

January 3, 2012

Intersociety Council for Pathology Information, Inc.
Attn: Donna Stivers
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to sincerely thank the ICPI board members for generously awarding me a travel grant to attend the 62nd annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in Nashville, TN. This meeting not only provides an invaluable opportunity for residents in veterinary pathology, such as myself, to network with professionals in the field, but also provides an update on the most recent findings in the field both diagnostically and experimentally.

Thanks to the generous support of the ICPI, I was able to attend both a pre-meeting workshop on diagnostic neuropathology as well as a post-meeting workshop on zebrafish as a laboratory animal model. This allowed me to spend time listening to well-known experts lecture on their fields of expertise in a smaller setting. In addition to aiding in my board preparation efforts, both workshops provided me with a great deal of new information that will augment my diagnostic skills. The main conference also provided a wide range of talks on a variety of subjects, ranging from honeybee colony collapse disorder to the evolutionary genetics of aging. In particular, as my graduate research is studying retroviral encephalitis in a primate model of SIV/AIDS, I found the numerous talks on nonhuman primate pathology and SIV-related pathology most riveting. The biggest problem that I encountered in this meeting is not having enough time to attend all of the lectures I was interested in, as there was such a great breadth and depth of invited lecturers.

During the poster session, I was also afforded the opportunity to present my current research on SIV-associated encephalitis and the interplay between viral biology and host genetics. This experience allowed me to get much valuable scientific feedback as well as gain additional experience presenting scientific data to a diverse group of experts. In addition, I was able to see the impressive array of research projects from my counterparts at other veterinary pathology training programs.

The annual ACVP meeting is also great chance to network with both esteemed veterinary pathologists as well as residents from other training programs, and I had the opportunity to meet with both during this conference. During several social events organized by the ACVP council, I was able to reconnect with pathologists that I had met previously as well as make new connections, especially amongst the group of veterinary pathologists specializing in primatology. This was especially helpful to me as graduate student that is using a primate animal model in my thesis project. I also attended the veterinary student forum as a representative of my veterinary pathology training program at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. This gave me an opportunity to both socialize with residents from other programs and meet veterinary students that are interested in joining the field.

Again, thank you very much for your financial support to attend the annual conference of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Attending this meeting was invaluable for gaining knowledge as well as providing an opportunity to network with other professionals in my chosen field.

Sincerely,

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