

PRESS RELEASE

Merck and Vietnam Small Animal Veterinary Association (VSAVA) Announce Winners of the Merck-VSAVA Veterinary Student Scholarship 2016 in Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City November 15, 2016, The Vietnam Small Animal Veterinary Association (VSAVA) and MSD Animal Health Company announced two Vietnamese excellent students who will received the first Merck-VSAVA Veterinary Student Scholarships.

The two winners this year are:

1. Ly Mai Han, Veterinary student of the batch 2014-2019, Nong Lam University Ho Chi Minh City
2. Pham Trong Vu, Veterinary students of the batch 2013-2018, Nong Lam University Ho Chi Minh City

Merck-VSAVA Veterinary Student scholarship is the result of the strategic and long term cooperation between MSD Animal Health Company and The Vietnam Small Animal Veterinary Associations (VSAVA) in developing higher education and essential skills for Veterinary students in Vietnam, particularly among small animal fields. This full scholarship worth \$2,500 each (approximately 55,652,000VND each) has been be offered to invest in the second and the third year Vietnamese Veterinary students for their undergraduate studies as well as pursued their future career.

Scholarship selection process occurs through two rounds:

Round 1: Applications Reviews: from 30 July to 30 September 2016: all applications for this scholarship were appropriated screened. Only those applicants who are eligible and/ or were of the highest calibre were referred to the Scholarship Selection Committee for further consideration. A shortlisting report will be documented for each scholarship.

Round 2: Candidate interviews: eligible applicants were given a face-to-ace interview by the Scholarship Selection Committee on 15 November 2016 at the Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine faculty's Office, Nong Lam University HCMC.

The Selection Committee included:

1. Assoc. Prof. Le Quang Thong - Associate Dean of faculty of Animal Science and Veterinary medicine, vice president of the Vietnam Small Animal Veterinary Association.
2. Dang Ngoc Hoang - General Director of MSD Animal Health Vietnam.
3. Ms. Huynh Thi Thanh Ngoc - Vice President of Vietnam Small Animal Veterinary Association

Merck-VSAVA scholarship designees were selected on the basis of high achievement in their academic records, their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous university studies. Additionally, each of candidate had plus score for their contribution and/or volunteer to VSAVA activities, or had excellent English skills, or had a poor economic lives. All scholarship applicants are notified of the selection outcomes based on their average score from the Selection Committee's members.

Veterinary students gained Merck-VSAVA scholarship will receive monthly scholarship during a year. Those students are expected to actively contribute towards the betterment of the veterinary in Vietnam and the community through their passionate commitment to Merck-VSAVA scholarship and their future careers. All of scholarship recipients also commit to contribute at least 100 hours yearly of volunteer service in a small veterinary field for two years.

To increase the advantage in the selection process for this scholarship, students must demonstrate great potential in shaping their veterinary targets and engage themselves in social activities as well as improve their language skills. Thus Merck-VSAVA scholarships not only contribute to promote the quality of veterinary doctor in Vietnam to meet the urgent need for human resources in society, but also increase the competitiveness and internationalization of Vietnam Veterinary. MSD Animal Health Company and VSAVA will expand their efforts in the bilateral cooperation to strengthen and develop a series of Merck-VSAVA scholarships in the coming years.

The Merck-VSAVA Scholarship Presentation Ceremony will be held first time at Nong Lam University HCMC on 18 December, 2016.

All details of the Merck-VSAVA scholarship are updated at MSD Animal Health and VSAVA Vietnam websites.