Dean Michael D. Lairmore, DVM, PhD oversees all School of Veterinary Medicine activities, personnel, facilities and funding resources. He presides over six academic departments, the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center in Tulare, Veterinary Medicine Extension, and numerous centers of excellence.

Dean Lairmore earned his DVM from the University of Missouri at Columbia. He is board certified in veterinary anatomic pathology as well as virology and immunology, and holds a doctorate in experimental pathology. He came to UCD from The Ohio State University. He served as a professor and associate dean for research and graduate studies at the College of Veterinary Medicine, where he led a successful sponsored research and commercialization program. He also served as associate director of the university’s Comprehensive Cancer Center. While Chair for the Department of Veterinary Biosciences, he received unanimous praise for leading his department to new heights in research funding and scholarly achievement.

Lairmore has bridged multiple disciplines to address basic questions related to viral causes of cancer. His research has provided significant breakthroughs in the biology of the human retroviruses and the understanding of viral-associated carcinogenesis. He developed one of the first models of AIDS-associated pediatric pneumonia. After developing a reference laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for Human T cell leukemia/lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1), he discovered the first HTLV-2 infection in native Indian populations in Central America, subsequently recognized as an endemic infection among American Indian populations throughout North and South America. Lairmore has authored or co-authored more than 175 scientific publications.