

The JV Irons Keynote Lecture Series

The JV Irons Keynote Lecture is named in honor of J.V. Irons, Sc.D. whose career with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) spanned 41 years. Dr. Irons, who received his degree from the University of Indiana, served as Director of the DSHS Bureau of Laboratories for the last 25 years of his distinguished career. His leadership influenced and molded the laboratories' services more than that of any other individual.

Dr. Irons authored or co-authored more than ninety scientific or professional publications and contributed to five reference texts on microbiology and public health. He was an active member of many professional public health and scientific organizations. Among these was the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Lima, Peru, where he served as a temporary advisor. Dr. Irons received a citation from the Peruvian Department of Health for his significant contributions to their smallpox eradication program.

Indiana State University presented Dr. Irons with the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1963 and he was the recipient of the George Caldwell Award in Pathology from the Texas Society of Pathologists in 1968. In 1973, the keynote address of the Southwest Conference of Diseases in Nature Transmissible to Man (now the James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature Transmissible to Humans) was named in his honor.

Past JV Irons Keynote Speakers

| Date | Speaker | Title |
|-----------|--|---|
| 3/8/1973 | James H. Steele, DVM, MPH UT School of Public Health Houston | A Look into the Future |
| 3/7/1974 | Robert Kokernot, MD, Chairman, Dept. of Preventive Medicine, Texas Tech School of Medicine | Tribal man as an Epidemiologist |
| 3/6/1975 | A.B. Rich, DVM, Director of Veterinary Public Health, Texas Department of Health | History of the SW Conference of Diseases in Nature Transmissible to Man |
| 3/15/1976 | H.H. Malherbe, PhD SW Foundation for Research and Education | Emergent Viral Zoonoses |
| 3/10/1977 | Charles LeMaistre, PhD, Chancellor of the University of Texas System, Austin | Things Visited Upon People |
| 3/30/1978 | John Scanlon, PhD, Associate Dean for Research, UT Health Science Center, San Antonio | The Future of Tropical Medicine |
| 3/29/1979 | James Moulder, PhD, Professor of Biology, University of Chicago | Can Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease Be Studied in a Single-Cell Model |
| 3/27/1980 | Charles Shepard, PhD, Chief, Leprosy and Rickettsial Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta | The Evolution of Evolving Infectious Diseases |
| 3/19/1981 | Allan Barnes, PhD, Chief, Vectorborne Disease Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fort Collins | Plague |
| 3/25/1982 | Charles Lankford, PhD University of Texas, Austin | What is Cholera? |
| 3/24/1983 | William McCulloch, DVM Director, Center for Comparative Medicine, Texas A&M University | The Human Animal Bond |

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|-----------|---|--|
| 3/22/1984 | Peter Schantz, VMD, PhD, Division of Parasitic Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta | Current Concepts in Toxicaral Larva Migrans |
| 4/10/1985 | Allan M. Barnes, PhD, Chief, Plague Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fort Collins | Bubonic Plague: Biological Behavioral Aspects of an Increasing Problem in the Western United States |
| 4/9/1986 | Willy Burgdorfer, PhD, Scientist Emeritus, NIH, Rocky Mountain Laboratories | Lyme Disease: History and the Search for the Etiological Agent, <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> |
| 4/2/1987 | S. S. Kalter, PhD, NIH/WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research | The Current Status of Non-Human Primate Zoonoses |
| 5/20/1988 | Sanford A. Miller, PhD, Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, UT Health Science Center, San Antonio | |
| 6/1/1989 | Lester Crawford, DVM, PhD, Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA | The Public Health Imperative |
| 6/28/1990 | Daniel Fishbein, MD, Medical Epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta | Human Ehrlichiosis in Perspective |
| 6/6/1991 | Robert Bernstein, MD, Texas Commissioner of Health | Comments on the Future of Public Health |
| 6/4/1992 | William Rosser, DVM, MA, Chief, Veterinary Public Health, Texas Department of Health | The Zoonoses: How Far Should We Go |
| 4/8/1993 | George Baer, DVM, MPH, Chief, Rabies Section, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta | Oral Rabies Vaccination: The Past, Present, and Future |
| 4/6/1994 | Charles Rupprecht, VMD, PHD, Chief, Rabies Section, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta | |
| 6/6/1995 | Jerry Jaax, DVM, Director, Biological Arms Control Treaty Office, Fort Detrick, Maryland | The Hot Zone, Revisited |
| 6/7/1996 | Ralph T. Bryan, MD, Medical Epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta | The Western Hemisphere Perspectives of Hantavirus Disease |
| 6/5/1997 | David R. Smith, MD, President, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center | Of Mice, Men, and Mayhem: Emerging Infections |
| 6/3/1998 | David L. Huxsoll, DVM, PhD, Director, USDA Plum Island Animal Disease Center | Biological Warfare: An Old Problem with New Concerns |
| 5/25/1999 | Theodore J. Cieslak, MD, Operational Medicine Division, US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) Fort Detrick | A Primer on Bioterrorism |
| 3/29/2000 | Robert McClean, PhD, Director, National Wildlife Health Center | The Investigation and Discovery of West Nile-like Virus in the U.S. |
| 6/1/2001 | Charles Sweet, PhD, Retired Director of Laboratories, Texas Department of Health | From Germ Warfare to Bioterrorism in Two Generations |
| 6/6/2002 | Herbert L. DuPont, MD, Kelsey Professor of Medical Sciences, Epidemiology, UT Houston Medical School and School of Public Health | <i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> : An Important Emerging Pathogen |
| 6/26/2003 | Kelley J. Donham, MS, DVM, Director, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health | 21 st Century Challenges in Rural and Agricultural Medicine |
| 6/3/2004 | David Walker, MD, Director, Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, UT Medical Branch | Human Ehrlichioses: These Highly Prevalent Zoonotic Emerging Infectious Diseases Are Poorly Recognized |

