

I was very happy to have earned this scholarship. At the beginning I did not believe that I won an ISVO–Acrivet Scholarship. It was a dream come true for me. People make us think that is not possible to achieve our dreams and it is not true. I am writing this letter to thank you for your generosity and financial support towards my higher education.

I felt like home in Iowa State. All crew treated me very well. I could help in some procedures, learned a lot with all of them, helped some students, shadowed some surgeries, saw some emergencies on weekends, saw an important lecture from Brian Gilger, practiced ophtho surgeries in pigs eyes, etc. I could not express everything that I felt when I was there. For me it was the best thing that happened in my life until now.

I am doing my PhD research and the scholarship made me grow both professionally and personally. I wasn't going there to just learn. After everything I could see, I even made some new friends. I had a lot fun with all residents, professors and especially with the technicians. I can remember a funny day with each one I was in touch with on clinics but I will tell some of them. About the residents I had a lot of funny stories, but one of them was that we were at their rounds on Friday morning and I told them that in Brazil we used to burn the table after we examined a dog with distemper. They laugh a lot, but I proved to them with a fun video. A fun day with the professors was the day that the Professor Lionel Sebbag told us to do rounds at the bar. I did not believe that!! For me it was a huge surprise, but it was a nice day out and we could learn in a different place. And to finish my history, one of the funny days with the technicians was when I held a dog with an anterior lens luxation for about 1 hour and all of them would come to me and take a picture, and tell me a history and that made my hour go faster. Like I said before in Iowa State they made me feel awesome.

In addition, I want to say thank you to Dr. Gil Ben-Shlomo, who was my mentor when I was in Iowa State. Even having a busy schedule, he could find time to help me with my doubts, and was always worried about my wellbeing. I cannot express how thankful I am for the opportunity to work with him and his team.

By awarding me the ISVO-Acrivet scholarship, I am able to teach my colleagues everything that I learned in Iowa State University. ISVO and Acrivet have allowed me to be one-step closer to my goal and inspired me to help our little creatures. I hope one day I will be able to help someone like ISVO, Acrivet, and Iowa State helped me.

Sincerely,  
DMV. MSc. Gabriela Madruga  
From Brazil



“ISVO-Acrivet scholarship winner Dr. Gabriela Madruga (on the right) with the Iowa State Veterinary Ophthalmology team”.