

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: CT122

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Connecticut, USA
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, University of Connecticut, 61 N. Eagleville Rd, Storrs, CT 06269
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

Type I Shortage: Private Practice
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other _____

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other : _____

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
 Employer: University of Connecticut Position Title: Veterinary Pathology Resident

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Veterinary Diagnostician

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objective is to train more veterinarians in veterinary pathology, via the combined veterinary pathology residency program currently established at the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (CVMDL), University of Connecticut (UCONN), while concurrently meeting the veterinary diagnostic needs of the state. There is a documented workforce shortage of veterinary pathologists in both the pharmaceutical industry (critical to Connecticut) and in veterinary diagnostic laboratories (in Connecticut and nationwide). Veterinary pathologists play several critical roles in human and animal health. Veterinary pathologists are key evaluators of drug safety for human and veterinary pharmaceuticals. In the veterinary diagnostic laboratory, pathologists conduct constant surveillance for diseases of all animal species. These diseases include zoonotic diseases and newly emerging diseases, directly impacting public health and food safety. The post-DVM residency training takes 3 years minimum, and additional years if combined with a PhD program. The salary for veterinary pathology residents is far below salaries offered in private practice. Candidates with an interest in pathology often are unable to pursue this advanced training due to excessive debt load from veterinary school. The CVMDL would be able to attract more top quality pathology residents to our training program if some loan debt was relieved, providing direct benefit to Connecticut citizens and industry.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The veterinary pathology residents at the CVMDL also pursue an advanced degree (MS or PhD) at the University of Connecticut. All residents spend the first three years working in the CVMDL diagnostic pathology laboratory; if the resident is pursuing the PhD degree, 2-3 additional years of research training follow. Daily activities involve animal autopsies on a variety of species, including farm animals, wildlife, laboratory animals and aquatic species. This breadth of experience is critical for the training of a veterinary pathologist, and also paramount in providing the skills necessary to detect diseases that may impact public health and food safety. The residents are critical to the daily functioning of the diagnostic laboratory, and are essentially the "first responders" on the necropsy room floor. Residents conduct the gross necropsy (autopsy), examine tissues microscopically, and often determine which additional tests are needed to determine the cause of death. A senior faculty pathologist carefully supervises each resident, with one-on-one training conducted daily. Coursework relevant to veterinary pathology is taken. Residents also assist faculty in teaching of laboratory sections of anatomy and histology courses, enhancing their teaching skills while providing unmatched depth of experience and expertise to the undergraduate students in these laboratory sections.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Each year we (CVMDL, Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, University of Connecticut) recruit veterinary pathology resident candidates via advertising, specific recruitment at veterinary meetings, and word of mouth. We sometimes have difficulty filling the positions with the highest quality candidates due to the fiscal restraints imposed by their high debt load and the limited salary offered in the pathology residency training program. We feel that VMLRP assistance may serve as an additional recruiting tool, allowing more top quality candidates to consider veterinary pathology as a career path.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

The CVMDL at UCONN needs top quality veterinary pathology residents to work in the laboratory, conducting animal autopsy and disease surveillance activities. This provides direct service to the citizens of Connecticut and the region, and directly impacts food animal health, public health and food safety. The state, region and country need more veterinary pathologists to fill openings in veterinary diagnostic laboratories and the pharmaceutical industry. Without relief from veterinary school debt, we are unable to attract the best candidates for this program, particularly those who wish to remain in Connecticut and the region. CVMDL is the last remaining full service state veterinary diagnostic laboratory in New England, providing a critical local service. Failure to meet this pathology resident need could result in delay in (or failure of) detection of emerging diseases that impact animal and public health. Additionally, fewer pharmaceutical veterinary pathologists could delay new drug availability for human and veterinary medicine.

The American College of Veterinary Pathologists states: [veterinary pathologists] "fill vital roles directed at improving the knowledge base of the veterinary task force, increasing their diagnostic capabilities, and serving as key members and leaders of disease diagnostic and research teams that directly support the health of food animals in various capacities... [They] are actively engaged in disease policy development and education of livestock producers and other animal health professionals.... Veterinary pathologists working in federal, state, and university diagnostic and research laboratories are significantly involved in all of these focus areas; however their numbers are critically insufficient relative to the need for their expertise. "

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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