TOPIC:
The Impact of Climate Change on Zoonoses: Here, Now, Tomorrow? Mississippi as a representative microcosm

Monday, September 27, 2021 • 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: BigBlueButton or dial in 1-863-208-0022 (pin: 337 216 271)

Objectives:
1. Measure the complexity of the life cycle of many disease organisms and how climate limits or facilitates vector(s), reservoir host(s), and the disease organism itself.
2. Recognize diseases previously limited to tropical areas are extending their previously known range; those thought to be vanquished decades ago are reappearing
3. Identify the role of surveillance for (re)emergent autochthonous diseases including anthrax, chagas disease, leprosy, malaria, lymphatic filariasis, paragonimiasis, and fungi and their toxins.

My original training prepared me to return to the neotropics for the study and prevention of zoonotic and enzootic diseases. My primary recent research focus has been the regulation of the synthesis and action of adrenal steroids, especially aldosterone (1,2) (3-7), and the biology of the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) and its ligands, reviewed in (8,9), with particular focus on its role in pathological cardiac, renal and vascular remodeling and its actions in the central nervous system (10-12). I recently broadened my focus to include neuro and muscular degenerative diseases (13-18). Among techniques used have been pharmacological and physiological studies in animals and cultured cells, including those genetically engineered by us, biochemistry and molecular biology, and histopathology and immunohistochemistry. My change from full-time investigator at the VA for 30 years with 1/8th affiliation in the Department of medicine, to a full time professor position in the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology allowed me much greater opportunity to teach Medical, Dental, and Graduate students, which I enjoyed immensely, while allowing me to continue research collaborations. The University and VA are across the street from each other, thus the distance posed no problem for communication. I was asked to retire in May of 2020, ostensibly as a cost saving measure for the university during the Sar-Cov2 pandemic. I retained enough University hours to honor commitments to ongoing funded research and continue collaborations while based primarily at the VA except for animal work, as the VA contracts space in the research animal facilities at UMMC.

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