



**2016 ISVO-Acrivet Scholarship
&
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Another nice ISVO-Acrivet Scholarship report, another good reason to thank Acrivet (Bausch & Lomb) and ACVO-JVO for their ongoing generous support.

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My one-month experience at North Carolina State University was more than amazing; this journey has become an unforgettable memory in my life! To continue studying and have the opportunity to study in the U.S. is my long-term dream. Since the U.S. is far from Japan, travel to the U.S. is very expensive and has been a challenge; the ISVO scholarship has allowed my dream to become reality.

I had the honour and pleasure to spend a month in the clinic with Dr. Brian Gilger, Dr. Michael Davidson, and Dr. Hans Westermeyer. The team let me observe any cases, attend rounds and surgeries. I saw several cases that I have not seen in Japan, for example, canine fungal keratitis. Since the distribution of fungus is different between the U.S. and Japan, we do not see many cases of canine fungal keratitis nor systemic fungal infectious diseases. Having studied fungal keratitis but not having the opportunity to see it, it was an incredible opportunity to see real patients (not pictures in an atlas!) and was one of the highlights of my trip. Furthermore, what most impressed me were the equine patients. I have not seen equine patients before in Japan. We do not have horses for pets, so it was interesting that the role of horses is very different between the two countries. And also, it was interesting that the approach to medical treatments and surgeries is very unique to this species because of their size and characteristics. These are what I have seen only in textbooks, and I hope I can have more hands-on training in the field of horses in the future. During my stay, I also had the opportunity to observe Dr. Freya Mowat's research. She and one of the residents, Dr. Annie Oh, explained the details of their research. It was very interesting to me the level of detail the team goes into, truly amazing. I have performed basic research when I was a vet student at university, but a long time

ago, this experience let me remember the excitement and interest I had for research.



Chihiro Ikegami with Dr. Gilger at ACVO conference

The NC State Ophthalmology Service's professionalism, teamwork and methodology are the attributes that stood out during my studies. Although the clinic was very busy, the team was able to handle all appointments and consults. It was evident that each team member understands their role as an individual but, as needs dictated, the team would pull together to support each other - utmost professionalism. I clearly realize the importance of a "team" approach. This is a philosophy I will take home with me and strive to improve upon during my practice in Japan.

Just when I was adjusting to the life of a busy clinic, the city of Raleigh, and getting to know my new friends and colleagues, my time with the team had come to an unfortunate end as I wish I could stay longer. It was tough to leave the clinic, people, team-members and the town I had come to cherish dearly. I hope I have the chance to come back to NC State in the future to further my professional education.

For Doctors and Students who are interested in veterinary ophthalmology, I highly recommend that you apply for an ISVO scholarship. I would like to thank the team from the Ophthalmology Service at North Carolina State University and the committee members of ISVO again for the opportunity provided and the lifetime experience obtained. I am grateful for the precious time and memories I experienced at NC State, the friends and memories will be with me for all my life!

Chihiro Ikegami

