

*2015 ISVO-Acrivet Scholarship
&
ACVO-JVO Subscription*

Another nice report from one of the three 2015 winners of the ISVO-Acrivet Scholarship, confirmed this year thanks to the ongoing support of Acrivet (Bausch & Lomb) and ACVO-JVO.

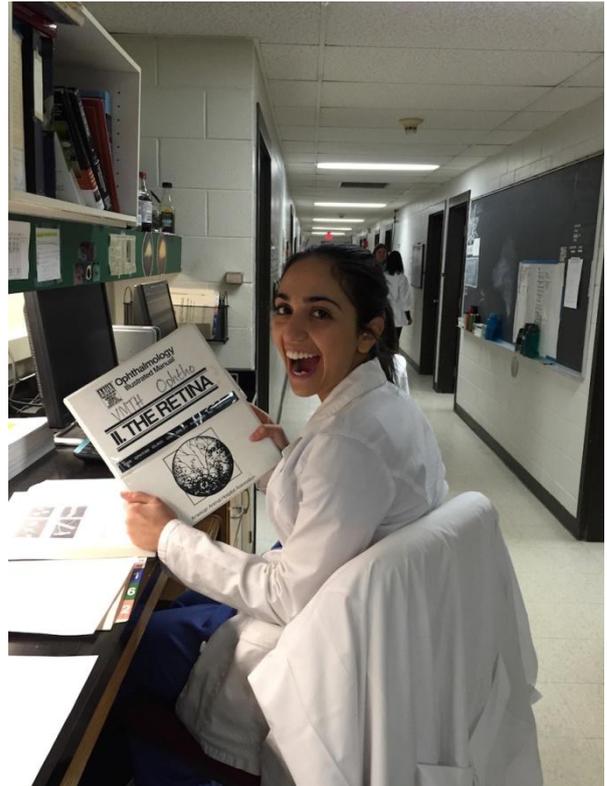
oooo

I could not have been more surprised and grateful to be the 2015 ISVO-Acrivet travel scholar. In January 2016 I left rainy England packed with all my winter warmers to spend a month in snowy frozen Wisconsin with the University Wisconsin-Madison (UWM) team.

My first week was spent in the Comparative Ocular Pathology Lab of Wisconsin (COPLOW), where I spent my days with Dr Teixeira and his team sectioning eyes in the morning observing the gross pathology and viewing slides in the afternoon learning about the histopathology. This really allowed me to better understand ocular diseases and consider diagnostic and treatment

options based on the pathology. I even learnt about some diseases I had never heard of (e.g. canine ocular gliovascular syndrome). I was so pleased on my last day when I was given the chance to section whole globes myself and when I recognised a female onchocerca from the spines on her body.

The next three weeks were spent on clinics with Dr Bentley and her team; although I did sneak up to COPLOW to join in on histo read outs on my breaks.



Dr. Hamzianpour on clinics

Clinics were really fun and I was very impressed by the training the students get in ophthalmology and how smart they are. I saw a lot of uveitis workups during my time with UWM, this was ideal as in the UK our uveitis differential list is much smaller than in Wisconsin. I was very excited to see fungal cases of uveitis. I also saw a few cases of Vogt Koyangi Harada-like syndrome in dogs, which again I had only read about in books.

I imagined it would be a very formal and clinical placement but I was so very wrong. I was invited into the home of Dr Dubielzig and his wife to stay for the month and they made me feel like family (minus their parrot who I am convinced wanted to kill me). The residents and fellows at UWM made a real effort to spend time with me and show me the town, including ice skating on the

frozen lakes, beer and cheese curds - all highlights of Madison for sure.

Dr Bentley and Dr Miller really made me feel part of the team, treating me no different to one of their resident and really involving me in cases. Dr Bentley even let me be involved with a laser retinopexy case which blew my mind! I made some true friends and didn't want to come home. I am so thankful to the whole team for really making me feel welcome.



Dr. Hamzianpour having dinner with the residents/fellows

As a general practitioner the time I spent at UWM really allowed me to develop my ophthalmic knowledge and skills and re-evaluate my own work up and treatment of cases. It made me want to devote my life to ophthalmology and explore the possibility of going to the USA to find a career in ophthalmology. The experience has opened up so many doors for me and is one I will never forget. This month I got my first free copy of *Veterinary Ophthalmology* as part of the scholarship, which I am embarrassed to admit has become my new read of choice. This is a wonderful and generous opportunity that ISVO, Acrivet and the ACVO provide, and I would highly recommend applying.

Negar Hamzianpour
Winner of the *ISVO-Acrivet scholarship 2015*

