

ISVO SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

When I received the email informing me that I was the recipient of the ISVO scholarship, I almost didn't believe it. The 4 weeks I spent at UC Davis Ophthalmology were fascinating in every sense of the word.



I got to observe certified ophthalmologist conduct thorough eye examinations and most of all observed them teaching the students and residents, wherein I learned more than I could ever imagine. The faculty were extremely warm and welcoming and needless to say, wonderful teachers. I also learned lots from the residents who were extremely patient with all my questions and helped me refine my examination techniques with handy tips and tricks.

One of the most impressive things at UCD I found was that each patient is examined thoroughly and discussed prior to formulating a treatment plan. First a student examines the patient and reports to the resident. The resident then discusses the case with the student which leads to a better understanding of the case for the student. Once the resident has examined the patient, they discuss their findings with a faculty member, thus ensuring that nothing is missed and the best possible plan for the patient is narrowed down. This method provides a great atmosphere to learn.

Having never visited a specialised ophthalmology unit before, every part of the daily routine was educational for me. Student rounds and histopathology rounds were both exceptionally useful, particularly the discussions that went with them helped me learn a lot.



In private practice back home, it is often frustrating when you are presented with something you are not completely sure about. The weeks at UC Davis taught me how to organize my thoughts and describe clearly the findings of the ophthalmic examination. This helps greatly with arriving at a differential diagnosis list and thereby zeroing in on the correct diagnosis and treatment. Moreover, the faculty was kind enough to offer to help me out in the future if I were to find myself in a tricky situation. Since we don't have many ophthalmologists here, it is comforting to know I now have specialists I can consult!

Returning to my practice after 4 weeks of watching specialists at work was a bitter sweet experience. I wished I had more time to learn from everyone at UC Davis, but was extremely eager to get back to work. On my very first day back, I saw 2 dogs I would not have been able to correctly diagnose and treat if it wasn't for the scholarship experience!