Infectious Disease Research Center (IDRC) Researchers and Collaborators to Present at CSU’s International Symposium

Tuesday February 25, 11-11:50 a.m., LSC Room 322
“One World Health: IDRC Engagement in Stemming the Tide of Disease on a Global Basis”

Dr. John Wyckoff, PhD
“Development of a Rift Valley Fever Vaccine for Human Populations”

Dr. Wyckoff serves as the Director of the Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing and Academic Resource Center (BioMARC) at Colorado State University. Dr. Wyckoff has experience in both academic and industrial research. After receiving his Ph.D. in Veterinary Parasitology and Immunology from the University of Florida, he spent nearly 20 years as a professor of immunology at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma State University. After leaving OSU in 2008, Dr. Wyckoff served as the director of research projects at Merial and as the associate director of companion animal biologics research and development for Boehringer Ingelheim VetMedica Inc.

Dr. Rebekah Kading, PhD
“The Ecology and Spillover of Bat Virus in Uganda”

Dr. Kading obtained her B.S. in Entomology/Wildlife Conservation from the University of Delaware, M.S. in Entomology from the University of Arkansas, and PhD in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Between 2007 and 2014, Dr. Kading led studies on arbovirus ecology in Colorado, Uganda, and Guatemala and the transmission of Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) by mosquitoes at the CDC Division of Vector-borne Diseases. Her research program at CSU is currently focused on RVFV transmission as well as virus circulation among bats in Uganda.

Dr. Shirley Owusu-Ofori, MD
“Improving Blood Transfusion Safety in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Dr. Owusu-Ofori is a fellow of the Laboratory Medicine Division of Ghana College of Physician and Surgeons, Accra. She currently serves as the Head of Transfusion Medicine Unit at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. Her work includes evaluating adverse events associated with transfusions including disease transmission of agents such as malaria and HIV. She has led clinical trials evaluating intervention methods to prevent disease transmission including novel diagnostic approaches and photochemical blood treatment systems to inactivate pathogens and white blood cells in blood products. Her work as the PI of the AIMS study (African Investigation of the Mirasol System) has been the subject of a publication in The Lancet.

The International Symposium will highlight the ways CSU students, faculty, and partners add global dimensions to their teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement.