“Teach the teachers”

Scholarship competition for veterinary technicians/nurses offered by the WSAVA Global Pain Council (GPC)

GPC Vision: An empowered, motivated, and globally unified veterinary profession that effectively recognizes and minimizes pain prevalence and impact.

GPC Mission: To raise global awareness and provide a call to action based upon an understanding that all animals are sentient and can therefore feel pain and suffer from it. Through the identification of regionally specific resources for recognizing and treating pain, and targeted education, the Global Pain Council strives to elevate the level of confidence and competence in applying pain treatments.

Call for applications: “Teach the Teachers” is a program created by the WSAVA-GPC that includes a scholarship competition for veterinarians and another for veterinary technicians/nurses. This proposal includes details for the competition for veterinary technicians/nurses.

The program is divided into two phases. In Phase I, the selected candidate (trainee) will travel to one of the host locations in order to be trained and educated on the subject of small animal pain management. In Phase II, the trainee will return to his/her country of origin and propagate the knowledge by organizing and giving courses on this subject to local veterinary technicians/nurses and their associations. The program is completed at the end of Phase II when the trainee will receive a certificate. Details are provided below.

OBJECTIVES

- To educate veterinary technicians/nurses from developing countries in the subject of pain management
- To enhance companion animal health care and animal welfare by providing better pain management
- To train key-opinion leaders (KOL) in the veterinary technician/nurse community (“teachers”) so that they can propagate and disseminate knowledge in their countries
- To empower veterinary technicians/nurses to become leaders within their communities
- To establish a long-term network of veterinary technicians/nurses in the education of pain management across the world.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Candidates will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Be a graduate of a course of veterinary technician/nurse. Preference will be given to individuals from Tier 1 and 2 countries according to the WSAVA Tier Information (http://www.wsava.org/Members/Tier-Information). The WSAVA-GPC is committed to gender equality and minorities.
- Be allowed to travel internationally (valid passport) and be available to commit to a minimum of 8-12 weeks of training.
- All candidates must have a moderate level of written and spoken English.
- French, Spanish, Italian, German or Japanese-speaking candidates might be considered depending on the host location.
- Priority will be given to candidates with demonstrated interest in pain management and previous experience on teaching or those who could become KOL in the subject.
- Preference will be given to candidates from a WSAVA member association.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Cover letter
   Provide a cover letter with the candidate’s contact information including name, address, and e-mail address. Maximum of 1 page.

2. Documents
   Provide a copy of the veterinary technician/nurse degree.

3. Curriculum Vitae
   Provide a clear CV including relevant education, continuing education, current and past professional activities, professional achievements, teaching experience, involvement in professional organizations, etc. Maximum of 3 pages.

4. Letters of reference
   Provide two letters of reference from a previous mentor or colleague, or from the local veterinary technician/nurse association. Maximum of 1 page.

5. Letter of intent: description of leadership
   Provide a letter describing the candidate’s career goals, background, and relevant achievements related or not to veterinary medicine (e.g. social work within the community). The potential and demonstrated leadership profile of the candidate should be included in this letter. Maximum of 1 page.

6. Preliminary plan for Phase II
   Provide a detailed plan on how the candidate visions to teach other veterinary technicians/nurses in their country upon his/her return (Phase II) and to propagate the knowledge acquired during Phase I to the maximum number of veterinary technicians/nurses. This should include topics to be taught, timelines and course
format. For example, the candidate should use the WSAVA-GPC guidelines on his/her teaching. Focus should be given to nursing care. Maximum of 1 page.

Format: All documents should be prepared in font Times New Roman, 12pt, margins of 2.54cm (1 inch) in the English language.

Submission: The application should include items 1 to 6 above and should be submitted as one attachment in PDF format by email with the following title “Application for TtT competition for veterinary technicians”. Applications must be sent to WSAVA Secretariat, using the following e-mail address: admin@wsava.org

Deadline for the next competition for technicians/nurses: August 10th, 2020 (EST)

Applications will not be reviewed if they are incomplete or if they do not closely follow the above guidelines

REVIEW PROCESS
Teach the teacher trainees will be selected based on merit after a competitive review process which will be performed by the WSAVA-GPC Members.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION
Candidates will be notified of the decision by e-mail at least 9 months before the start of the program and no later than 6 weeks after the deadline. The successful candidate will receive a letter by e-mail with an official invitation to participate in the “Teach the teachers program”. It is the responsibility of the accepted candidate to acquire all the necessary documentation required for travel arrangements and provide the WSAVA-GPC members with acceptance notification via email. If no suitable candidate is identified, the scholarship will be transferred to the following year.

THE PROGRAM

- Location
The possible training location will vary depending on the availability of the host, proximity to the country of the selected candidate and preference of host location expressed by the candidate in his/her letter of intent. Hosts will be GPC members and training will be available at one of the following institutions:

- Université de Montréal (Saint-Hyacinthe, QC, Canada)
- North Carolina State University Comparative Pain Research and Education Centre, and Integrated Pain Management Service (Raleigh, NC, USA)
Colorado Veterinary Anaesthesia Services (Fort Collins and Colorado Springs, CO, USA)
Center for Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine Nuclear; VASTA (Zurich, Switzerland)
Rakuno Gakuen University (Ebetsu, Hokkaido, Japan)

- **Duration**
  8 to 12 weeks depending on the availability of the host and the candidate.

- **Training**
  Training will vary in format depending on the host and location. However, they will all cover the following three main topics:
  - Pathophysiology of pain
  - Assessment of acute and chronic pain in dogs and cats
  - Treatment of acute and chronic pain in dogs and cats

- **Scholarship**
  The selected candidate will be awarded with a scholarship of up to **US$8000**. The scholarship will be used to cover the costs of VISA requirements, flights, health insurance and accommodation. Other costs (food, transportation within the host location, etc.) are the responsibility of the trainee. Expenses will be reimbursed as they are accrued (e.g. once flights are completed; once accommodation is paid for).

  Visa requirements will vary according to the country of origin of the selected candidate and the host location. These will be coordinated individually between the parties involved.

- **Trainee’s Commitments**
  The successful candidate will have the following commitments to be fulfilled:
  - Give one 50-minute conference on a topic of choice at the end of Phase I in the host location
  - Finalize the “Preliminary plan for Phase II”: organize a continuing education program on pain management to be approved by the local host (Phase I)
  - Teach veterinary technicians/nurses in their country about pain management within six months of return (Phase II).
  - One-page follow-up final reports at the end of the program (Phase II)