

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, ACVM, 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
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
2025	Steffanie A. Strathdee, PhD Harold Simon Distinguished Professor, Co-director, Center for Innovative Phage Applications & Therapeutics (IPATH) Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health Department of Medicine, UC San Diego Health Sciences, San Diego, California	From Bog to Bedside: How Phage Therapy is being Revitalized to Treat Multi-Drug Resistant Bacterial Infections