

ISCAID Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program

Objectives

- 1) To foster increased understanding of infectious diseases in companion animals, including understanding of epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention among veterinary internists.
- 2) To provide a mechanism for veterinary internists to receive advanced infectious diseases training
- 3) To provide a tangible benefit to people that complete advanced infectious diseases training.

Candidate Requirements

Candidates must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine and board certified by ACVIM or ECVIM. Individuals that have completed an internal medicine residency program but who are not yet board certified may enroll in the fellowship training program but a fellowship will not be granted until board certification is obtained. Completion of the fellowship will require completion of a series of modules, with varying forms of evaluation.

Program Requirements

Clinical Infectious Disease Practice

A minimum of 125 infectious disease cases must be logged. These cases must have a substantial infectious diseases component. Ultimately, some cases may not be confirmed as infectious diseases but if a thorough investigation of infectious disease aspects is undertaken, the case can be included (with approval of the mentor, as described below).

Up to 50 of these may be done remotely, through telephone or email consultations. Remote cases must involve active follow-up by the Candidate to assess results of diagnostic testing and/or response to treatment. The remaining cases must be examined in-person.

Case Distribution.

Among the 125 cases, the following minimum numbers must be achieved:

Respiratory: 15

Gastrointestinal: 15

Urogenital: 15

Neurological: 5

Dermatological: 15

Orthopedic: 15

Bloodstream/cardiovascular/endocarditis: 5

Group (hospital, shelter, multi-animal household): 5

Pathogen distribution

Bacterial: 30

Viral: 25
 Fungal: 15
 Parasitic: 10

Case Log

Cases must be documented in a logbook (see template below), which will be submitted as part of the final evaluation process. The case log must be submitted every 3 months. The case log will be reviewed by the Candidate and their mentor(s) on a regular basis and the mentor will sign-off on submission of the log, indicating that they have reviewed the cases. It is expected that the review will involve discussion of cases, particularly remote cases.

Owner /ID	Date	Species	Direct/remote	System	Pathogen	Description	Follow-up*
Bart	Jan 27, 2012	Canine	Remote (telephone)	Neuro	Bacterial	MRSE infection of vent-peritoneal shunt	Yes. Treated successfully with antimicrobials and shunt removal.
Hoge	Jan 27, 2012	Feline	Direct	Urinary	Bacterial	Recurrent UTI post PU.	Clinical resolution, with subsequent new enterococcal infection 2 months later.
OVC	Jan 17, 2012	Canine	Direct	Resp	Viral	CPiV outbreak	Outbreak ended with 5 cases. No 2 nd generation transmission. One community-based transmission
MHS	Jan 5, 2012	Feline	Direct	Derm	Fungal	Ringworm outbreak	Outbreak ongoing. Facility unwilling to properly implement recommendations.

* Required for remote cases. Preferred for all cases.

Clinical microbiology

Following completion of a training module (to ensure basic level competency and understanding of laboratory biosafety), the candidate will complete a one-week rotation in a veterinary clinical microbiology laboratory. The training module can consist of an online or in-person training program offered by academic, clinical or research facilities. The Fellowship Committee will assist Candidates in identifying appropriate programs. The mentor will approve the module.

Infection control

Following completion of an online training module, candidates will complete a minimum of 20 hours with the infection control team at a facility with a formal infection control program. Veterinary facilities are preferred but time with

the infection control team in a human hospital is acceptable. Pre-approval of the facility by the mentor(s) is required, based on objective criteria (e.g. active infection control program with faculty supervisor who has expertise in the field and a program whereby the candidate can be involved with day-to-day infection control).

Antimicrobial therapy

An interactive online course on principles and practices of antimicrobial chemotherapy will be completed. This will involve relevant clinical pharmacology, drug selection, drug monitoring and related aspects. A series of case-based assignments will be required to complete the module. These will consist of case scenarios where the candidate will have to select and justify appropriate therapy. Antiviral and antifungal therapy will be included.

Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases

Candidates must successfully complete a graduate, undergraduate or continuing education (e.g. SHEA Fundamentals of Healthcare Epidemiology) course on clinical epidemiology. The course will be approved by the mentor.

Public health and zoonoses

A module will be completed. This module will consist of a series of zoonotic case scenarios that the Candidate will assess and provide a written assessment. This may involve a written evaluation of the issues pertaining to the case, a detailed advice email in response to a scenario or similar methods to assess the Candidate's understanding of zoonotic diseases and disease communications. A Fellowship committee member will supervise this module and will assess the Candidate's work.

Case Reports

Three case reports will be submitted, each dealing with a different body system and different pathogen type. Case reports are designed to evaluate critical assessment and thought process. "Textbook" cases are not required. Minor problems with case management or unanswered questions are acceptable as long as these are identified and addressed in the text. Case reports will be reviewed by 2 ISCAID members. Three outcomes will be possible; accept, revise or reject. If reviewers provide different assessments, the Chair of the ISCAID Fellowship Committee will make the assessment based on the reviews and discussions with the reviewers. One revision may be allowed to address any issues that were identified by the reviewers. After review, the only two possible outcomes are accept or reject.

Only 3 case reports from the same candidate may be under consideration at one time. If two case reports have been accepted, the candidate may not submit more than 1 additional case for review at a time. Beyond that, there is no limit in the number of case report attempts that can be made.

Research/publication

A minimum of 1 peer-reviewed manuscript pertaining to infectious diseases of companion animals is required. Clinical, laboratory or epidemiological topics are acceptable. Single case reports are not acceptable.

Presentation

The candidate must give a minimum of one formal presentation (oral or poster) on an infectious disease topic. This can be as a conference presentation, infectious diseases research abstract presentation, regional practitioner meeting, academic rounds presentation or similar event. If an ISCAID Fellowship Committee Member is not present at that meeting, the presentation materials (e.g. slides, abstract) must be presented to the mentor for approval.

Continuing education

Candidates must attend at least one conference with an infectious diseases focus where information is provided at the specialist level. This includes the ACVIM Forum, ECVIM conference or ISCAID conference. Attendance at human infectious diseases meetings such as ICEID, ICAAC, ASM General meeting and ECCMID is encouraged. Candidates will submit proof of registration as well as a log of infectious disease-related presentations that they attended. Attendance at a minimum of 10 hours of presentations is required to fulfill the requirement.

Evaluation

An examination must be passed (minimum 60% grade). Candidates are allowed 3 attempts to pass the exam. The examination will be administered under the supervision of an ISCAID mentor or designate. Date and location of examination will be flexible.

Duration

All components of the program must be successfully completed within 3 years from the date of official enrollment.

Governance

An ISCAID Fellowship Committee will oversee the Fellowship Program. The committee will consist of a minimum of 4 members. The Committee will formally approve the entry of candidates into the program, assign and approve mentors, develop and oversee the examination, coordinated case report assessment and review case logs.

Mentor

Each candidate will be assigned an advisory committee with a minimum of 2 mentors. Mentors will be from different facilities. Mentors will be ISCAID members that are active in the field of companion animal infectious diseases, as evidenced by active clinical involvement and/or research. The Fellowship Committee will approve mentors.

Fees

A fee of \$200 will be charged at the time of acceptance into the program. A program completion fee of \$150 will be due upon successful completion of all requirements. Any costs associated with external visits or courses will be covered by the Candidate.