

Merck Scholars

Michelle Hanna*

The summer of 1991 marked the beginning of a new scholarship program sponsored by the Merck Foundation at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. The goal of the Merck's program is to expose veterinary students to some of the prominent researchers in the veterinary college and to enable them to participate in realistic work experiences.

Each interested student worked with a faculty member to develop a research proposal and eight freshman and sophomore veterinary students were chosen to participate in this program.

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The Merck foundation provided the student-mentor teams with grants to conduct their research, and students were given a stipend for their work. Topics this year included reproductive physiology, neuroscience and infectious disease.

During the summer, the group met weekly to discuss progress, as well as to tour the National Animal Disease Center, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory, and various biotechnological facilities available to ISU researchers.

The research projects were concluded in the fall with poster presentations for the faculty, students, and Merck representatives. The overall response to the Merck Internship program was encouraging and it will be continued during forthcoming summers.



Pictured, front row, left to right: Jill Henry (VMII), Carla Morrow (VMII), Kazuko Tago-McDowell (VMIII). Back row, left to right: Valena Wasmund (VMIII), Brian Manwiller (VMIII), Keith Bretey (VMII), Perry Harms (VMIII), Doug Lain (VMIII).