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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **AKC Canine Health Foundation Names 2019 Clinician-Scientist Fellows**

RALEIGH, NC (November 15, 2018) – The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is pleased to announce the 2019 recipients of AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowships. Established in 2013, CHF's Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program encourages and supports the next generation of canine health researchers to sustain future advancements for the health of dogs. The 2019 Fellows are:

1) **Ana Costa, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM** is a PhD candidate in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences (Pharmacogenomics) Department of Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Under the mentorship of Drs. Michael Court, Katrina Mealey, and Nicolas Villarino, she will study potential causes of adverse drug reactions in dogs with chronic renal failure.

2) **Shelby Gasson, DVM** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Texas A&M University. Under the mentorship of Dr. Brian Saunders, she is continuing her work as the AKC Canine Health Foundation GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get Ready To Rumble "Rumble" Clinician-Scientist Fellow ([akcchf.org/rumble](http://akcchf.org/rumble)), researching the development of tissue engineering constructs for treatment of osteochondral defects.

This fellowship is again generously sponsored by Rumble's owners, Carolyn and Gary Koch, breeders Kristy and Kevin Ratliff, and handler Esteban Farias in memory of an outstanding dog.

3) **Mariah Gentry, DVM** is a veterinary post-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Under the mentorship of Dr. Margret L. Casal, she is studying the heritability of renal dysplasia in Cairn Terriers. Her goal is to develop a DNA-based marker test, so the disorder can be diagnosed at an early age.

This fellowship is generously sponsored by the Foundation of the Cairn Terrier Club of America.

4) **Sarah Murphy** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry at Clemson University. Under the mentorship of Dr. Leigh Anne Clark, she will research the genetics of congenital idiopathic megaesophagus in German Shepherd Dogs and Great Danes. This fellowship is generously sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

5) **Caroline Wood, DVM, PhD** is a veterinary medical oncology resident at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Health Center. Under the mentorship of Dr. Jaime Modiano, she will study the unique DNA methylation patterns for specific lymphocyte subsets found in osteosarcoma (bone) tumors in dogs.

This fellowship is generously sponsored by the American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation.

“We are very proud of the high-caliber researchers that have been selected to participate in this program for 2019,” states CHF CEO, Dr. Diane Brown. “We look forward to the successes of this year’s class and the continued contributions to advance canine health through scientific research that we see result from the CHF Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program. Along with our Board of Directors, I also want to express our gratitude to the visionary donors who have collaborated with our Foundation to make these grants possible.”

To learn more about the new, current, and prior CHF Clinician-Scientist Fellows, please visit [akcchf.org/fellows](http://akcchf.org/fellows).

Through the AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program, CHF’s ongoing mission to prevent, treat and cure canine disease will endure for years to come.

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#### **About CHF**

Since 1995, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has leveraged the power of science to address the health needs of all dogs. The Foundation funds the highest quality canine health research and shares information on the funded discoveries that help prevent, treat and cure canine diseases. The Foundation meets and exceeds industry standards for fiscal responsibility, as demonstrated by their four-star Charity Navigator rating and GuideStar Platinum seal. Learn more at [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org).