Peter Larsen is an Assistant Professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Larsen leads a diverse research program that focuses on the discovery of emerging infectious diseases, field-based molecular diagnostics, and the mechanisms of neurodegenerative disease. Peter has over 18 years of research experience in molecular biology and genomics. The Larsen laboratory focuses on the application of cutting-edge genomic technologies to critical issues facing Minnesota's food production, economy, and environment. Dr. Larsen is leading a team at the UMN that is focused on the development of advanced diagnostic tools for the detection of Chronic Wasting Disease. Peter is forming the Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach, a research intensive unit that will facilitate projects focused on CWD and proteinmisfolding diseases. Dr. Larsen has organized a number of CWD educational and outreach events throughout the state of Minnesota, all aimed at sharing the latest science surrounding CWD research.