

June 2025

### **Charles and Sharron Capen Scholarship in Experimental Veterinary Pathology**

The American College of Veterinary Pathology (ACVP) is pleased to announce Dr. Laine Feller DVM of Johns Hopkins University as the 2025 recipient of the Charles and Sharon Capen Scholarship in Experimental Veterinary Pathology.

The Charles and Sharron Capen Scholarship in Experimental Veterinary Pathology is made possible through the generosity of the late Drs. Charles and Sharron (Martin) Capen. Dr. Charles Capen was a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He conducted ground-breaking research in veterinary endocrinology and significantly promoted the use of animal models to study human diseases. Dr. Sharron Capen received her MS and DVM from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She was the first female faculty member of that college and its first female full professor. Dr. Capen practiced small animal medicine with an interest in dermatology and avian medicine. This scholarship continues the Capen legacy.

To be eligible for the Charles and Sharron Capen Scholarship, applicants must:

- Graduate in the upper 20% of their class in veterinary medical college
- Complete the first two years of a residency in anatomic pathology by the time the scholarship begins
- Indicate dedication to complete the ACVP Certifying Examination process
- Be a PhD graduate student who is an active member of a laboratory
- Be pursuing research training in a mentored environment working on a hypothesis-driven research topic that investigates mechanisms relating to endocrine, metabolic, or dermatologic diseases of either animals or humans using state-of-the-art laboratory techniques.

This scholarship is primarily designed to support a stipend covering the last two years of intensive research training in a doctoral program prior to assuming a full-time position in academia, the pharmaceutical or chemical industry, or at a governmental laboratory. The stipend is fully competitive with programs administered by appropriate federal agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health, United States Department of Agriculture, among others) or other private foundations that support doctoral-level research and advanced professional education in experimental veterinary pathology. The scholarship is distributed annually by ACVP, with an [application](#) deadline of March 1.

Dr. Feller, who received her DVM from Cornell University, is completing her veterinary pathology residency at Johns Hopkins University. Her research investigates how *Staphylococcus aureus* antigens orchestrate skin colonization in the context of atopic dermatitis skin inflammation. “Immediately upon joining the dermatology department, Laine’s veterinary and pathology training became an asset. She is frequently pulled into mouse procedure rooms to be asked her opinion on a mouse’s appearance, and has instructed many undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students on performing mouse

necropsies and improving their histology knowledge of the skin.”, stated Feller’s graduate thesis committee chair, Luis Garza, MD PhD. Feller’s work is being performed in the Archer Laboratory.

ACVP is a professional membership organization comprised of board-certified scientists that have set the standard for veterinary pathology for over 75 years. ACVP is proud to congratulate Dr. Feller on this scholarship award while the veterinary pathology community looks forward to the addition of this impactful research.