

Westie Foundation of America Awards First Veterinary Scholarship

Organization Co-Founder, Board Member Memorialized with Funding Focus

By Teresa Barnes

Houston, TX – June 4, 2018 – Daphne Gentry’s wish is coming true. A librarian and author, Gentry was a co-founder and founding board member of the Westie Foundation of America (WFA) and wanted to help boost efforts focused on the health of the West Highland Terrier breed. The first Daphne Gentry Scholarship has been awarded to Chie Tamamoto-Mochizuki, DVM, a veterinarian in her post-doctoral training at North Carolina State University who is keenly interested in atopic dermatitis (AD) in Westies. “It is a great honor to receive the Daphne Gentry Scholarship award 2018. Not only the scholarship itself but also the fact that I was awarded by WFA, one of the well-known organizations, will give me a great benefit to my career as a researcher because this means my research was recognized and endorsed by the third party,” said Tamamoto-Mochizuki. “My research topic, canine atopic dermatitis, is one of the most common diseases in dogs, and Westies are one of the common breeds to develop this disease. There are also many similarities between canine and human atopic dermatitis. This scholarship will help Westies suffer [ing] from this disease, but also there is a high possibility that it will give a great benefit to human medicine.”

“We are pleased to present the first scholarship to Dr. Tamamoto-Mochizuki. She personifies the dedication and concern Daphne had for the Westie while she pursues important answers to atopic dermatitis. We are grateful to Daphne for remembering the WFA in her final wishes and for continuing to lead efforts to improve Westie health through her memorial scholarship,” said Bebe Pinter, President of the WFA.

Atopic dermatitis is among the top health concerns for the Westie breed and affects 10 percent of all canines, according to the AKC Canine Health Foundation.



*Dr. Chie Tamamoto-Mochizuki Awarded First Daphne Gentry Scholarship from the WFA
Photo courtesy North Carolina State University*

Gentry, who died in 2007 at the age of 65, was the first secretary of the WFA and was committed to the support of research into the health issues affecting the Westie. The Daphne Gentry Scholarship was established by the WFA in her memory and will help continue her legacy to the breed. In addition to her service to the WFA, Gentry was a past president of the West Highland Terrier Club of America, the WFA’s parent breed club and was the author of *The New West Highland White Terrier*. Her service to the Westie community was extensive and she incorporated the WFA in her annual giving and as well as endowed the organization in her will.

The Daphne Gentry Scholarship is to be awarded each year to a deserving veterinary researcher. The 2018 award provides \$5,000 in scholarship funds.

To donate to the WFA scholarship fund including the Daphne Gentry Scholarship or to establish a fund in another name, contact the WFA at: donormanager@westiefoundation.org or donate via the WFA website at this link: <http://westiefoundation.org/donations.html>

About the Westie Foundation of America

The mission of the Westie Foundation of America, Inc. is a 501C(3) organization established to provide financial aid and other support for medical research in order to benefit the health and quality of life of West Highland White Terriers; and, to further develop and communicate information regarding the health, care, breeding and quality of life of Westies to Westie owners, Westie breeders and veterinarians. For more information visit www.westiefoundation.org.

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