We are witnessing an explosion of new knowledge in the veterinary field and a transition of veterinary school programs from traditional discipline-oriented curriculum to new competency-based veterinary education models that focus on outcomes-based and learner-centered education and assessment. Combined with the recognition of how important and essential diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are to enhancing the veterinary profession and patient care, along with the significant technological advances in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), large language models (ie, ChatGPT), machine learning, and virtual reality, veterinary education is undergoing a dynamic metamorphosis. Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine’s (RUSVM’s) Center for Veterinary Education, Diversity, and Data Analytics is empowering DVM students to serve as primary investigators of research projects through mentorship and hands-on training, as the Center works to address the research gaps centered around the dynamic changes within veterinary education.

DVM student and Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar Elsie Washburn is leading a project with her faculty mentor’s guidance and mentorship that is focusing on determining the optimal time required for fourth-semester students to learn direct and indirect fundoscopy through deliberate practice. As veterinary schools develop and refine clinical skills training courses, her research will help provide guidance on how much time should be allotted within the preclinical veterinary curriculum to learning these day 1 clinical competencies.

DVM student Rebecca Zayas is following her passion and leading a project focusing on the exploration of how veterinary students studying abroad view DEI. Her research is unique, as it examines the association between social identity and the impact of cultural immersion among veterinary students studying abroad in St. Kitts and how this influences their openness to diversity within the veterinary profession. Her work is significant, as it is a mixed-methods study and highlights that DEI research can go beyond qualitative methods, and future studies will investigate how to best support all students throughout their veterinary education.

DVM student and Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar Dennis Ronzani is learning about big data in veterinary medicine and, working aside his mentor, leading a project using machine learning to investigate how physical activity and exercise impact the risk of the development of cancer in over 3,000 Golden Retrievers. His research will help inform veterinarians on the type of duration of exercise that can help reduce cancer development and highlights how, in veterinary education, we will need to start incorporating instruction on AI, machine learning, and big data ethics, as veterinarians could utilize these technologies daily in practice.