Merial Rabies Symposium Competition
A U.S. Veterinary Student Program in support of World Rabies Day

Overview

On September 28 World Rabies Day is celebrated around the world to educate everyone about rabies prevention. This special day is a call to action that recognizes our success, as well as the many challenges we face in fighting the global public health threat of rabies.

Merial, a global animal health company, has collaborated for five years with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control to support World Rabies Day by engaging U.S. veterinary students and helping them become involved in rabies education and prevention in their communities.

The Merial Rabies Symposium is an annual competition that encourages veterinary students to raise awareness about the global burden of rabies, and how vaccination can prevent human deaths and animal suffering. *The veterinary college that wins the competition receives the opportunity to host a Rabies Symposium at their school, fully sponsored by Merial.*

Previous winners of the Merial Rabies Symposium include, Tuskegee University, Kansas State University, Tufts University, Iowa State University and North Carolina State University.

Get involved and compete to win the Merial Rabies Symposium!
*Any US veterinary school that hosts a World Rabies Day event in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control will be eligible to compete for the Merial Rabies Symposium.*

1. Veterinary students can get involved by organizing a rabies awareness event that celebrates World Rabies Day, which is September 28. The deadline to hold an event for the Symposium competition is November 30. These events can include (but are not limited to):
   • Hosting a rabies vaccination clinic.
   • Holding a fundraising event such as a fun run or a dog jog.
   • Informing pet owners about rabies with an educational event.
2. After the event(s), students must register the number of students participating and the results on the WRD website on or before December 31, 2012 [http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/events.html](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/events.html)

3. The veterinary college with the largest percentage of currently enrolled students participating in the event(s) conducted in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control will **win the opportunity to host a full-day Rabies Symposium by international experts held on-site at their veterinary school.** If the veterinary school holds more than one event, the participation of individual student(s) may be counted only once regardless of the number of events in which they participated.

**Helpful Tips:**

- Consider partnering: State VMAs, State Public Health and/or Agriculture Veterinarian, Local Health Departments, Humane Organizations, Animal Control Organizations, Wildlife Organizations, etc.
- Check-out our “Student Corner” dedicated for Vet student guidance and updates [http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Get_Involved/Student_Corner.html](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Get_Involved/Student_Corner.html): you will find a rabies clinic planning guide, which is a document that might be helpful if you are planning a rabies vaccination clinic in conjunction with WRD. You can download it from: [http://www.worldrabiesday.org/assets/files/Rabies%20Clinic%20Toolkit.pdf](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/assets/files/Rabies%20Clinic%20Toolkit.pdf)
- The World Rabies Day logo is available for ANY events that you may plan that would enhance rabies awareness. Logos are downloadable at: [http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Logo_Downloads.html](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Logo_Downloads.html)

**About Rabies**

Although progress has been made against rabies great challenges remain. Uncontrolled rabies in dogs is the major global source of human rabies mortality. Related canine variants of rabies viruses once circulated in the USA but were eliminated due to comprehensive dog vaccination and stray dog control. World Rabies Day has engaged the veterinary community worldwide to work toward rabies prevention in the 21st century with the ultimate goal of global elimination of canine rabies virus variants.

**About The Global Alliance for Rabies Control**

The Global Alliance for Rabies Control is a non-profit organization with two branches: Global Alliance for Rabies Control, U.S. 501c3 organization, and Alliance for Rabies Control, United Kingdom charity number SC037112, and was formed by
leading rabies researchers and public health professionals. The Alliance created and began inviting partners to join the World Rabies Day initiative. A listing of our Partners can be found at:
http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/supporters/our_supporters.html

About Merial
Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and performance of a wide range of animals. Merial employs approximately 5,600 people and operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Its 2011 sales were more than $2.8 billion. For more information, visit www.merial.com. Merial is a Sanofi company.