

29 August 2018

Dear AAFV Scholarship Committee:

My name is Sarah Wright and I am a 2018 AAFV Student Scholarship recipient. I would like to thank you for your support while I participated in the IAAAM Conference, AQUAVET® II, and AQUAVET® III.

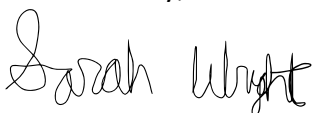
The IAAAM Conference took place in Long Beach, California and was hosted by the Aquarium of the Pacific. This conference was an invaluable experience that strengthened my interest in aquatic veterinary medicine. I learned about new research in the field through the oral and poster presentations. I also met and networked with professionals in the field. Additionally, I learned more about the operations of aquariums and marine animal rescue facilities through participating in a day trip to the Marine Mammal Care Center and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, California.

AQUAVET® II was a two-week immersion course in aquatic animal pathology. The course was offered through Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and was held at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. We spent our mornings attending lectures about aquatic animal histopathology and our afternoons and evenings looking at aquatic animal histopathology slides under the microscope. I had recently finished my second year of veterinary school, which was focused on the pathology of traditional domestic species, prior to participating in this course. Therefore, this course significantly enhanced my veterinary studies. Additionally, the participants in the course all came from different backgrounds and had varying experience levels, allowing us to share perspectives and ideas and to learn from each other.

AQUAVET® III was the capstone course of my summer. It was a fantastic five weeks of learning and fun. We spent two weeks at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia learning about aquarium medicine, one week at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in Athens, Georgia training in rigid endoscopy and surgery in fish and reptiles, and two weeks at Dolphinaris in Mexico learning about dolphin medicine and training. The most unique and beneficial aspect of this course was the hands-on learning. We each had the opportunity to perform physical exams, training, endoscopy, ultrasound, etc. on diverse species of aquatic animals. This course also made me appreciate how important it is to have a strong relationship with the trainers and aquarists to provide the highest quality of care for the animal.

I want to thank the AAFV Scholarship Committee once again for giving me the financial support to pursue opportunities to further develop my knowledge and clinical skills in aquatic veterinary medicine. I look forward to building on what I've learned as I enter my clinical year in March!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Wright". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Sarah Wright