Dr. Saul T. Wilson, Jr.

The Veterinary Services staff of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proud to sponsor the Saul T. Wilson, Jr., Scholarship Program for graduate students in veterinary medicine and undergraduate students in the biomedical sciences.

Veterinary Services: Taking the Lead in Safeguarding Animal Health

Veterinary Services (VS), a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for protecting and improving the health, quality, and marketability of the Nation’s agricultural animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics. VS veterinarians practice preventive veterinary medicine on a broad scale, dealing with animal health problems of statewide, regional, national, and international importance.

These broad responsibilities can have a profound effect on many aspects of American agriculture and animal health, especially the success of U.S. agricultural exports in world trade. APHIS veterinarians also ensure that animals protected under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act receive adequate care.

In recent years, the scope of VS’s protective function has expanded beyond disease management to a commercial protection role. Now the agency must respond to other countries’ animal and plant health import requirements and negotiate science-based standards that ensure America’s agricultural exports, worth over $50 billion annually, are protected from unjustified trade restrictions. Many VS activities have international significance through import-export and emergency response programs.

VS supports the livestock industry in the prevention and control of animal diseases that could otherwise be devastating. VS employees also assert that all licensed animal biological products distributed interstate, like vaccines, are pure, safe, potent, and effective. As a regulatory agency, APHIS is moving to a more broad-based public service role in order to better serve stakeholders and constituents and meet the demand for increased services.

A Career Choice That Can Make a Difference

A career in public veterinary health would afford you the opportunity to be involved with the health of major animal populations in many activity areas. Veterinarians have a responsibility for the health of the Nation’s animals, and public health veterinarians can have a broad and lasting impact on animal health issues.

A hallmark of VS is its multidisciplinary approach to working on animal health problems. VS has employment opportunities in the public veterinary field for professionals from a variety of disciplines. Additionally, APHIS employs veterinarians in its Animal Care and Plant Protection and Quarantine programs.

Employment opportunities are located throughout the United States.

What Does the Saul T. Wilson Scholarship Program Offer You?

• Up to $5,000 per year for undergraduate studies and up to $10,000 per year for graduate studies, for tuition, books, tutors, and laboratory fees.
• Up to $5,000 per year for undergraduate studies and up to $10,000 per year for graduate studies.
• Paid employment during summers and school breaks as a Veterinary Student Trainee, participation in the Federal Employees Retirement System and in the Thrift Savings Plan (401K), and paid vacation and sick leave. Based on the employee’s earnings, the agency may also include life and health insurance benefits.
• Employment opportunities are located throughout the United States.
• The possibility of conversion, without further competition, to a permanent appointment with the agency. The career experience program agreement requires 640 hours of study-related work with APHIS in order to be considered for this conversion and successful completion of the program and graduation with a D.V.M. degree.

Dr. Wilson dedicated his professional career to public veterinary medicine within APHIS and at Tuskegee University since his retirement from government service. He has made outstanding contributions to the health of the Nation’s livestock and poultry industries through an illustrious federal career and has inspired hundreds of veterinary students to consider practicing in the public sector. VS is pleased to honor this scholarship in the name of one of its most distinguished veterinarians.

A job with APHIS after successfully completing the career experience program and receiving the D.V.M. degree. At APHIS option, upon graduation the student must become a full-time agency employee for at least 1 calendar year (12 months) for each school year (2 semesters, 3 quarters or the equivalent) that the student was covered by the Wilson scholarship. If the scholarship recipient does not accept an APHIS employment offer, he or she must reimburse APHIS for all financial assistance received under the Wilson scholarship program. If the recipient fails to secure the employment offer within the mandatory APHIS employment period, he or she must reimburse the agency a prorated share of the scholarship funds awarded.

Dr. Wilson with students at Tuskegee University.

Dr. Wilson students do hands-on, paid work for APHIS during summer and holiday periods and have the opportunity for full-time employment after receiving their terminal degree.
About the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Through its VS, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal Care, International Services, and Wildlife Services programs, APHIS protects America’s animal and plant resources from invasive pests and diseases and monitors and manages foreign agricultural pests and diseases existing in the United States. The agency also resolves and manages trade issues related to animal or plant health, ensures the humane care and treatment of certain animals, manages wildlife conflicts, and makes sure that all licensed animal biological products distributed interstate are pure, safe, potent, and effective.

Because of its technical expertise in assessing and regulating the risks associated with agricultural imports, APHIS has become much more involved in trade issues in recent years. A major goal of the agency is to the establishment of harmonized, international science-based health standards. APHIS protection role also includes wildlife management, the welfare of animals, human health and safety, and ecosystems vulnerable to invasive pests and pathogens.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326–W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410 or call (202) 720–5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Photo credit: The first two photos were taken by Thomas Martin of the Media Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University. Photo credits: The first two photos were taken by Thomas Martin of the Media Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University. The right side of the page was created by L. Ron Garcia.