

## **The Challenges of Veterinary Education in a Post 9/11 World**

**Presenter:** James C. Wright, Auburn University

**Session:** Oral

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 24; 11-12PM

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the anthrax letters shortly thereafter, there has been an increased interest in preparing veterinary students for careers in public health, food supply veterinary medicine and regulatory veterinary medicine. There have been projected shortages of veterinarians in public practice and future needs for veterinarians in public health have been emphasized. Veterinary colleges can address these needs in several ways. Students need to be made aware of non-traditional practice opportunities early in the curriculum. Training and educational experiences also need to be available at departments of public health, the state department of agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture. Additionally, there is a need to train all students for their role in public health, biosecurity and disease recognition since the majority enters into private companion animal practice. Since all disasters are local, all future veterinarians should be trained in basic components of disaster preparedness and response. They need to be aware of recognition and timely reporting of unusual disease events.

### **Biography:**

Dr. Jim Wright is an associate professor in veterinary public health in the Department of Pathobiology and has been at Auburn University since 1985. He received a BS in biology from Virginia Tech in 1971 and a DVM from the University of Georgia in 1974. After graduating from Georgia, Dr. Wright was in private veterinary practice in Virginia for two years. He then entered graduate school at the University of Missouri in Columbia where he received an MS and PhD in microbiology. Dr. Wright joined the Department of Parasitology, Microbiology, and Public Health at Oklahoma State University where he taught veterinary public health and helped conduct vaccine trials for human rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis. At Auburn University, Dr. Wright has been involved in research on vector-borne disease and pre-harvest food safety. He teaches zoonoses and epidemiology in the professional curriculum and has taught electives in population medicine, disaster medicine, cage bird practice, and wildlife diseases.

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