

# Westie Foundation of America Scholarship 2018 Winner Chie Tamamoto-Mochizuki, An Update

**A**fter receiving the WFA scholarship, I passed the board exam and became a veterinary dermatologist in 2018 (*I have included this information in the previous follow-up report*).

I also completed the Ph.D. program this summer. My dissertation is “*Investigating the Role of IL-31 in an Experimental Model of Acute Canine Atopic Dermatitis*” (available at: <https://repository.lib.ncsu.edu/handle/1840.20/39074?fbclid=IwAR0QKO7hLStWAithyD2X7kiWEXJYITqk954Pd9aDdKtk25ySThly7dEe6dI>). A part of my dissertation was just published this month (available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/vde.13034>).

I investigated a new therapeutic target in canine atopic dermatitis in this study. Since atopic dermatitis is common in Westies, I hope that my study results will help atopic Westies in the near future.

I also actively engaged in veterinary education by giving presentations at international and regional conferences (9th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in 2020, 24th Japanese Society of Veterinary Dermatology Conference in 2021, North America Veterinary Dermatology Forum in 2021, Vet Symposium in 2021, and International Society of Atopic Dermatitis Symposium in 2021).

Owing to all of these achievements, I recently became a member of the International Committee of Allergic Diseases of Animals (<https://www.icada.org/>).



*Dr. Tamamoto-Mochizuki*



I currently work as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Neuroscience lab at NC State University to study itch neuronal pathways in skin diseases, especially atopic dermatitis, in dogs and cats.

The WFA Scholarship supported me to obtain the diploma of veterinary dermatology, which was one of the most important achievements of my career. Also, I could have access to the writing assistant program thanks to the scholarship. It was very helpful in writing my dissertation and papers because English is not my first language.

I really appreciate the WFA foundation, and I hope my information will be helpful for you.

Thank you,

Chie Tamamoto-Mochizuki