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|-------------|---|--|
| 6/2/2005 | Neville Clark, Director, Institute for Countermeasures Against Agricultural Bioterrorism, Texas A&M | Agricultural Bioterrorism |
| 8/2/2006 | Gregory Gray, MD, MPH, Director, Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, University of Iowa College of Public Health | The Potential for Animal to Human Transmission: Science versus Speculation |
| 6/12/2007 | Brett Iverson, PhD, Institute for Cellular and Molecular Biology, University of Texas, Austin | Back to the Future: Engineered Antibodies to Treat Anthrax |
| 4/23/2008 | Leon Russell, DVM, MPH, PhD, President, World Veterinary Association | Neglected Zoonoses: The Teeter-Totter Effect |
| 6/2/2009 | Laura Kramer, PhD, Director, Arbovirus Laboratories, New York State Department of Health and Professor, School of Public Health, State University of New York, | A Global Perspective on Emerging Mosquito-borne Diseases |
| 6/09/2010 | Colonel Ted Cieslak, MD, FAAP, FIDSA, Department of Defense/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia | Bioterrorism Response for Healthcare Workers: A 10-Step Approach |
| 6/15/2011 | Sharon M. Derrick, PhD, Forensic Anthropology Division, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas | From Colonial Plague to Influenza H1N1: The Multiple Roles of the Anthropologist in an Urban Medical Examiner Office |
| 6/21/2012 | Rodney E. Willoughby, Jr., MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Update on Rabies Therapy (Milwaukee Protocol) |
| 6/20/2013 | Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas | Blue Marble Health and Neglected Tropical Diseases |
| 6/26/2014 | Eleanor Green, DVM, DACVIM, DABVP, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas | ONE HEALTH: Human Health, Animal Health, and the Intersection of Health with Natural and Man-Made Environments |
| 5/21/2015 | James W. LeDuc, PhD; Director, Galveston National Laboratory; Professor, Microbiology and Immunology, UT Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas | Ebola – The Saga Continues |
| 5/26/2016 | Ian Tizard, BVMS, PhD, ACVIM, DSc, Distinguished Professor of Immunology and Richard M. Schubot Professor of Exotic Bird Health, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biosciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas | Keep Your Mouth Shut! Wild Birds as a Source of Bacterial Zoonoses |
| 5/25/2017 | Kristy Murray, DVM, PhD, Associate Vice-Chair for Research for the Department of Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, Assistant Dean for Faculty and Academic Development for the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas | The Hunt for Zebras: How Can We Optimize Detection of Emerging Pathogens? |
| 5/24/2018 | Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH Executive Director and Local Health Authority, Harris County Public Health | One Health: Theory to Practice |
| 5/30/2019 | Sean P. Bush, MD, FACEP Private Medical Consultant | Management of Adult and Pediatric Patients with North American Pit Viper Envenomation |

| Date | Speaker | Title |
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| 2020 | N/A – no conference due to Coronavirus Pandemic | |
| 2021 | N/A – virtual (no J.V. Irons Session) | |
| 2022 | Scott Abel, JD Leadership and Innovation Manager Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Austin, Texas | I Said This, You Heard That: The Colors of Communication |
| 2023 | Jack A Gilbert, PhD Professor, Pediatrics & Scripps Institution of Oceanography University of California San Diego, San Diego, California | The Human Microbiome in Precision Medicine |
| 2024 | Jeffrey MB Musser, DVM, PhD Clinical Professor of Infectious Diseases College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas | Dogs, Cows, Humans, and More: Historical Perspectives in Texas Public Health |