



ISVO/Acrivet Scholarship

With the world returning to a quasi-normal living, the ISVO/Acrivet Scholarships are back! Here is the report from a recent recipient of the ISVO/Acrivet Scholarship, Dr. Jelena Oksa-Minalto.

JELENA OKSA-MINALTO

Jelena Oksa-Minalto from Latvia visited the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, under the mentorship of Dr. Lionel Sebbag.

Obtaining this Scholarship was one of those events in life that will be remembered and cherished forever. So, I would like to say THANK YOU to all who made this possible. I would also want to take a moment to remember one GREAT person, who has introduced me to ISVO and will always have a special place in my heart Prof. Gil Ben PhD whom I was originally planning to visit at Cornell University, USA.



Dr. Oksa-Minalto with the Ophthalmology group at Koret School of Veterinary Medicine

The pandemic has altered many lives and the scholarship was put on hold for three years, but finally, in May 2022 I was able to fulfill it under the supervision of another extraordinary person and specialist Lionel Sebbag DACVO, PhD at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. It was a very productive experience.

First and foremost I gained a lot of knowledge in research (a path that I will now most definitely continue to pursue) - manuscript writing, data analysis, participation in journal club and discussions etc.



Dr. Lionel Sebbag and Dr. Jelena Oksa-Minalto

There was a chance to examine equine patients this was very helpful to me due to lack of experience particularly in this area of veterinary ophthalmology. Observation and hands on training in microsurgery was extremely beneficial. I got to see different techniques in both adnexal and corneal surgeries and procedures (cross linking, laser treatments in equine patients, cataract surgery) most of which I will now readily apply to my patients.



Dr. Oksa-Minalto performing slit-lamp biomicroscopy in a goat

This scholarship is a great opportunity for professional growth and I highly encourage colleagues that have a passion for EYES to apply for it! You just may be the next lucky one! P.S. Israel is definitely a place of special presence and part of it are the people - sincere, smart, and always smiling! Mazel tov!

Jelena Oksa-Minalto