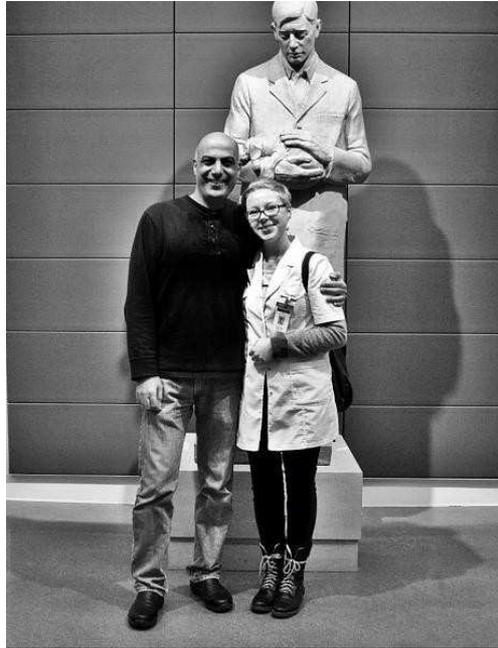


A grateful Scholarship Winner Report

Agata Grudzień - ISVO-Acrivet scholarship winner



When I first found out I had received the ISVO-Acrivet scholarship, I couldn't believe it. Such things don't happen to regular graduates like myself. And yet it did happen! I had been awarded an opportunity to fulfill my dreams and I decided to use it to its fullest.

I started my visit at the university with an orientation day and was accompanied by my mentor and supervisor, Dr. Gil Ben-Shlomo, the Iowa State University ophthalmologist. Then I was shown around the massive Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center building, got familiar with the workings of the clinic and the general plan for the duration of my visit.

In the first couple of weeks I had a chance to accompany students and ophthalmology department residents during their clinical and scientific work. I took part in interviewing owners and basic diagnostic procedures along with the students. Then I participated in patient investigation carried out by one of the residents or ophthalmologists. That way, not only could I get to know typical ways of thinking while diagnosing diseases but could also learn about differential diagnoses, planned treatment systems,

prognosis, and appropriate ways of holding conversations with animal owners. I have learned so much due to the number of ophthalmic ailments I have been exposed to.

During my stay at the hospital I have probably learned more than during all my years of university study. By the end of it, I have made my first attempts at patient diagnosis, I have gained more skills, and more issues related to ophthalmic investigation are crystal clear to me now. Corneal ulcers - deep and superficial, foreign bodies, cataract, glaucoma, lipid deposits, nuclear sclerosis, eyelid masses... It is all starting to make much more sense.

I also had the pleasure to witness the practical side of scientific research since, thanks to the courtesy of Dr Gil Ben-Shlomo, I took part in a research project. Our goal was to compare needle and non-needle electrodes in the ERG procedure.

Our greatest interest was to investigate the practical use of no-needle electrodes attached to the skin by a special gel. Such electrodes, while commonly used for investigating humans, have not been used for animals due to their hair coat. The results will show if one can use that non-invasive ERG method when dealing with animals as well.

Last month I made many long-lasting memories which I will talk about and share so that as many vets as possible can make use of the knowledge I have gained. I would like to thank Dr. Gil Ben-Shlomo - it wouldn't have been the same without his support, help and great teaching approach. I am also particularly grateful to the ISVO - Acrivet scholarship committee. Had it not been for their positive response to my application, it wouldn't have been possible for me to go to the US all the way from Poland.

Thank you once again for your work. You are helping young people enter the world of science in a way they would have never have dreamed of otherwise. Let my future work as a veterinarian in which I use the knowledge and experience I have gained, be a testament to how grateful I am. Most importantly, however, I would like it to be useful

for those who are the fundamental motivation behind our development - our four-legged patients.

*Agata Grudzień DVM
ISVO-Acrivet Scholarship winner 2014*

