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Introduction and Table of Contents

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Perspectives



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Message from President Kirk Schulz and Vice President for Research Ron Trewyn



Kansas State University's growing national reputation in animal health and animal infectious diseases acts as a magnet drawing national research centers to Manhattan, Kan.

For proof that Kansas State University is a leader in animal health, just look at the national research centers that have come to Manhattan because of the university's expertise.

Most recently Manhattan has seen the start of construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, a national center for animal health; the relocation of ABADRU, which moved from Wyoming and studies arthropod-borne animal diseases; and the establishment of CEEZAD, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security center that focuses on emerging and zoonotic diseases. Two of these three centers are located on the Kansas State University campus.

All of these are here because of the expertise we currently have, as well as our plans for growing this area aggressively in the future.

Kansas State University wants to be a global leader in animal health. As we move forward, one consideration is in what areas can the university play a major role not just in Kansas, but also in the Midwest, across the United States and around the world.

Our strength in this area will help build up the animal health corridor that stretches from Columbia, Mo., to Manhattan. We want to make sure we are a solid anchor tenant of this exciting enterprise that in the next decades will rival areas like the research triangle in North Carolina and Silicon Valley in California.

The study of animal infectious diseases is clearly one of the areas in which we will continue to excel. Our particular expertise is in zoonotic diseases — those spread between animals and humans — and emerging disease threats. We support Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's desire to have a nationally recognized veterinary medicine school in the state and are working toward making our superb College of Veterinary Medicine even better.



The Biosecurity Research Institute here on campus at Pat Roberts Hall gives us the kind of facility we need to do these things aggressively. As we hire more faculty and build on the expertise we currently have, the university will continue to be a national and emerging leader in this area. As we guide the university toward the ambitious goal of becoming a top 50 public research university by 2025, we are attracting even more such accomplished researchers.

Stephen Higgs recently has taken the helm of the Biosecurity Research Institute at Kansas State University. Higgs is an internationally known expert on infectious diseases transmitted by mosquitoes or ticks that carry disease-causing microorganisms from one host to another. He also has expertise in vaccine evaluation. Most recently he was a professor in the department of pathology and director of the biosafety level-3 insectary at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

We hope you will take a moment to glance at other research and scholarship going on at Kansas State University.

A handwritten signature of President Kirk Schulz.

A handwritten signature of Vice President for Research Ron Trewyn.



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