

Title:

Translating Science into Global Ecosystem Health: Establishment of the Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Authors:

Donna Akiyoshi, Hellen Amuguni, Julie Ellis, Gillian Beamer, Akram Da'darah, Stan Fenwick, Greice Krautz-Peterson, Sangun Lee, Joann Lindenmayer, Jean Muhkerjee, Maureen Murray, Felicia Nutter, Mark Pokras, Alison Robbins, Diafuka Saila-Ngita, Abhineet Sheoran, Chuck Shoemaker, Patrick Skelly, Jennifer Steele, Xingmin Sun, Sam Telford, Flo Tseng, Chris Whittier, Giovanni Widmer, Saul Tzipori

Presented by:

Patrick Skelly

Department:

Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Abstract:

Human, animal and ecosystem health are linked and the global well-being of all three is advanced through integrated, translational science and education. The newly created Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health (IDGH) at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine is committed to excellence in infectious disease and population health research and wildlife, international and conservation medicine. Through cross-disciplinary, inter-professional partnerships, IDGH faculty have formed productive teams within Tufts, with other universities and with colleagues in resource-poor regions of the world.

Positive outcomes of our efforts include contributions to global infectious disease research, vaccine development and One Health capacity building. The power of combining infectious disease research with wildlife and international medicine has been evident in the work recently accomplished through the US Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded RESPOND project focusing on stemming the emergence of global pandemic threats.

The Department of IDGH offers distinctive educational experiences in classrooms and laboratories, in clinics and in international research venues. At the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) level, many of our students already hold Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degrees and are drawn to the opportunity to address health challenges in a One Health context. An innovative Master of Science in Conservation Medicine program articulates expertise from IDGH with colleagues from across the school and university who seek to address ecosystem health and human and animal well-being. The department also helps support the dual DVM-Master of Public Health (MPH) degree offered as a special track within the School of Medicine's MPH program.

Creation of this new department has enhanced our ability to address important One Health problems and to drive global health research, education and active citizenship consistent with Tufts traditions.