Veterinary Professor Elected to Institute of Medicine

Frederick Murphy, professor of virology and dean emeritus of the School of Veterinary Medicine, was the sole veterinarian elected in 1999 to the Institute of Medicine, the medical science arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Murphy joined 55 new members elected on the basis of major career contributions to health, medicine or related fields. Members make a commitment to devote a significant amount of volunteer time to committees engaged in a broad range of studies of health problems throughout the world.

Before serving as dean, Dr. Murphy was director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

He played a key role in discovery of the deadly original strain of Ebola virus in 1976 and, in the resolution of an outbreak of Ebola/Reston in monkeys in Virginia and Texas in 1989–90. He has worked extensively on rabies, viral encephalitis and other diseases transmitted from animals to humans.

Recently, Dr. Murphy has been involved in efforts of the National Academy of Sciences to ensure that former Russian biological warfare research institutes are permanently converted for peaceful purposes such as vaccine research.

Denmark Confers Knighthood on Professor Emeritus

Professor emeritus Hans Riemann, a pioneer in the field of preventive veterinary medicine and a guiding force in food safety research, has been knighted by Denmark’s Queen Margrethe II in recognition of his meritorious service and contributions to science.

On behalf of the queen, Consul General Martin Kofod presented Dr. Riemann with the badge of the Order of the Dannebrog, a white and red enameled cross, at a ceremony on the UC Davis campus October 18. He congratulated Dr. Riemann’s ongoing and generous exchanges with Danish students, professors and scientific organizations.

Dean Bennie Osburn says, "Dr. Riemann’s work has directly contributed to the control and prevention of livestock and food-borne disease—areas vitally important to both human and animal health."

Born and educated in Denmark, Dr. Riemann began teaching at UC Davis in 1965. He has served as chair of the former Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine and as director of the Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine program. He is founding editor of the journal Veterinary Epidemiology and co-authored the first textbook in the field, Epidemiology in Veterinary Practice. Still active in retirement, Dr. Riemann is currently collaborating on Salmonella-related investigations designed to improve animal health on poultry farms.

Director of Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research Is Named

John Edman, PhD, international expert on the biology of mosquitoes, ticks and other organisms that spread disease to animals and humans, has been selected as director of the UC Davis Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research.

His joint appointment with the School of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences began September 1.

Dr. Edman says, "Worldwide, new and re-emerging diseases borne by arthropod vectors are on the rise. We need to find new ways to detect diseases such as viral encephalitis, dengue fever, malaria, Lyme disease and plague. We also need to control the carriers of disease parasites and reduce our reliance on chemical pesticides in vector control."

A professor at the University of Massachusetts since 1975, Dr. Edman has authored more than 150 scientific publications, including a soon-to-be-published textbook on medical entomology co-written by UC Davis colleague Bruce Eldridge.

Approximately 20 faculty members from a variety of disciplines will carry out center-related teaching and research programs. These include School of Veterinary Medicine arbovirus and animal health studies, School of Medicine programs, and Department of Entomology laboratory programs in mosquito biology, surveillance and control, which are conducted throughout the state.