

Tammy Beckham, DVM, Ph.D.

Dr. Tammy Beckham, DVM, Ph.D. is the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. In this role, she provides leadership to the college through advancing the college mission, vision, and goals. As Dean of the College, she is responsible for oversight of academic programs, the veterinary health center, and the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. In her previous role as Director of the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD) she provided leadership and oversight to the Institute and led and executed a multi-million dollar research portfolio aimed at defending the nation from high consequence foreign animal, emerging and zoonotic diseases. Founded in April 2004 as a Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Center of Excellence, IIAD leverages the resources of multiple major universities, Minority Serving Institutions, and private industry partners.

From 2008-2014, Dr. Beckham was the director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic (TVMDL) Laboratory. In this role, she provided leadership for one of the busiest veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States. TVMDL is comprised of four locations, two full-service laboratories and two poultry laboratories located throughout the State of Texas.

Prior to being selected as director of TVMDL, Dr. Beckham served as director of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York. Her responsibilities included managing the diagnosis of animal diseases, overseeing diagnostic test development for a nationwide animal health diagnostic system, and coordinating efforts with the Department of Homeland Security, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and other entities.

Dr. Beckham is a magna cum laude graduate of Auburn University, where she earned her doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1998. She also holds a doctorate in biomedical science from Auburn, received in 2001, while she served as a captain in the U.S. Army. She served at the Army's Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases in Frederick, Md., where she helped develop improved techniques for detecting deadly pathogens such as Ebola and Marburg viruses.

Dr. Beckham is the chair of the Foreign and Emerging Disease Committee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and serves on many committees within animal health and veterinary diagnostic associations throughout the United States. Most recently she served on the Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response during the Ebola virus outbreak of 2014. Beckham is a full professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathology at the Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

She has authored numerous publications, including those appearing in the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation, Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Journal of Comparative Pathology and Laboratory Investigation, among others. She is recognized as an international expert in the diagnosis of foreign animal diseases. She routinely acts as a subject matter expert at international meetings and maintains productive partnerships with international scientists and world reference laboratories.