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# *lifelines*

News from the  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
at Kansas State University

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## Zoetis gift is solid to the CORE



### Center of Outcomes Research and Education receives \$250,000 from animal health company

and public sources. However, this foundational support from Zoetis is remarkable as it enables us to really enhance the leadership and infrastructure for outcomes research, and thus be a unique resource for the veterinary profession and others focused on enhancing animal health.”

With a goal of improving effectiveness and efficiency in animal health care and its associated impacts on human health, CORE activities will demonstrate the value of animal health interventions – including treatment, prevention or diagnostic activities that are intended to improve health. The CORE will generate and synthesize evidence on health interventions and train animal health professionals on how to best utilize that evidence to influence health care decisions.

The discipline of outcomes research involves applied clinical- and population-based research that seeks to study and optimize the end results of health care practices and interventions in terms of benefits to the patient and society. Evaluation of economic factors, comparative clinical effectiveness, risk analysis, and health-related quality of life assessments are key areas of focus.

“Zoetis has been a leader in the field of outcomes research and their support of this Center is critical for its development,”

*CORE celebrate the gift from Zoetis. From left: Dr. Annette Bouwer, associate director, outcomes research, Zoetis; Dean Ralph Richardson; Sabina Gasper, senior director, outcomes research, Zoetis; Dr. David Renter, director of the CORE; Dr. Rob Holland, director of outcomes research, Zoetis; and Dr. Frank Blecha, associate dean of research.*

A \$250,000 gift from Zoetis to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University helps establish the new Center for Outcomes Research and Education (CORE). The center is an interdisciplinary research and training center focused on the application and extension of outcomes research in animal health both in the U.S. and from a global perspective.

“We are extremely grateful to Zoetis for supporting the CORE and for sharing our vision for enhancing the implementation of outcomes research for animal health,” said Dr. David Renter, professor of epidemiology and director of the center. “Our CORE group has been very fortunate to have developed partnerships and support through a variety of private

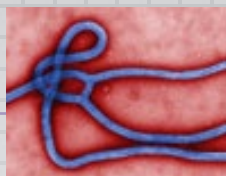
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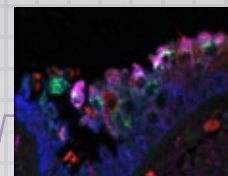
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More stories + video reports online at:  
[www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1503.html](http://www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1503.html)

## Dr. Dan Thomson receives 2015 National Beef Quality Assurance Educator of the Year Award

Dr. Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Veterinary Medicine, director of the Beef Cattle Institute and assistant dean of outreach, was recently honored as the 2015 National Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Educator of the Year.

Dr. Thomson has worked throughout his professional career as a practicing veterinarian and as an educator, to deliver the BQA message to beef producers throughout Kansas and the entire U.S.. Through hundreds of personal presentations to ranchers, cattle feeders, beef processors, retailers and restaurateurs, Dr. Thomson has certainly amplified the BQA message within the beef producer community, but he has also communicated the effectiveness of the BQA program to the processing and retail sectors as a means of ensuring production of wholesome, sustainable beef.

"Dr. Dan Thomson is a leader amongst leaders and is devoted not only to redefining his profession as a veterinarian, but to improving the reputation of beef cattle industry through the training offered via BCI, one producer, one chef, one extension agent and one retailer at a time," said Bruce Feinberg, global animal health and welfare officer for McDonald's Corporation. "I can't think of anyone more deserving of the National BQA Educator Award."

In addition to personally delivering the BQA message to all segments throughout the beef production and distribution chain, Dr. Thomson has overseen and managed the development of a system for delivering online BQA training and certification at [animalcaretraining.org](http://animalcaretraining.org). Through this digital, web-based medium, Dr. Thomson has contributed to a dramatic increase in industry wide awareness, acceptance and adoption of BQA as the training tool of choice for ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of beef and the health and welfare of beef animals. This has been considered to be especially effective in areas of the U.S. where logistics, geographic isolation or

lack of resources, have made in-person BQA training difficult.

Dr. Thomson has been involved in development of other new tools for dissemination of BQA training, including the BQA self-assessment guides for cow/calf, stocker and feedlot producers.

Dr. Mike Siemens, leader in animal welfare and husbandry for Cargill, commented on Dr. Thomson's commitment to BQA.

"As a fortunate peer of Dr. Thomson I can absolutely say that he has made a significant difference and continues to do so in a very meaningful way," he said. "Almost everything that he has done in his professional career has been for the betterment of the beef industry and in lock step with the mission that has been set forth in the National BQA efforts."

Selected by a committee of representatives from universities, state beef councils and affiliated groups, the National BQA Educator Award recognizes key cattle industry influencers who promote BQA principles on a daily basis. Started in 2009, the award is sponsored in part by The Beef Checkoff program with additional financial support provided by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc.

Professional colleagues and peers of Dr. Thomson had generous comments in regards to his work with BQA.

"Dr. Thomson has a genuine interest in helping the beef industry advance and succeed in meeting consumer demands," said Stephen Russell, director of industry relations for the Kansas Beef Council.



Josh White, NCBA executive director of producer education, presents the BQA Educator of the Year Award to Dr. Dan Thomson.

"His common-sense and practical teaching method of BQA principles and best management practices allow farmers, ranchers, dairy producers veterinarians and students to connect the dots easily."

"Dan Thomson is an amazing educator. Whether he is working with students in agriculture or veterinary medicine, livestock producers, professors, corporate executives, cowboys, school children or the general public, he has an amazing ability to communicate," said Dr. Ralph C. Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "He is equally comfortable with face-to-face interactions or online electronic media training. His passion is contagious."

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## CEEZAD Director Jürgen Richt helps organize upcoming conference to review updates on the West African Ebola virus in Washington, D.C.

A CVM faculty member is one of four organizers of a national conference to review the status of Ebola viruses and potential vaccines in Washington, D.C., from March 25-29. Dr. Jürgen Richt, the Regents Distinguished Professor and an Eminent Scholar of Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), is the director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Animal Diseases (CEEZAD). Officially entitled, "The 7th International Symposium on Filoviruses," the conference will focus on issues related to the West Ebola virus following a deadly outbreak in Sierra Leone and Liberia in late summer and early fall 2014.

"We are interested in discussing the lessons that have been learned and discussing mitigation strategies for any future outbreaks," Dr. Richt said. "As the director of a center of excellence at Kansas State University, we have to be aware of what's happening in the world with diseases that may transmit from animals to humans."

Dr. Richt said the conference will include scientific presentations on

outbreak overviews and responses, while there will also be participants from government agencies responsible for public health, industry representatives working in vaccine development and scientific funding agencies that can talk about funding opportunities for researchers.

"Eventually the National Bio- and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), a biosafety level-4 laboratory, will be built in Manhattan where this type of research will be conducted on a regular basis," Dr. Richt said. "It is good for us to learn about the research that is being done, as well as the level and status of science, by being involved in this conference."

Dr. Richt said he has been working on a relevant vaccinology project that will be published soon. "We tested a vesicular stomatitis virus vector expressing Ebola virus glycoprotein for safety in pigs," Dr. Richt said. "We can do work like that here without the need of a biosafety level-4 facility."

In addition to Dr. Richt helping to organize the conference, Kansas State University and CEEZAD will have a

scientist presenting her research. Caterina Scoglio, professor of electrical and computer engineering, is the principal investigator on the project, "Effectiveness of contact tracing for detection of Ebola risk during early introduction of the virus within the USA." Her work is funded by a National Science Foundation RAPID grant.

Dr. Richt added that CEEZAD is helping to sponsor some of the participants in the conference.

"Our sponsorship will be used to bring in doctors, caretakers and scientists from West Africa," Dr. Richt said. "We hope this forum will help people understand the status quo of the science and where West Africa is at the moment — what went wrong and how to prevent it the next time. We will also have an update on mitigation strategies, diagnostics, therapeutics, and where are we with vaccines and clinical trials."

To learn more about the 7th International Symposium on Filoviruses, visit the conference website: <http://www.filovirus2015.com/>

## CORE | Zoetis makes gift for outcomes research

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said Dr. Ralph Richardson, dean of the CVM. "By providing this gift and becoming the first founding partner of CORE, Zoetis has again demonstrated their commitment to veterinary medicine and the greater animal health community."

"Supporting CORE aligns with our vision and strategy for Outcomes Research," said Clint Lewis, executive vice president and president of the U.S. business for Zoetis. "As the leading animal health company, we are committed to demonstrating both the clinical and economic value of therapies and services to veterinarians, producers and pet owners."

Sabina Gasper, global head of Outcomes Research for Zoetis, will be a member of the advisory board.

"This is an exciting opportunity to expand Outcomes Research to the global animal health community," Gasper said. "By supporting the creation of CORE, K-State has clearly demonstrated their commitment to veterinary medicine and animal health and we are pleased to be at the forefront of this effort. The center will focus on the projects that have U.S. and global reach to strengthen

the impact of Outcomes Research in animal health."

## VIDEO REPORT: CVM launches CORE at public ceremony



CORE Director Dr. David Renter announces the launch of the center, as shown in this month's Lifelines video: [www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1503.html](http://www.vet.k-state.edu/development/lifelines/1503.html)



## Dr. A. Sally Davis validates human tracheal/bronchial-cell model for influenza A infections

A recently hired veterinary pathologist is bringing multiple skills to her new position in the CVM, including experience with a human primary cell lines used for modeling human influenza infections. Dr. A. Sally Davis, assistant professor of experimental pathology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology. Part of her appointment is to provide pathology support to the CEEZAD



At the NIH, she conducted her doctoral research under Dr. Jeffery K. Taubenberger in the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases at the NIAID. Her work is being published in the May 2015 Journal of Histochemistry & Cytochemistry.

## CVM News Ticker

The overall pass rate for K-State students for the 2014 fall sitting of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination was 94 percent, which is three percentage points higher than the average for North American CVMs. Students scored higher than the national average in food animal and equine, health maintenance and problem management, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, special senses, reproductive and multiple organ systems.

**Drs. Nathan Canada and Patrick Loftin**, equine residents/graduate students, both received travel support to attend the AO North American Advanced Equine Techniques of Fracture Management course in April 2015.

**Dr. David Biller** delivered presentations at the 87th Annual Western Veterinarian Conference in Las Vegas.



### Five-Year Class Reunions June 5 - 7, 2015

We hope you and your family are able to return to your alma mater and attend your reunion. This is a great opportunity to reminisce with classmates about the past and get updates on the present.

Plan to be in town Saturday morning when we officially kick off the Alumni Weekend. We will have a light breakfast, remarks from Dean Richardson and tours of campus. Watch your mailboxes for more information!

## Save the Date

June 6 - 9, 2015

### 77th Annual Conference for Veterinarians

Kansas State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine invite you to heighten your knowledge about issues most prevalent in veterinary medicine. This year's conference is designed to provide Continuing Education (CE) opportunities for the entire veterinary team.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center. Watch your mail for a complete look at the conference sessions and special events.

Contact the Office of Continuing Education & Events  
for more information 785-532-4528.