

School for Global Animal Health \$2.77 Million Option

WSU is seeking funding to launch the new WSU School for Global Animal Health to provide practical, innovative solutions to infectious disease challenges through research, education, global outreach, and application of disease control at the animal-human interface. The funding will secure senior, internationally-recognized faculty, (two senior faculty positions) to strengthen the school in the areas of animal-human disease transmission, disease surveillance and global animal health policy. The School for Global Animal Health will advance science, people, and policy to discover novel approaches for disease intervention and delivery of preventive health care for animals and humans. The school will be closely aligned with the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington.

This \$2.77 million option is a scaled-back version of the original \$6.4 million WSU request for the 2009-2011 Biennium. It provides for 9.42 FTE per year, with \$1.386 million requested per year (compared to the original request of \$3.2 million per year, funding 24.8 FTE).

The original plan was two faculty clusters in each of four academic areas. The scaled back plan is for one faculty cluster in each of three areas. That would be two senior faculty members and a junior faculty member to lead the program in these areas:

- **Zoonotic Disease Transmission** – provides new expertise in mapping routes of transmission of pathogens such as *E. coli*, from animals and their environment to humans, with emphasis on new strategies for blocking transmission. This faculty cluster will complement the existing strengths in zoonotic disease control and vaccine development at Washington State University.
- **Emerging Disease Surveillance** – provides unique new expertise in detection of emerging diseases at the global level that threaten human and/or animal health within the state, and focuses on development of novel testing procedures and screening methodology.
- **Global Animal Health Policy and Metrics** – provides needed expertise in measuring intervention outcomes and formulating science-based policy to control international spread of animal and zoonotic diseases.

This proposal is at the forefront of the university's strategic plan led by President Elson Floyd to create research centers that are world-renowned and that bring direct benefits to the state. Infections transmitted from animals to humans account for more than 70 percent of human infectious diseases, including emerging diseases like Avian influenza and West Nile Virus, and those existing diseases which are poorly controlled and not easily prevented such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli*. Through its mission of providing innovative solutions to global infectious disease challenges at the animal-human interface, the School for Global Animal Health will advance science, people and policy to discover novel approaches for disease intervention and delivery of preventive health care for animals and humans.

State investment in this proposal has already been matched by private and federal funding. Through a \$25 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a new building with critical modern global animal health research space on the campus of Washington State University will serve as the centerpiece for the School. Increased State investment should prove to be a catalyst for still more non-state funding.

Expected Outcomes for the State: This budget request addresses two primary strategic Priorities of Government – **“Improving the Health of Washingtonians”** and **“Improving the Economic Vitality of Businesses and Individuals.”** It is expected that full funding will:

- enhance global health partnerships among Washington's premier state, federal and private institutions
- solidify the leadership of the State of Washington in global health through development of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research and graduate education
- transform current strengths at Washington State University into preeminence in the control of infectious diseases at the animal-human interface by catalyzing new federal and private investment
- mitigate the impacts of infectious diseases such as avian flu, foodborne diseases and foot and mouth disease on animal and human health, the food supply and agricultural markets through development of novel methods of intervention at the animal-human interface *and*
- improve global competitiveness of Washington State in the animal and human health sectors.

For more information: [Larry Ganders, Assistant to the President, 360-280-6320](#)