Global Veterinary Medicine
An Educational Approach

Texas A&M University
University of Padova
Tufts University

2008 – 2014

Summer 2008: Eight Biomedical Science majors spent 10 weeks studying physiology at the University of Padova. The class was taught in English by two TAMU faculty members. Ten first year University of Padova veterinary students participated in this course.

Summer 2009: Eight Biomedical Science majors spent 5 weeks studying physiology and pharmacology at the University of Padua. Our students studied with ten first year University of Padova veterinary students in the physiology course and ten second year veterinary students in the pharmacology course. Both courses were taught in English by the faculty members who had participated in the summer of 2008.

Summer 2010: Seven Biomedical Science majors spent 5 weeks at the University of Padova studying physiology and pharmacology. Eight first year veterinary students participated in the physiology course and ten second year veterinary students were in the pharmacology course. Two TAMU faculty members provided the instruction.

Feedback from our students:

"Everything completely exceeded my expectations. I cannot say enough good things about my experience in Italy!"

"The cultural knowledge I gained was priceless!!"

"The faculty and staff in Padova were incredibly helpful and friendly."

"I wasn't expecting to learn so much about myself and make such amazing connections with other people. It was the best time of my life."

"It was a fantastic program. I am so glad that I was fortunate enough to be involved."

"I wanted to just say thank you for all you have given me. I will always be thankful for the trip to Italy. It changed my life and opened my eyes to another culture. I think about going back just about every day."
Summer 2010: Ten third year University of Padova veterinary students traveled to TAMU and were provided the opportunity to acquire some clinical skills in a 4 week program provided by the veterinary clinical departments.

Summer 2011: This summer, we will host another ten third year veterinary students from Padova and offer a study abroad pharmacology course for our Biomedical Science students and second year veterinary students at Padova.

**Veterinary International Leadership Program (VILP) - Summers 2011 - 2014**

VILP involves three institutions: Texas A&M, Tufts, and the University of Padova

Funded in part by Pfizer Europe

20 veterinary students are involved: 8 are incoming vet students to TAMU, 4 are incoming vet students to Tufts, and 8 are just completing their first year of vet school at the University of Padova

The students who will be attending TAMU in the Fall received undergraduate degrees from:

- TAMU (3), University of Texas (1), University of Oklahoma (1), Vanderbilt (1), Ohio State (1), and Rice (1)

The students who will be attending Tufts in the Fall received undergraduate degrees from:

- Harvard (1), Princeton (1), Sweet Briar College (1), and Nanjing University (1)

The three institutions have collectively recognized the strengths of each participating College of Veterinary Medicine and have scheduled the following workshops:

- Summer 2011 – 6 week workshop on Physiology in College Station
- Summer 2012 – 6 week workshop on General Pathology in Padova
- Summer 2013 – 6 week workshop on Public Health and Food Safety in Padova
- Summer 2014 6 week workshops in clinical skills in College Station and North Grafton, MA

During these workshops, we will be asking representatives of Pfizer to provide seminars on international issues facing the pharmaceutical industry and on developing leadership in the international arena.

Students’ airfares and housing will be paid for by the program.
Potential benefits for the students:

Understand the global nature of veterinary medicine
Appreciate the cultural differences in the practice of veterinary medicine, pet ownership, and animal production
Be exposed to the application of different pedagogical tools and practices
Gain access to the expertise of faculty at the host institutions
Enhance awareness of cultural differences
Interact with future colleagues from other countries
Gain life skills and experiences by living in a foreign country
Improve communication skills in a non-native language

Potential benefits for the faculty:

Exchange teaching methodologies
Discuss teaching philosophies
Explore different assessment practices
Understand cultural differences in the approach to treating diseases
Provide opportunities for collaborative research

Potential benefits for the institutions:

Expose faculty and administrators to different academic cultures
Explore opportunities for synergism in teaching and research

Footnotes:

The University of Padova is the second oldest university in Italy. It was established in 1222 and was for many years the center of scientific research. Notable scientists who studied at Padova include: Galileo Galilei, Gabriele Falloppio, Nicolaus Copernicus, and William Harvey. Over 60,000 students are presently attending the University of Padova.

During our study abroad programs, students have served as outstanding ambassadors for the United States, Texas, and Texas A&M University.