

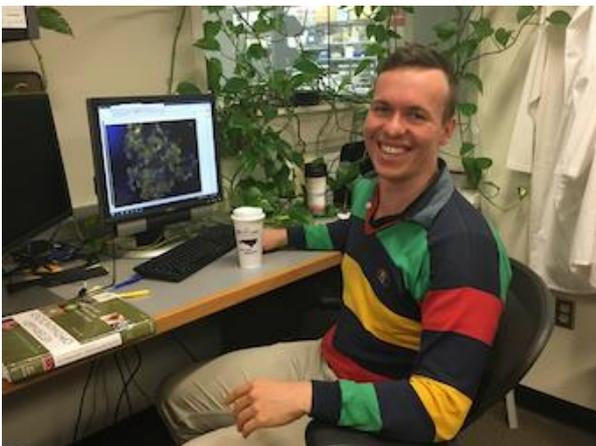
The ISVO-Acrivet Scholarship A Past Winner Experience

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Acrivet (acquired by Bausch and Lomb), the ISVO recently awarded a scholarship to Benjamin Reynolds, from Australia, who spent his time at the North Carolina State University, USA. The scholarship covers tuition, travel and subsistence costs up to \$2,500 per person. Thanks to the generosity of the ACVO, Scholars also receive a free 1-year subscription to the *Veterinary Ophthalmology* journal. Here is 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 visit to North Carolina State University's ophthalmology department was truly a trip of a lifetime!

For the first two weeks of my visit to NCSU, I shadowed the residents in the clinical teaching hospital which was a marvelous opportunity to learn under the guidance of the faculty staff in both the small and large animal hospital. Everyone was very welcoming, allowing me to partake in all aspects of diagnostics and ophthalmic examination, and allowed me to consolidate my learning by very graciously tolerating my incessant questions. The residents even went above their line of duty in making me feel very welcomed, often doubling as a taxi service for me (thank you again for this Dr. Crabtree and Dr. Oh!). The exposure to world-class ophthalmological surgery was also very appealing, witnessing conjunctival pedicle grafts, phaeoemulsifications, partial keratectomies, couching and aqueocentesis to name a few.



The exposure to the large animal ophthalmology facilities were particularly unique during my visitation, as my previous ophthalmology exposure has been exclusively within small animals. Being able to practice ophthalmological examinations on horses, and witness placement of subpalpebral lavage systems and general post-operative care was very useful and allowed me to consolidate this information and understand it in a much more tangible sense.



I was also fortunate enough to attend resident journal clubs, and was very grateful to be able to experience and witness this aspect of the resident's training. To fill any would-be quiet moments in the clinic, I was able to participate in a potential case series with Dr. Westermeyer which allowed me to delve in to the ophthalmology literature and really helped guide me to expand my knowledge further.

My final two weeks at NCSU were spent in the ophthalmology laboratory "Mowat Lab" with Dr. Freya Mowat! This was an incredibly unique opportunity for me, as I have only scant lab experience from veterinary school. Dr. Mowat had very generously organised a project for me to be involved with for my visitation, classifying the cone characteristics of the American Black Bear's retina, and the majority of my time in the lab was dedicated to this project. The highlight of my stint in the lab (other than enjoying Dr. Mowat's British expressions) was the opportunity to perform fundic examinations on two critically endangered Red wolves as a part of another project that Dr. Mowat is involved with.



There is no way that this externship to NCSU would have ever been possible without the ISVO scholarship, and this trip has further consolidated my desire to pursue ophthalmology as my career path. I am very grateful for the opportunities granted to me from my visitation to NCSU, and again want to extend my many thanks to the many welcoming staff members including faculty, residents, interns and technicians!

Benjamin Reynolds

