opportunity to better yourself, your career, and hopefully in return, those around you. I absolutely would encourage others to apply for a global engagement travel scholarship because although it significantly helps with the expense demand of a trip, it also makes you a part of a greater whole. It makes you extremely grateful and full of gratitude to the people who have made an incredible experience possible for you. It creates a cycle of wanting to give in return, and help someone else’s dreams come true.”

Lindsay Courtney, DVM Class of 2021

“My trip to Southeast Asia is something that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Upon arrival in Bangkok, I traveled to the CDC office located within the Ministry of Public Health, which was an amazing experience! During my time there, I learned how the CDC partners with the Royal Thai Ministry of Public Health to combat several public health concerns.”

“Within just a few days of being in Bangkok, I discovered my dream career and plan to keep an open line of communication with the contacts I made while at the Ministry of Public Health.”



Mary Ann Gottschlich, DVM Class of 2022



“I enjoyed learning about Buddhism, Thailand’s history, and being able to execute concepts I learned from Thai professors on current patients. I better understand how to best communicate with diverse people who may not speak English or share my religious perspectives. The knowledge and skills I gained on this excursion goes beyond what can be taught in lectures and has instilled a fire within me to assist various animal sanctuaries and conservation centers post-DVM.”



Jessica Knisley, DVM Class of 2021



“I absolutely would encourage others to apply for the global engagement travel scholarship. Ultimately, I think traveling and learning about veterinary medicine in other countries and about other cultures is a fantastic way to grow as a veterinarian. I think it can really enhance your knowledge about yourself and also enhance your knowledge about diverse clients and what may be the best ways to interact and serve them. This scholarship I think is a great way to get out and travel, and really engage with others in the field and make lifelong connections. You never know when an opportunity will come up in the future to use connections you’ve made during your life!”

Courtney Adams, DVM Class of 2022

“Wildlife and environmental conservation has always been a passion of mine, so I’m excited that the trip has made me a well-informed wildlife advocate which will help me as I educate others about the struggles wildlife face in Thailand and around the globe. Additionally, my devotion to animal behavior and the human-animal bond has only been affirmed further as I have loved learning about the types of relationships Thai people have with their pets or with wild animals. It is intriguing to see how it affects veterinary care, animal training, public health, conservation, and so many other things.”





2020 Experiences

Christie Hammons DVM, MPH/VPH Resident

Travel Destination: Belize

Program Title: Belize National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System

Dr. Hammons applied her scholarship towards in-country experience related to her master's Culminating Project. She worked with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority- Food Safety Branch, World Health Organization branch, as well as meeting with the Deputy Director of Food Safety Services while in Belize. During her time there, she made production plant and farm visits and held meetings to discuss national antimicrobial resistance plans.



“The global engagement travel scholarship gave me a tremendous amount of financial support for me to travel to work in-person with my colleagues to finalize the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System in the food and agriculture sector, and to stay for the length of time I did. It allowed for added depth of communication and shared experiences, which takes so much longer to achieve across distances. ”

“It is invaluable to be able to apply what you know as a professional in other settings, and to be able to learn from professionals in other cultures.”

NOTE:

Due to COVID-19, international travel for students had been canceled for the 2020 year. The Spring 2020 scholarship recipients proposed the following travel:

- Thailand - VETBIOS 7802 course
- Vietnam - Pangolin Anesthesia Research
- Guatemala - FarVets Outreach Program
- Netherlands – Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program
- Costa Rica – Vida Volunteer Program

The students had the option to re-schedule or delay their trips, or they could propose modifications to receive some aid for alternate travel. Additionally, the Global Engagement Program team and Fellow are working to connect these students with similar opportunities in the USA, if they are unable to postpone their trips.



Plans for 2020 - 2021

To provide additional curated student professional development opportunities as well as move the CVM Global Engagement Program forward in its mission to organize, enhance, and promote global engagement within the College, the Program is seeking to continue the **successful travel scholarship program** and our work with the **Global Engagement Fellow** to expand our program reach to **promote and aid in global engagement** for students. We hope to further incorporate and connect with students through online communication via webinars, blog posts, the CVM Weekly Newsletter, and other forms of social media.

We will continue to support faculty and student organizations in building international partnerships and new study abroad opportunities for students.

We will work with students, third-party providers, and the global engagement community to create rubrics to evaluate different opportunities for students and recommend only those that meet the highest educational, engagement, and animal welfare standards. We have Dr. Inpanbutr's Thailand course listed with the Office of International Affairs and encourage more courses to list with the Office of Service-Learning. We will continue to improve the Global Opportunities in Veterinary Medicine course to better align with current best practices in supporting immersive academic experiences and offer it online to a wider audience.

We will continue to award Travel Scholarships and work with students to modify their experiences until they can be done safely for both outgoing students and hosts who receive them.

Recommended Annual Budget for 2020 - 2021:

| Item | Cost |
|--------------------------|--|
| Travel Scholarships | \$20,000 (+\$10,000 awarded SP20 but not yet paid) |
| Leader | \$6,000 |
| Global Engagement Fellow | \$5,000 |

