

August 2026

To All Small Animal Internal Medicine Candidates and Program Directors:

All individuals commencing residency programs in the specialty of Small Animal Internal Medicine (SAIM) during or after July 2008 are required to document that a minimum amount of instruction or participation in creative scholarship activities has been incorporated into their residency-training program. The requirement for such activities is fulfilled by:

1. Routine and regular participation in a critical review of the literature (e.g. Journal club), during which at least one Board-certified clinician is present and amounting to over 80 hours during the course of the residency training program.
2. In addition to the Journal club requirement, one of the following must be completed:
 - a) Completion of a prospective research project pertinent to the specialty of small animal internal medicine.
 - b) Completion of a retrospective research project pertinent to the specialty of small animal internal medicine.
 - c) Acceptance and presentation (oral or poster) of a research abstract based on original work pertinent to the specialty of small animal internal medicine at a scientific meeting
 - d) Submission of a grant proposal for original research pertinent to the specialty of small animal internal medicine
 - e) Completion of graduate coursework in biostatistics, research methods and/or research ethics
 - f) Successful completion of at least 2 short courses / workshops (totaling 6 hours) provided by ACVIM either on-line or at the Forum, (*on-line content is currently under development, but may not be available for all candidates prior to the end of their residency; additionally, not all courses may be available each year at the Forum*), as well as documentation of attendance, covering the following subjects:
 - i) critical evaluation of veterinary medical / biomedical literature
 - ii) grant-writing
 - iii) study design and participation in clinical trials

A form for documentation of these activities (the “Scholarly Activity Report”) is available online within the Candidates’ section of the ACVIM website. **A completed and signed form (along with required supporting documents to verify completion of the activities) is required prior to board certification.** The document, once completed, should be reviewed by either your Program Director (PD) or your Resident Advisor (RA). Following review, the document must be signed by both the resident and the individual who reviewed the document (i.e., PD or RA).

The Scholarly Activity Report must be submitted as part of the credentials packet that candidates submit as part of their application to sit for the SAIM Specialty Examination (due October 1, 2026). Candidates should select all applicable scholarly activities and provide documentation/evidence. Completion of the activities listed on the form is not required until the end of the residency-training program. Therefore, if the activities have not been completed by the time of the credentials packet submission, the form can be re-submitted at the end of the residency-training program. The requirement for a completed Scholarly Activity report applies only to candidates that started their program during or after July, 2008.

Questions regarding this requirement should be directed to Adam@acvim.org.

Sincerely,

Shane Lyon, DVM, MS, DACVIM (SAIM);
Chair, SAIM Credentials Committee 2026-2027