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MERCK PH.D. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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The Poultry Science Association Foundation (PSA Foundation) was pleased to announce the **Award of the 2017 Ph.D. Fellowship from Merck Animal Health** during the International Production and Processing Expo in Atlanta, GA. Merck Animal Health's generous gift will support the Poultry Research Fellowship of Ms. Maria Arendt, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Merck Animal Health Fellowship awarded to Ms. Arendt is the second of three which will support the research of doctoral students in poultry sciences for three years. The Fellowships support innovative applied and basic poultry science research related to intestinal health, immunology, poultry pathology and disease, molecular biology, or vaccine technology and development.



Dr. Cook, faculty advisor to Maria Arendt, receiving congratulations from Dr. Bielke, Chair of the Poultry Science Association Foundation Board of Trustees.

Emily Kimminau, Ph.D. candidate at Texas A&M University, the recipient of the **Inaugural Merck Ph.D. Fellowship** in 2016 is working under the guidance of Dr. David Caldwell, Professor and Department Head in the Department of Poultry Science at Texas A&M University. She is conducting research on dietary calcium level and source with probiotic supplementation to maintain gut integrity and reduce the potential for necrotic enteritis (NE) when using a live coccidiosis vaccine. The goal is to reduce NE severity through nutritional supplementation with probiotic administration in conjunction with coccidiosis vaccine therapy.



Arendt received commemorative desk plaque during the 4th Annual Merck Culinary Tour of Nations Luncheon at the International Poultry Production and Processing Expo.

Arendt will work under the guidance of Dr. Mark Cook, Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She will conduct research entitled "Role of mucosal interleukin-10 (IL-10) in *Eimeria* infection". This effort is designed to advance understanding of how suppression of IL-10 production confers resistance to *Eimeria* infection in poultry. The third fellowship is anticipated to be awarded in 2018. The **Merck Animal Health Ph.D. Fellowship Award** through the Poultry Science Association Foundation is selected through a nationally competitive process. Merck Animal Health's grant for the education of talented graduate students pursuing a career in poultry science was made through the PSA Foundation Capital Campaign (*Charting Our Course – Securing Future Leadership for Poultry*).



Kimminau expresses gratitude for the Merck Animal Health Fellowship. She will finish her first year of the fellowship in May 2017.