

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM)
and the Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias (FDCV)
Memorandum of Agreement

ADDENDUM May 2007

On November 29, 2005, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among three Faculties of the UACH – Veterinary Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Forest Sciences and three Colleges of Virginia Tech – Virginia Maryland Regional Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and College of Natural Resources was signed.

In order to support and further clarify the goals and objectives of this MOA, the following Addendum has been drafted. This Addendum spells out the specifics of the November 29, 2005 MOA between VMRCVM and the FDCV. There are 4 major components:

(1) HONORS RESEARCH PROGRAM for FDCV VETERINARY STUDENTS

This component is a priority and will be initiated in 2007. These veterinary students will be referred to as “**VISITING SCHOLARS**”. The goal of this program is to identify top veterinary students for short term research experience at VMRCVM and possibly graduate school after completion of the veterinary degree.

Two to three academically highest-achieving 5th year veterinary students from FDCV will be chosen annually to be Visiting Scholars. The target date for the Scholars’ visit to Blacksburg will be January through March for a period of two to three months. While in Blacksburg, VMRCVM will provide housing and a stipend for the FDCV Scholars during their participation in the Program.

The Scholars will be responsible for paying for their own travel to the US and return to Chile (including official travel documents such as passport and visa) as well as mandatory health insurance.

In order to develop and identify potential Scholars, FDCV agrees to create a structured Honors Program with the following characteristics:

- Potential Scholars will be identified early enough in the FDCV veterinary curriculum so they can prepare to be sufficiently proficient in English to pass the TOFEL examination. The TOFEL will be taken by the 4th year (preferably, to flag any potential difficulties) or 5th year of matriculation.
- Potential scholars will be offered additional learning opportunities (seminars, presentations, English as a foreign language, etc.) while in the veterinary curriculum to get them further interested in and prepared (at a general, non-technical level) for a career in research. They should understand the academic process, the role of research in academia, and should be interested in research as

a long term career goal. The need for earning a PhD in order to be eligible for future appointment to the FDCV faculty after graduation should be stressed.

After the Visiting Scholars are identified and selected by FDCV faculty, VMRCVM will select and assign a faculty member and laboratory for each Visiting Scholar. The faculty and laboratory selected will be matched as closely as possible to the area of the Scholar's interest. The research completed at VMRCVM can be used as part of the Visiting Scholar's required 5th year thesis if the thesis advisor is identified before the Scholar begins the program.

At completion of the VMRCVM research experience, each Visiting Scholar will return to FDCV to finish the veterinary degree.

During the Program, the Scholars will be observed by VMRCVM faculty to determine which, if any, of them will be invited to apply to graduate school at Virginia Tech to study for a Master's or Ph.D. degree in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences (BMVS).

If a Scholar is invited to apply and successfully gains admittance into graduate school, VMRCVM will provide a stipend for the duration of the graduate program. Normally, this will be 2 years for Master's Degree and 4 year for Ph.D. students.

The students admitted into graduate school will not have to supply their own health insurance, as graduate students are provided subsidized insurance through VT at minimal cost to the student.

A score of 230 on the TOEFL test is required for admittance by the VT Graduate School. Normally a GRE score of 1070 is also required, but it may be possible for VMRCVM to waive the GRE requirement for these Scholars, although taking the GRE is encouraged.

For Scholars who have a strong interest in clinical practice and are accepted into a VMRCVM graduate program, it may be possible to combine a residency along with a Master's Degree program. Doing this will increase the length of the Master's Degree program to 3 years.

FDCV Scholars must be made keenly aware that at the end of completion of the graduate degree, they are expected return to FDCV as a potential faculty member. FDCV will provide indication of the type and level of position that can be expected upon return and should put into place incentives to encourage the students to become FDCV faculty members. This will provide enrichment to the FDCV faculty pool and will insure future VMRCVM and FDCV cooperation.

The existence of this Program will provide a pool of highly qualified individuals who can be selected to serve as FDCV faculty. It will also serve as a recruitment tool for veterinary students who are seeking a unique, global learning experience while at FDCV.

