

Graduate student in Equine Tendon Health & Regenerative Medicine: (Ph.D. or MSc)

Research Area: We are currently recruiting at least one highly motivated graduate student to investigate tendon health and injury in horses. A principal focus of the laboratory is to 1) explore the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying disease and injury of energy-storing tendons and 2) develop methods aimed at both preventing and effectively treating tendon degeneration and injury. Throughout this work, the successful candidate will not only gain expertise in the management, diagnosis, and rehabilitation of equine SDFT injury, but also develop skills utilizing cutting-edge research techniques such as single-cell RNA sequencing and *in situ* validation, cell culture, transgenic models, and advanced *in vivo* and *ex vivo* imaging technologies to explore tendon biology and pathobiology.

Program and Place of Work: The Sparks laboratory is located at the University of Calgary, within the Department of Veterinary Clinical & Diagnostic Sciences in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the McCaig Institute for Bone & Joint Health in the Cummings School of Medicine. This interdisciplinary positioning offers trainees a unique opportunity to pursue comparative and translational research on musculoskeletal injury across species and within both human and veterinary medical applications.

Located in the nation's most enterprising city, the University of Calgary is recognized as one of Canada's top five research universities. UCalgary inspires and supports diversity, discovery, creativity, and innovation across all disciplines. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is well established with a high quality of research programs and graduate training programs dedicated to meeting the animal and public health needs of Alberta through education, research, and outreach programs. (<http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca>).

Qualifications: The successful candidate will have a strong record of academic performance in an undergraduate program. A professional degree in veterinary medicine or animal health is considered an asset. The candidate should be able to work independently and collaboratively in a team setting and is expected to be responsible, well organized, and exhibit a natural enthusiasm for translational research.

Salary: Candidates must be academically competitive and will be expected to apply for external funding. Minimum stipend is \$22,000/yr (\$23,000/yr PhD) with internal top-up award opportunities available.

Application Interest: If interested in joining the team, please email Dr. Sparks directly at Holly.Sparks@ucalgary.ca and provide the following information (in .pdf format):

- 1) *Short cover letter outlining your specific interest in pursuing graduate training & career goals*
- 2) *Resume/curriculum vitae*
- 3) *Transcript or listing of course grades*
- 4) *Names and email for two individuals who will be willing to provide a reference*

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. The position will start August 2021, or when a suitable candidate is identified.

About Calgary, Alberta: Calgary is one of the world's cleanest cities and has been named one of the world's most livable cities for years. Calgarians benefit from the strongest economy in the nation and enjoy more days of sunshine per year than any other major Canadian city. Calgary is an hour's drive from the beautiful Rocky Mountains and boasts the most extensive urban pathway network in North America.

The University of Calgary recognizes that a diverse staff/faculty benefits and enriches the work, learning, and research experiences of the entire campus and greater community. We are committed to removing barriers that have been historically encountered by some people in our society. We strive to recruit individuals who will further enhance our diversity and will support their professional success while they are here. We encourage all qualified applicants to apply, however, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada due to ongoing travel challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

General information on applying to the UCVM graduate student program and scholarship opportunities : <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/graduate-students> & <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards>