



lifelines

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CVM hosts State Department Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins Seminar addresses impact and development of Global Health Security Agenda

A full house heard U.S. Department of State Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins list the efforts of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) during a lecture titled, “Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism – efforts to reduce the threat,” on Wednesday, May 4, at noon in the Mara Conference Center. The audience included scientists and students from a number of faculties across K-State campus such as leadership studies, veterinary medicine and nuclear engineering, and representatives from the local community including law enforcement officials, the security sector and the USDA.

Ambassador Jenkins is responsible for leading the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) next generation leaders and NGO group. The GHSA aims to coordinate the health and security sectors across the world to take collective concrete action to reduce global health threats from infectious diseases whether their source is a natural disease outbreak, a laboratory accident, or an intentional act (e.g. commercial sabotage, bioterrorism, bio-crimes). She explained how at least 50 countries have signed up to the GHSA to create one-year and five-year action plans to help address

and reduce global health threats. The purpose of her visit to Manhattan was to discuss the goals of the GHSA and to see how K-State University College of Veterinary Medicine can play a role in contributing to the GHSA through the provision of scientific expertise, capacity building in developing countries, and by engaging the next generation of leaders (young veterinarians).

“The goal is for participating countries to document and show progress,” Jenkins said. “The United States is committed to providing support for these countries, and we are excited that other countries have joined this important effort. We are also working with nongovernmental organizations and agencies to identify areas where they can help. Academia is taking a prominent role and we are working with universities

such as Georgetown, George Washington, Dartmouth, Howard and Harvard.”

Dean Tammy Beckham said, “It is critical that our college builds relationships and identifies areas for collaboration with global partners. Veterinary medicine plays a key role in both human and animal health. Our faculty and staff have a tremendous expertise and the capability to contribute to global health and policy. We look forward to identifying areas of collaboration within the Global Health Security Agenda.”



Dr. Stephen Higgs, director of the Biosecurity Research Institute, gives a tour to State Department Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, accompanied by Dr. Keith Hamilton, executive director of International Programs for the CVM, and Dr. Tesfaalem Sebhato, senior research analyst in International Programs.

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Ph.D. student learns about science and engineering policymaking at workshop in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Izabela Ragan has a driving passion to work at a place that doesn't fully exist yet: the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF). This federal animal disease research facility is being built in Manhattan and is expected to be operational by 2023. As a veterinarian scientist and Ph.D. student in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, Dr. Ragan's passion is so strong she decided she needed to learn how policy decisions are made in Washington, D.C., so she applied for an opportunity to attend an annual workshop held April 17-20 called Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE), which is sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.

"The work that will be done at NBAF is very important for global health and security, but a lot of people don't really understand what NBAF is and what it will do," Dr. Ragan said. "It's very important that the funding for NBAF

is supported, so that's why I felt it was important to learn how policy decisions are made. It's not that hard if you know what to do and who to speak with."

The CASE workshop is a three-and-a-half-day program to learn about Congress, the federal budget process, and effective science communication. Students receive an opportunity to meet with their members of Congress or congressional staff. At Kansas State University, the Graduate School, Office of Research and Sponsored programs and Government Relations Office sponsor two students to attend the workshop. Dr. Ragan was nominated by Dr. T.G. Nagaraja, University Distinguished Professor of Microbiology and director of the Graduate Program in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"I was very happy for Izabela to attend," Dr. Nagaraja said. "She, in my mind, represents a small but growing number of DVM students and graduates interested in the doctoral program in infectious diseases of animals. I was sure it would be a valuable experience for her."

"It's very important these days

for researchers to be informed," Dr. Ragan said. "You need to know how to fight for what you're doing and how to keep it going."

During her visit to Washington, Dr. Ragan learned how appropriations bills are negotiated, how agencies are funded and how science policy is made. She also met with Kevin Yoder, who is the U.S. Representative for the 3rd District of Kansas and Illinois representative Bill Foster, who is currently the only congressman to hold a Ph.D. in science. Allen Mallory was the other student chosen at K-State to attend the conference. He is a graduate student in the College of Human Ecology.

Dr. Ragan earned her DVM degree at K-State in 2014. She is currently a Center of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Animal Diseases (CEEZAD) Career Development Fellow and graduate student in Dr. Bob Rowland's lab. She is also the graduate program representative on the executive committee of the College of Veterinary Medicine Graduate Student Association.

Dr. Ragan offered advice for other students.

"Regulations and laws impact the conduct and policy of science," Dr. Ragan said. "It's important for students to get engaged with science policy. We need to take the first step to get involved. There are great resources and organizations that can guide scientists and students in science policy communication."



Dr. Izabela Ragan and Human Ecology grad student Allen Mallory (right) meet Kevin Yoder, U.S. Representative for the 3rd District in Kansas.



Biosecurity Research Institute awards fellowships to CVM faculty

The Biosecurity Research Institute, or BRI, presented awards to 13 researchers as inaugural members, including several CVM faculty and/or alumni, of the Marty Vanier and Bob Krause BRI Research Fellows Program at a ceremony and reception on April 29. The purpose of the program is to foster interdisciplinary research and educational opportunities and activities associated with the work the fellows are doing in areas such as high-consequence plant and animal diseases, foodborne disease agents, arthropod-borne diseases, and pathogens that can be passed from animals to humans.

"I am thankful for Marty and Bob's gift so we can recognize the amazing work our researchers are doing," said Peter Dorhout, vice president for research at Kansas State University. "The fellows will work with the staff at the BRI to establish a seminar series and other opportunities to inform our community of ongoing work and emerging opportunities as we build a bridge to the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility."

Dr. Stephen Higgs appreciates the award as both a recipient and as director of the Biosecurity Research Institute.

"The establishment of this program has enabled us to recognize principle investigators ongoing projects at the BRI," Higgs said. "These awards acknowledge not only that the BRI Fellows have brought significant funding to K-State, but also that their work is impactful."

Higgs added that the Biosecurity Research Institute provides unique interdisciplinary and collaborative opportunities to conduct research that is not possible anywhere else on campus or at most other academic institutions.



Several CVM faculty members were recognized during the Marty Vanier and Bob Krause BRI Research Fellows Program, including Dr. Bob Rowland, Dr. Dana Vanlandingham and Dr. Stephen Higgs (first three on left in front row), Dr. Jishu Shi (front, far right), Dr. Jürgen Richt (back, third from left), and CVM alumnus Dr. Kenneth Burton (back, second from right), who is the program director of the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University.

Formalizing the relationship of faculty with the Biosecurity Research Institute together with providing doctoral fellowships and endowed professorships will help promote the importance of the Biosecurity Research Institute as a premier interdisciplinary research, training and education facility. Higgs also noted that the program wouldn't have been possible without Marty Vanier and Bob Krause's gift.

"The generosity, commitment and impact of Marty and Bob to support our mission cannot be underestimated," Higgs said. "The joy of translating this endowment into an enduring program with high impact is obviously tempered by Bob's untimely passing, but I know that what we are doing would make him proud and give him immense satisfaction."

The awards were presented at the conclusion of a meeting of the BRI's external advisory board. Members of the board provide national and international perspectives on research opportunities that

will advance the BRI mission, including those presented by the NBAF.

"Researchers at BRI are already studying prominent pathogens proposed for NBAF, and they're making progress on vaccines against diseases that threaten animal and human health," said Dorhout.

"This program will help ensure K-State's progress in these areas continues," he said.

Philanthropic contributions to K-State are coordinated by the Kansas State University Foundation. The KSU Foundation was established in 1944 as the official fundraising arm of Kansas State University. It is a separate, independent entity chartered by the state of Kansas as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education corporation. The foundation is leading Innovation and Inspiration: The Campaign for Kansas State University to raise \$1 billion for student success, faculty development, facility enhancement and programmatic success.

Learn about the BRITE program

Watch this month's video profile at the KSUCVM YouTube channel and in our online edition of Lifelines:

www.YouTube.com/watch?v=fvWF4jnEb8c
www.vet.k-state.edu/lifelines/1605.html



CVM names Dr. Rush executive associate dean



Dr. Bonnie Rush, head of Clinical Sciences and interim director of the Veterinary Health Center, has been named as the CVM's new executive associate dean.

"I am thrilled to have Dr. Rush join our leadership team in this new role," Dean Tammy Beckham said. "Her expertise and dedication to the mission of the college is unparalleled and I am looking forward to working with her to continue to advance the goals of the college."

"I look forward to serving professional students, faculty, and staff as we identify and implement new goals in our pursuit of excellence," Dr. Rush said.

VHC appoints clinical trials coordinator



The Veterinary Health Center announces the appointment of a clinical trial coordinator, Misty Bear. She will offer support to all investigators with current or upcoming clinical trials. This can include assistance with study design, CRF generation and data capture, creating and maintaining study binders, trial promotion and patient enrollment, in addition to facilitating daily study visit activities for each patient.

"I like to think of myself as a liaison or facilitator between everyone involved in a trial; from the clients and patients, to the study sponsors, primary investigators, and veterinary technicians," Misty said. "Each trial requires a team of people working together to see that an enrolled patient receives all the required study visit exams, treatments, and sample collections. As the coordinator, I am here to help on all fronts so that each trial runs as efficiently as possible, while maintaining the highest level of data integrity."

Before becoming KSU's first clinical trials coordinator, Misty was a research associate for 10 years at Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

CVM News Ticker



Dr. Rahul Nandre, postdoctoral research associate received a Travel Grant Award from the Vaccines Against Shigella and Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (VASE) Conference. This conference will be held at Washington, D.C. June 28-30. The VASE conference is organized by

PATH, an international nonprofit organization that drives transformative innovation to save lives and improve health, is convening a new biennial scientific conference focused on making vaccines for *Shigella* and *enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli* (ETEC) in the developing world. Dr. Nandre would like to thank to his supervisor Dr. Weiping Zhang, professor in DMP, who guided him for post-doctoral research.

Fourth-year student **Caroline Meyer** received a KSU Extraordinary Student Award designed to recognize and honor students who have shown extraordinary courage and persistence in the pursuit of their education. Caroline finishes all DVM requirements on May 1.

The **Exotic Companion Mammal Symposium** was held at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The conference was organized by and sponsored by Oxbow Animal Health. **Dr. James W. Carpenter** and **Ashley McCowan** were the local hosts and organizers. More than 90 veterinarians, technicians and veterinary students attended. Speakers included **Drs. Natalie Antinoff** (Keynote Speaker; Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists, Houston), **Micah Kohles** (KSU DVM '01, Oxbow), **James W. Carpenter**, and **David Eshar**. The symposium was RACE approved.

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