Target goals of the Honors Program: When the program is fully implemented it is anticipated that three Visiting Scholars will be selected annually to participate in the Honors Research Program at VMRCVM and that at least one of them is invited to apply for, and gains admittance into, the BMVS graduate program.

(2) VETERINARY CLINICAL STUDENT EXCHANGE aka VISITING CLINICAL SCHOLARS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Top veterinary students will be selected from FDCV and VMRCVM to become Visiting Clinical Scholars. The experience for the VMRCVM students who are selected will be in public practice while the experience for FDCV students will be in small animal clinical practice with a private clinical hospital.

VMRCVM VISITING CLINICAL SCHOLARS

One to two VMRCVM students who are chosen to become Visiting Scholars will primarily receive a wide array of *public practice experience* with Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG), aquaculture (salmon industry), food safety, food production, epidemiology, animal welfare, international trade issues, etc. The preference is that the students be in the fourth year of the VMRCVM curriculum to coincide with senior Blocks. Three, or in some cases, six week visits will be possible throughout the year.

VMRCVM students who are selected for this program must have midlevel Spanish proficiency and will be responsible for transportation, food, incidentals, and related travel documents from the US to Chile and return to the US. FDCV will provide housing for the VMRCVM students in either a private home with a family or in a hotel or bed and breakfast establishment for up to 6 weeks.

FDCV VISITING CLINICAL SCHOLARS

One to two 5th year FDCV Visiting Clinical Scholars will be selected each year based on academic achievements (top of class) and English proficiency. The goal of the Program for FDCV Scholars will be to provide small animal clinical experience. Scholars will be placed in a private, clinical hospital for 4 – 6 weeks. The designated hospital may be located in any US state.

FDCV Visiting Clinical Scholars will be responsible for their own transportation, food, incidentals and travel documents from Chile to the location of the participating hospital in the US and return to Chile. The host private clinical practice will contribute towards the students housing costs while in the US.

(3) GRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

VMRCVM GRADUATE STUDENTS

One to two VMRCVM graduate students will go FDCV for 1 – 3 months to work on a project, learn a novel technology or conduct animal experiments.

These graduate students may also teach in the veterinary hospital and see clients. VMRCVM will investigate if it will be possible to pay a fee for this service. The benefit for the graduate student of teaching and seeing clients will be a potential additional position title which will be a marketable addition to their CV. This option of teaching may make the offer this exchange program more attractive as the VMRCVM graduate students will be able to practice clinical medicine while working on research projects. The benefit to the FDCV will be additional professional support to temporarily fill in current shortages in the clinics.

FDCV will provide housing for VMRCVM graduate students during their stay. The VMRCVM graduate students will be responsible for transportation from the US to Chile and return to the US, official travel documents, food, and incidentals. For those graduate students who either teach in the FDCV curriculum or see clients in the hospital, an additional stipend will be provided by the FDCV.

FDCV GRADUATE STUDENTS

One to two FDCV graduate students will come to VMRCVM for 1 – 3 months to work on a project or to learn a novel technology. It is a possibility that they will be allowed to take graduate courses gratis (this needs to be confirmed) and FDCV will recognize these courses for credit towards the graduate student's degree.

VMRCVM will provide housing and a small stipend to the FDCV graduate students during their stay. They will be responsible for individual health insurance, transportation from Chile to the US and return to Chile, including all official travel documents.

Graduate students from both institutions will act as points of contacts for other graduate student and for those who are or may become Visiting Scholars or Visiting Clinical Scholars.

After completion of the terminal degree, each graduate student will be appointed as an adjunct professor at the respective college and have accompanying privileges with that college including access to library, collaboration with faculty, co-application of grants, etc.

Note: Upon completion of the degree, the FDCV graduate students will be provided an opportunity to return to the US for adjunct professor privileges only IF their teaching responsibilities at FDCV are addressed during their absence.

Faculty at both institutions who will serve as principal investigators for this program need a structured, written description for this graduate student exchange program as details of the

program have been loosely communicated to them. A document needs to be developed for each student describing the details of the program and expectations. The open positions for graduate students should be posted on respective websites, along with faculty (PI) contacts, and areas of research interest.

