



**American Association of  
Veterinary Medical Colleges**



**ONE HEALTH:**  
*Animal Health. Environmental  
Health. Human Health.*

*The veterinary academy promotes and protects the health and wellbeing of people, animals and the environment by advancing the profession of veterinary medicine and preparing new generations of veterinarians to meet the needs of a changing world.*

Founded in 1966, the AAVMC represents more than 40,000 faculty, staff and students across the global academic veterinary medical community. Our member institutions include Council on Education (COE) accredited veterinary medical colleges and schools in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and New Zealand as well as departments of veterinary science and departments of comparative medicine in the U.S.

Every day, our institutions use a One Health approach to help solve global problems, ranging from zoonotic diseases to food insecurity. This approach means that we recognize that animal, human and environmental health are interconnected, and these issues must be addressed in a comprehensive way in order to be effective.

## Our History of Service

Over the past decades, our members have done extensive research on zoonotic diseases, including vaccine development for COVID-19, performing groundbreaking research on HIV, malaria and a range of other diseases. More recently, institutions have taken up the challenge of finding a way to thwart the surge of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and creating vaccines for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), and Swine Influenza. The latter two continue to have a tremendous impact on food supply and overall food prices. Additionally, veterinarians trained at our institutions serve the needs of the rural, urban, and suburban animal-owning public.

The list of research contributions is very long. Here is a sample search of National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants to Colleges of Veterinary Medicine: <https://reporter.nih.gov/search/XMg83eES50Gkv2nrf-ZNIg/projects/charts>

A few examples:

1. Many of our member institutions, including Louisiana State University (LSU), are working on research involving crossover of SARS-COV-2 variants into deer and other wildlife.
2. Several AAVMC institutions are working to identify risk factors for the transmission of influenza viruses from pigs to farm workers, and strategies to minimize that risk. One of these, Purdue University, is working on swine flu vaccines based on nanoparticles.
3. At the beginning of the Pandemic, several of our members' Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories conducted human Covid-19 testing, giving their respective states enough time to build testing capacity to meet future needs. Among these, Oklahoma State University (OSU) accomplished this while operating at full capacity in animal health testing simultaneously.

Total research investment is \$772,478,294.



**AAVMC ADVOCACY:** [aavmc.org/programs/advocacy](http://aavmc.org/programs/advocacy)

**CONTACT:** Kevin Cain, Director for Governmental Affairs • [kcain@aavmc.org](mailto:kcain@aavmc.org)



American Association of  
Veterinary Medical Colleges



**ONE HEALTH:**  
*Animal Health. Environmental  
Health. Human Health.*

## Growth to support current & future needs

*Academic veterinary  
medicine is growing to  
meet societal needs.*

Colleges that have begun the  
process for full accreditation:

- University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Long Island University, Brookville, NY
- Texas Tech University, Amarillo, TX
- Ana G. Méndez University, Gurabo, PR
- Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
- Utah State University, Logan, UT
- Lincoln Memorial University, Orange Park, FL
- Lyon College, Little Rock, AR
- Clemson University, Clemson, SC
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD
- Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR
- Rocky Vista University, Billings, MT
- Chamberlain University, Stockbridge, GA

Classes will begin graduating  
from the majority of these institutions  
in 5-10 years.

## How can Congress Help?

*We will need help from Congress, and  
the consequences of inaction could have  
serious implications for our future. We  
want to work with the federal government  
to address these challenges.*

**Academic veterinary medicine is facing a critical  
workforce shortage, most acute in the clinical faculty.**

- In the fall of 2022, AAVMC's US member institutions reported 403 funded, unfilled faculty positions. By the fall of 2023, this number had grown by 18% to 474 positions, representing 10.0% of the current veterinary faculty workforce.
- First-year students are increasing at a rate of about 3% annually over the past 10 years. This increases the need for faculty accordingly, and the trend is projected to continue for the foreseeable future.
- With an additional 12+ schools currently being launched – requiring (conservatively) a total of 50 faculty per school – the overall faculty shortage stands to increase to a total of nearly 1,000 by 2030. The shortage will greatly restrict our ability to provide quality education to veterinary medical students nationwide.

**While many veterinary sectors suffer from workforce  
shortages, the lack of veterinary faculty at schools  
across the US threatens our future workforce, and  
demands collective action from Congress.**



**AAVMC ADVOCACY:** [aavmc.org/programs/advocacy](https://aavmc.org/programs/advocacy)

**CONTACT:** Kevin Cain, Director for Governmental Affairs • [kcain@aavmc.org](mailto:kcain@aavmc.org)



American Association of  
Veterinary Medical Colleges



**ONE HEALTH:**  
*Animal Health. Environmental  
Health. Human Health.*

## We need a National Veterinary Faculty Training Grant Program

*The serious shortage threatens the ability of the US veterinary workforce to meet societal needs. Potential implications include:*

- **Public health:** Zoonotic diseases – those that can be transmitted from animals to humans – are much more common than most people realize, comprising an estimated 75% of emerging infectious diseases. Further, the safety of our animal-origin foods hinges critically on veterinary input. And finally, the vital importance of pets to the overall well-being of humans, both physical and mental health, is becoming more and more widely recognized. Assuring adequate access to veterinary healthcare will markedly improve public health, and decrease healthcare costs, for millions of U.S. citizens.
- **Animal welfare:** Animals with insufficient veterinary care can be expected to experience greater rates of morbidity and mortality. Inadequate access to veterinary care is known to be one of the greatest risk factors for companion animals to be surrendered to a shelter. Assuring adequate access to veterinary healthcare will undoubtedly improve the welfare of millions of animals.
- **Economic:** Veterinarians provide critical support to productivity and product quality/safety across the livestock industries, whose contribution to the US economy is estimated at over \$200B annually. Veterinary sector sales in the U.S. pet market were estimated at \$36.8B in 2022. Clearly, animal health and veterinary medicine have a major positive impact on the U.S. economy.

## The Solution: Support for Veterinary Faculty

*To avert a crisis in veterinary medical education, we seek a National Veterinary Faculty Training Grant (NVFTG) program in the amount of \$50 million per year for five years. This would enable training of 500 future members of the national veterinary faculty at an annual cost of \$100,000 per training position. Note the following:*

- A shortage of 1,000 faculty in total is anticipated by 2030. The National Veterinary Faculty Training Grant (NVFTG) only seeks support for half of that total, with the balance to be derived from other sources – including state government and private sources.
- The annual cost per training position of \$100,000 would cover a stipend plus benefits for the trainee in addition to related programmatic costs, including release time for the trainers (current faculty).
- Five years is a typical length for post-DVM training programs that include graduate study, which is the recommended pathway to prepare for a faculty career path.



AAVMC ADVOCACY: [aavmc.org/programs/advocacy](https://aavmc.org/programs/advocacy)

CONTACT: Kevin Cain, Director for Governmental Affairs • [kcain@aavmc.org](mailto:kcain@aavmc.org)