

R. DOUGLAS MECKES, D.V.M.

- Strong, demonstrated passion for local and global community service, including over ten years of service as a publicly elected official in Apex, NC; service to the Nation – seven years, at the Federal level in the Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC; and currently, serving North Carolina as the State Veterinarian.
- Over thirty years of serving the veterinary medical needs of a rapidly expanding community, including operation of central hospital and the establishment of six new veterinary practices.

EXPERIENCE

2014 - PRESENT

NORTH CAROLINA STATE VETERINARIAN RALEIGH, NC

Serve as the Commissioner of Agriculture's lead subject matter expert on all animal health issues; design and administer programs that monitor and protect the state's livestock, poultry, and equine industries as well as other species of interest; work in coordination with the USDA, APHIS, and Veterinary Services' district office in the administration of federal cooperative agreement programs and funding; possess or develop the knowledge base to support the Director of the Diagnostic Laboratory System in providing and enhancing veterinary diagnostic services to NC citizens; collaborate with the State Public Health Veterinarian within the NC Department of Health and Human Services and represent NCDACS' interests involving zoonotic issues of mutual concern and jurisdiction; promote the Department's emergency response capabilities by working effectively with other Department divisions, USDA-APHIS Vet Services, and the NC Department of Public Safety to enhance the State's capability to respond to animal emergency event; oversee and provide leadership for disease investigations (including foreign animal diseases) in a coordinated, measured, and informed manner that maximizes detection and eradication while minimizing economic impact on industry by protecting domestic and international markets; serve as a liaison between the Department and the animal agriculture commodity organizations, N.C. State College of Veterinary Medicine, N.C. Veterinary Medical Association, the NC Farm Bureau, and the N.C. Veterinary Medical Board; serve as the state's official representative on the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO) and the United States' Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Board of Directors, as well as other state and national organizations with similar agency goals; assist NCDACS executive staff in monitoring and advancing agency initiatives on legislative issues, rulemaking, and interaction with the General Assembly; proactively suggest recommended rule and statute changes for further action in response to trends within animal agriculture.

2009-2014

BRANCH CHIEF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY DEFENSE BRANCH OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON, D.C.

Lead the Office of Health Affairs' responsibilities to provide oversight and management of the Department's implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive-9 Defense of United States Agriculture and Food, integrating the efforts of other DHS components and coordinating those efforts with appropriate Federal Departments and agencies, tribal, state and local governments and the private sector.

2007-2008

**CONTRACTOR, BATTELLE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
PROVIDING OPERATIONS SUPPORT FOR THE FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY DEFENSE DIVISION
OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Provided operations support to the Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense (FAV Defense) Division of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), reporting directly to the Chief Veterinarian of DHS. Responsibilities include: management and support for the accomplishment of current division tasks - development of content for Strategic Guidance Statements for foreign animal disease events and food contamination events; support of current operations within the Office of Health Affairs (including technical support for BioWatch and NBIC); development of a "dashboard" for monitoring and measuring the implementation of HSPD-9 across the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. government agency partners; development of a collaborative portal for monitoring and measuring the implementation of food, agriculture and veterinary programs within DHS; representation of FAV Defense Division in the absence of the Chief Veterinarian in various local, state and national meetings (associations, industry groups, local and state entities).

**2006-2007
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIVISION
AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Represented and promoted the scientific agenda of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to staff, committees, and member of the U.S. Congress; represented the AVMA to local, state and federal government, academic institutions and industry groups. Responsible for issues related to food, agriculture and veterinary research, the Department of Homeland Security, the pharmaceutical industry, public health, food safety and animal disease programs.

**2005-2006
AVMA-AAAS CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Served in the office of Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE). Responsible for research and preparation of background memos and correspondence for Senator Hagel; responsible for policy and appropriations recommendations; and responsible for constituent services in the D.C. office and in Nebraska on issues in agriculture, energy, environment and EPA.

**1995-2005
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APEX, NC**

Served as an elected official for 10 years. Experiences included fundraising, campaigning and constituent service. As an elected official, served as personnel committee chair, planning committee chair, member of finance committee, delegate to Triangle J Council of Governments, liaison between Town Board and Chamber of Commerce. Involved in management of period of rapid growth for Apex community (8,000 to 30,000 in 10 years), including oversight of development, establishment of Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), water treatment issues, planning for regional waste water treatment plant, and nuclear power plant operations especially spent fuel storage.

**1975-2005
CLINICAL PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY
APEX, NC**

Began career as a large animal veterinarian, but as Research Triangle area became more urban, and numbers of dairy farms and beef cattle farms decreased, practice was ultimately limited to horses and small animals. Primary focus orthopedic and soft tissue surgery. Founded and managed six veterinary hospitals in addition to managing large central hospital. Extensive experience in small business management, including human resources, and accounting and legal issues as related in the operation of the business. Mentored many veterinary students from veterinary colleges around the United States and Europe.

EDUCATION

1995

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS COURSE, INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT, CHAPEL HILL, NC

1975

DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, AUBURN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

- Student Body President, College of Veterinary Medicine, 1974-1975
- E.A. Davis Memorial Award: Outstanding Senior, Large & Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
- William S. Sugg Memorial Award: Outstanding Sophomore, College of Veterinary Medicine
- AVMA Auxiliary Award: Recognition for outstanding contributions to the College of Veterinary Medicine

1973

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, AUBURN UNIVERSITY

- President, Auburn University Interfraternity Council, 1972-1973
- President, Delta Chi Fraternity, 1969-1971
- Selected to Spades Honorary: One of ten outstanding young men selected annually
- Selected to ODK Honor Society
- Selected to Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & AWARDS

- 2017 Testified before the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on matters related to: "Safeguarding American Agriculture in a Globalized World"
- 2016 Selected as North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association's Distinguished Veterinarian
- 2016 Testified before the United States House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications on matters related to: "Food for Thought: Efforts to Defend the Nation's Agriculture and Food"
- 2016-Present Alumni Advisory Council Member, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine
- 2015 Testified before United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture on matters related to "Preparing for and Responding to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza"
- 2014 Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumni Award for "contributions to organizations in veterinary medicine and his community, and for having brought favorable recognition to the profession and his alma mater."
- 2011 Testified before the United States Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia on matters related to: "Agro-Defense: Responding to Threats Against America's Agriculture and Food System"
- 1995 Advisory Board Member of Delta Chi Fraternity at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 1995 Lifetime Achievement Award and Rotarian of the Year, Apex, NC Rotary Club
- Presentations at Veterinary Medical and Animal Health meetings and lay functions.
- Member of AVMA, USAHA and NCVMA

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 1976-2005 Member of the Apex, North Carolina Rotary Club
- 1999-2004 Surgical Team Member, Medical Ministries International, Dominican Republic
- 1995-2005 Elected Member, Board of Commissioners of Apex, NC

- 1995-1996 Chamber of Commerce Festival Chair
- 1994-2005 Sunday School Teacher at Apex United Methodist Church