

## ***Global Initiatives in Veterinary Education (GIVE)***

**University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine  
and  
School of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Yucatan**

The College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida (UFL), Gainesville, FL, USA and their companion college, the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Yucatan in Merida, Mexico are undertaking a long-term, meaningful, mutually beneficial partnership to improve the educational status of the both veterinary schools through a cooperative exchange program involving multiple faculty, staff, and students from each institution.



The UFL project coordinator is Dr. Jorge Hernandez ([hernandezj@vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:hernandezj@vetmed.ufl.edu)) who is Director of International Programs for the College of Veterinary Medicine at UFL and a member of the AAVMC International Affairs Committee. The Dean of the veterinary College at UFL is Dr. Glenn Hoffsis ([hoffsisg@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:hoffsisg@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu)) About 10 additional UFL veterinary faculty members will cooperate in various phases of the project. The college telephone number is 352-392-4700.

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International programs at UFL target Latin America but also work elsewhere in the world. They are student centered—with heavy faculty involvement—and serve companion animals, livestock, and poultry. They incorporate education, research, extension, delivery of veterinary services, and broad activities in animal health, food safety, and public health.

The UFL CVM has had academic collaboration with scholars at the University of the Yucatan since 1999. These activities have included dog and cat spay and neuter clinics, rabies vaccination programs in rural areas, and continuing education courses in epidemiology and risk analysis.

The School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Yucatan project coordinator is Dr. Jose Williams. The Dean of the School is Dr. Fernando Herrera. The School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Yucatan has a five-year curriculum. It is among the nine (of 45) Mexican veterinary colleges that meet Mexico's veterinary accreditation standards. It offers training in both basic and clinical sciences.

Current program components include:

- An annual training program in Florida for the top two Yucatan graduates;
- Two-way faculty and student exchanges involving college campuses and field trips;
- Development of real-time video-audio conferencing between the partner colleges;
- An exchange program for academic clinicians;

- Development of strategies for diagnostic monitoring of backyard poultry flocks;
- Studies on oral rabies vaccines in rural areas;
- Evaluation of the impact of stray & feral dogs on ecosystem preservation;
- Development of control procedures for free roaming dogs and cats; and
- Studies on the health aspects of Mexican commercial pork production, export, and food safety programs.

If you wish further information about the UFL-University of Yucatan GIVE partnership, please contact Dr. Hernandez.

If you seek further information about the AAVMC GIVE Program, please contact Dr. Mike Chaddock ([mchaddock@aavmc.org](mailto:mchaddock@aavmc.org)).