

Stephen Higgs, PhD, FRES, FASTMH

**Associate Vice President for Research
Director, Biosecurity Research Institute
Peine Professor of Biosecurity
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**Immediate Past President, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Editor-in-Chief, Vector-Borne & Zoonotic Diseases**

Stephen Higgs, an expert in vector biology, arthropod-borne infectious diseases, immune modulation and vaccine evaluation, became the director of Kansas State's Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) in July 2011. He is responsible for oversight, coordination and expansion of the institute's multidisciplinary bio-secure research and education programs. This modern facility is the center for all select agent research at Kansas State University, and includes large animal spaces (ABSL-3) and an insectary (ACL-3) which allows for studies with animals and vectors in high containment. The mission of the BRI, "Leading through research and education to protect agriculture and the public from biological threats," is epitomized by its unique integration of interdisciplinary work on pathogens that infect livestock, people, and plants or contaminate food. As part of DHS workforce development plans for staffing NBAF, a DHS-funded fellowship program is based at the BRI. In addition, Dr. Higgs contributes to administration of a \$35M award to facilitate collaborative and complementary research and training with State and Federal agencies related to the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF).

Higgs serves as associate vice president for research, holds the Virginia and Perry Peine biosecurity chair and is a university distinguished professor in diagnostic medicine and pathobiology at K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine. He has held positions at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Colorado State University, and in the United Kingdom at Oxford and London. He has published more than 165 peer-reviewed papers, 18 book chapters and is active with past and ongoing membership on national and international research program review panels. Higgs served on The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine review group, Gene Drive Research in Non-human Organisms, who published the book, *Gene Drives on the Horizon: Advancing Science, Navigating Uncertainty, and Aligning Research with Public Values*.

Developing collaborative, multidisciplinary research and education programs has resulted in funding awards through numerous competitive grants from Federal and private organizations to include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He is a fellow and immediate past president of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and a fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. He is editor-in-chief of the international journal *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, and an editorial board member of *Health Security* (formerly *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science*).

Higgs earned a doctorate in parasitology from Reading University in the United Kingdom and a bachelor of science with honors in zoology from King's College in London.