2026 MU VRSP mentor profile form

Mentor	**Rosalie Ierardi**
Departmental bio web page.	**https://cvm.missouri.edu/pathobiology-and-integrative-biomedical-sciences/faculty/rosalie-ierardi-dvm-ms/**
Other relevant web pages, as applicable. E.g., lab group/personal web page, Google Scholar/ORCiD profiles, others	
Research interests.	My research is currently focused on the epidemiology of tick-borne diseases in cattle, namely bovine anaplasmosis (*A. marginale*) and *Theileria*-associated bovine anemia (*T. orientalis*). More broadly, my interests include epidemiology and pathology of infectious diseases of livestock and the use of software tools to extract insights from diagnostic laboratory records.
Active projects.	Currently, active surveillance for *Theileria orientalis* in market cattle and investigation of whether *T. orientalis*-infected ticks may be overwintering in Missouri. Collaborating with Dr. Celeste Morris to investigate prevalence of hemotropic mycoplasmas in cattle.
Research team. E.g., graduate students, post docs, technicians, other scholars	Brand-new doctoral faculty, so no graduate students just yet!
About you… Education/training Personal information, as interested—e.g., hobbies, etc.	Dr. Ierardi graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2017 and completed an anatomic pathology residency at the University of Missouri Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (VMDL) in 2017-2020. She began working as a Clinical Instructor at the VMDL in September 2020 and completed her PhD in May 2025. Her work includes postmortem examinations of all major domestic species, during which she also supervises and mentors veterinary students on the diagnostic pathology rotation. As an instructor, she teaches the hemic/lymphoid portion of the sophomore veterinary pathology class each fall. In her time outside of work, Ierardi enjoys taking care of her small 1980s house, cuddling her two cats, playing piano, and thrifting.
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 --- ★ Very True	
My students are/can be involved in the creation/development of their projects. Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- ★ --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
I expect students to contribute to manuscripts/publications. Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- ★ --- 4 --- 5 Very True	

Students have the option to continue to work on this project. Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- ★ --- 5 Very True	
My students often work closely with a research team, e.g., lab tech or other students. Very Untrue 1 --- ★ --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
I frequently touch base with my research team—e.g., students, technicians, etc. Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- ★ Very True	
My mentoring style is very hands off. Very Untrue ★ --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5 Very True	
Current/active project profile & timeline, including clinical vs. basic science.	Current project will involve a lot of blood DNA extraction and real-time PCR. Tick collection in the field is currently scheduled for April/May/June, although this may be extended depending on results. (This will almost certainly involve some overnight travel.) Depending on student interest, there may also be an opportunity for some retrospective analysis of VMDL records.
Lab structure, if applicable.	N/A (so far)
What does a typical day of research look like for VRSP scholars?	It varies from day to day. Tick collection involves long days in the field, but this is likely to be a minor component. Benchwork will likely be mostly DNA extraction—PCR is absolutely welcome but this involves a steeper learning curve and more expensive reagents, so independent proficiency is probably a bit ambitious given the short timeline for VRSP. My usual training approach is to have the student review some introductory materials, then watch me perform the procedure, then I watch the student perform the procedure, then the student does it independently and we compare results. As such, we are often working in parallel. In previous years, we used downtime to have discussions around lighthearted real-world examples, like figuring out what study designs were used for those oddly specific health claims in the wellness pages of Better Homes & Gardens …
What does engagement look like for your lab/project?	Enthusiasm, asking questions, careful attention to detail.