Principal investigators who participate in the program by taking graduate students into their laboratories should be on the graduate committee for that graduate student. An added incentive for investigator participation can be travel to either FDCV or VMRCVM – respectively – for committee duties. Travel expenses for VMRCVM faculty will be the responsibility of FDCV and travel expenses for FDCV faculty will be taken care of by VMRCVM.

(4) FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

As described in November 29, 2005 MOU, visiting faculty from each institution are encouraged to apply for sabbaticals through their respective administration. These sabbaticals will be non-degree seeking experiences that can range from clinical practice in teaching hospitals, research (laboratory and library), or curriculum development and delivery. These sabbaticals will be approved based on space availability and need.

Additionally, retired VMRCVM faculty will be encouraged to provide their services in a teaching or clinical capacity at the FDCV. Details of this program including housing and financial agreements will be worked out by individual faculty and FDCV administration.


MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
UNIVERSIDAD AUSTRAL DE CHILE (AUSTRAL UNIVERSITY),
FACULTIES OF VETERINARY SCIENCES, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND FOREST
SCIENCES, AND
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(VIRGINIA TECH), VIRGINIA MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE,
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES AND COLLEGE OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

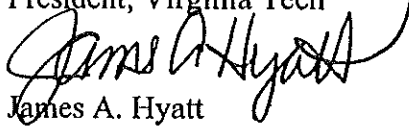
This agreement is entered into this _____ day of _____, 2005, by and between Austral University and Virginia Tech.

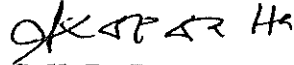
PURPOSE: To define the collaborative relationship among three Faculties (Colleges) of the Universidad Austral de Chile - Veterinary Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Forest Sciences and three Colleges of Virginia Tech - Virginia Maryland Regional Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and College of Natural Resources - for the development of professional collaborations and experiences among members of each University, for the development of educational experiences for undergraduate and postgraduate students, for the development and expansion of research collaborations, and the general objective of expanding the international perspective of each University. The collaborative programs set forth herein shall commence on January 1st 2006.


1. Junior Faculty at Austral University will be able to pursue a Ph.D. degree at Virginia Tech as long as they meet minimum qualifications including English proficiency and are admitted to Graduate School.
2. Visiting graduate students from both institutions will be able to work on their thesis or dissertation research at either institution. This will consist of short (1 to 3 months) visits with graduate student status under the direction of a co-advisor at the host institution. These exchange students will remain enrolled at their home institution and receive credit there for this research work.
3. Faculty visiting scholars from both institutions will be encouraged to participate in teaching and research.
4. Austral University will establish an Honors program for undergraduates that will include achieving proficiency in English. Selected 5th year honor students will be eligible to participate in undergraduate research projects at Virginia Tech, through a stipend provided by Virginia Tech. Students will return and finish their undergraduate degree at Austral University. Students demonstrating outstanding performance during the undergraduate research project will be considered for admission to an appropriate Virginia Tech Ph.D. program. Only honors students with appropriate English proficiency will be accepted and offered a stipend and tuition.
5. Reciprocal visits of students will be encouraged by each University to broaden the educational and cultural experiences.
6. Potential for collaboration in research investigation is part of this agreement. Collaboration will be through mutually agreed written proposals where funding has been secured by project leaders.
7. Overall supervision of the activities of the agreement will rest with the Deans. Deans will appoint specific coordinators within Faculties/Colleges to deal with the administration of the program. Comment: the Graduate School will need to be involved as well.

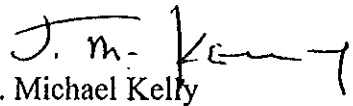
This agreement shall be in effect for 10 years, and is subject to revision or modification by mutual written agreement. The agreement may be terminated by either party upon 12 month's written notice to the other party.

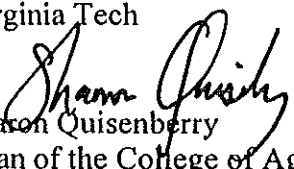

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