

Faculty: Melissa Mazan, Professor, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Project Locations: 1 week in Grafton, MA; 3 weeks in Fez, Morocco, 5 weeks in Grafton, Ma

Dates: Flexible

Project Title: Creating a platform for pro bono expert consultation in veterinary medicine to developing countries

Project Details: We at the Cummings School have worked for the past 5 years with the American Fondouk, a pro bono hospital for working equids (donkeys, mules, and horses) in Fez, Morocco. An innovative and effective method that we have developed over the years is teleconference rounds in which the clinicians at the Fondouk send us diagnostic imaging results, laboratory results, and case summaries for animals that require expert consultation, and we at Cummings team up to help with diagnosis and create care plans, to provide advice and support the clinicians throughout the animal's stay at the hospital. We have also teamed up to provide continuing education opportunities for both the veterinarians at the Fondouk and the larger Moroccan veterinary society. We now are hoping to lay the groundwork for using a pre-made app that will allow other clinicians at universities throughout the world to join with us in providing advice and support to veterinarians in the developing world in addition to the specific hospital at the Fondouk. We would like to have an undergraduate global assistant stay at the Fondouk (it is well-equipped for visiting students, as there is a long history of visiting students from the University of Glasgow) to assess the computer capabilities at the American Fondouk, and to help to determine the best approach for uploading digital information for best access to users throughout the world. The project team includes Dr. Patrick Pollack from the University of Glasgow, Dr. Olivier LePage from the University of Lyon, Dr. Richard Hooper, Global Health Advisor for International SOS, Dr. Jay Merriam, founder of the Equitarian Initiative, and Dr. Gigi Kay, Director of the American Fondouk.

The summer will include a site visit to the American Fondouk in Fez, Morocco to assess the internet capacity and to help determine the best approach to world-wide access to clinical data. The rest of the time would be spent at the Grafton campus analyzing previously acquired data from the American Fondouk and would include participation in teleconference rounds with the AF on a weekly basis.

Tasks and Responsibilities of Research Assistant: On-site assessment of internet capabilities and computer network at the American Fondouk, analysis of previously acquired clinical data from the American Fondouk, help in determining app platform best suited for international consultation on cases.

Qualifications:

Required:

- Fluency in computer science and app development

Preferred:

- French or Arabic language
- Enjoy working with horses

Housing in Fez: Dormitory at the American Fondouk