

2025 MU VRSP mentor profile form

Mentor	Roman R. Ganta, Curators' distinguished Professor
Departmental bio web page.	https://cvm.missouri.edu/veterinary-pathobiology/faculty/
Other relevant web pages, as applicable. E.g., lab group/personal web page, Google Scholar/ORCID profiles, others	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=9ITSNcsAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate
Research interests.	Tick-borne diseases; canine and human ehrlichiosis, bovine anaplasmosis, human and canine anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF). Basic and translational research involving molecular biology, protein chemistry, immunology, cell culture, vaccine development involving animals and ticks.
Active projects.	Four NIH R01 grants to pursue 1) Ehrlichia chaffeensis pathogenesis to define the vector and host contributions, 2) Vaccines against Ehrlichia and Anaplasma pathogens, 3) RMSF vaccine development, 4) Molecular genetics aiding advancing understanding Ehrlichia and Anaplasma species infections/pathogenesis. Additionally, we have active funding from an animal industry and from a foundation.
Research team. E.g., graduate students, post docs, technicians, other scholars	Three graduate students, three post-doctoral scientists, two senior scientists, an assistant research professor and an associate research professor
About you... Education/training Personal information, as interested—e.g., hobbies, etc.	MSc and PhD, Postdoctoral training at Scripps Research Institute as a molecular biologist (3 years), then molecular parasitology of vector-borne diseases training and Research Assistant Professor at University of Florida (8 years), Assistant/Associate/Professor/University Distinguished Professor at Kansas State University (25 years), and currently McKee Endowed Professor and Curator's Distinguished Professor at CVM, MU (2 years). Passionate about research and teaching to fund solutions to several tick-borne diseases. Love social life and passionate about photography and travel.
Mentor Profile	
I am available to mentor students in career and life decisions, even if they do not choose research.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
My students are/can be involved in the creation/development of their projects.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
I expect students to contribute to manuscripts/publications.	
Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	

<p>Students have the option to continue to work on this project.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True</p>	
<p>My students often work closely with a research team, e.g., lab tech or other students.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True</p>	
<p>I frequently touch base with my research team—e.g., students, technicians, etc.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True</p>	
<p>My mentoring style is very hands off.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True</p>	
<p>Current/active project profile & timeline, including clinical vs. basic science.</p>	<p>We have several active projects with basic and translational research goals.</p>
<p>Lab structure, if applicable.</p>	<p>We have four active labs at Bond Life Sciences Center, in addition to animal work carried out at Vet Med buildings.</p>
<p>What does a typical day of research look like for VRSP scholars?</p>	<p>Probably will be busy working in a research team involves lab and or animal work.</p>
<p>What does engagement look like for your lab/project?</p>	<p>Active collaborations among the lab members and several experienced scientists who can offer guidance to the VRSP student joining my program.</p>