

ISVO-ACRIVET SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

My visit to the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis was a dream come true.

The warmth and hospitality of the faculty, residents and students were exceptional especially that of Professor David Maggs.

I quickly settled down to absorb, like a dry sponge, the huge body of knowledge they were ever willing to dispense. Everyday was unique as there were always new things to learn.

I witnessed several ophthalmic procedures; phacoemulsification, retinograms, conjunctival grafts and enucleations in various species to mention but a few. I learnt how to examine the eye with the slit lamp and the binocular indirect ophthalmoscope. I also learnt the proper way to carry out a thorough ocular examination and how to arrive at accurate diagnoses and make the right therapeutic decisions. In fact the doors of the exquisite world of Veterinary Ophthalmology were thrown open to me.

The daily clinical rounds which I participated in, was very useful to me as we don't have veterinary ophthalmology as a specialty in my country and as such, I had a lot of knowledge gaps to fill.

I also found the ocular pathology rounds particularly interesting. The histopathologic explanations of the various lesions frequently seen in Ophthalmology clinics were exciting.

The interaction between the students and faculty in the Ophthalmology Unit was friendly and relaxed. This created a very conducive atmosphere for learning as it eliminated the pressure that should have come with the acquisition of such specialized skill.

I made new friends who made my visit very interesting and fun filled and also showed me, firsthand, the legendary American hospitality. I had the honour of meeting one of the pioneer Veterinary Ophthalmologists in United States of America, Dr. Roy Bellhorn, who encouraged me and also gave me some of his diagnostic equipment to take home.

The exposure and knowledge I acquired in UC Davis will be of immense help to me back home where I will put them to use in clinical practice. It will also help me to initiate the development of Veterinary Ophthalmology as a specialty in Veterinary schools in my country.

I am very grateful to ISVO and Acrivet for this wonderful opportunity given to me to pursue my dream. It would have been very difficult to actualize this without your aid. I feel so excited and fortunate to be first to have won this scholarship from sub Saharan Africa. You are truly pushing the frontiers of Veterinary Ophthalmology.

The 1-year free subscription to the Veterinary Ophthalmology Journal I received alongside the scholarship courtesy of ACVO is great! It gave me access to world class articles on Veterinary Ophthalmology. That means a lot to me.

Uchenna Nlebedum (Nigeria)