

# University Distinguished Professors

The highest academic recognition awarded by the University, the title of University Distinguished Professor, is bestowed upon a very small number of full professors at any one time on the basis of outstanding scholarship and achievement. Professors receiving this title hold the distinction for the duration of their association with Colorado State University.

To obtain the rank, faculty members are nominated through an extensive review process and must be approved by the current University Distinguished Professors. Colorado State's current president approves new selections and secures endorsement from the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System.

**Barry Beaty, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)**  
**Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology**  
Dr. Barry Beaty is professor of virology and a leading researcher at Colorado State's Arthropod-Borne Infectious Disease Laboratory. His research has included the prevention and control of diseases including yellow fever, malaria, Dengue fever, West Nile virus, and mosquito-borne encephalitis.



*Beaty*

**Edward A. Hoover, B.S., D.V.M. (University of Illinois), M.S., Ph.D. (The Ohio State University)**  
**Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology**  
Edward Hoover's laboratory has focused on the origins, transmission, and prevention of infectious diseases-- especially viruses that cause leukemia and immunodeficiency and prions that cause chronic wasting disease of deer and elk and mad cow disease in cattle and humans. The feline leukemia virus vaccine developed by Dr. Hoover at CSU is currently used worldwide to protect millions of cats against leukemia.



*Hoover*

**Karolin Luger, Ph.D. (University of Basel, Switzerland)**  
**Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute**  
Dr. Luger's main research interest is the architecture of DNA within chromosomes, and how misregulation of chromatin structure results in diseased states. Dr. Luger was a key player in efforts to elucidate the three-dimensional structure of the nucleosome, the basic repeating unit in chromatin. She leads an interdisciplinary research team with expertise in biophysics, yeast genetics, and molecular biology. Karolin is a member of the Advisory Council of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIH).



*Luger*

**Ian M. Orme, Ph.D. (University of London, UK)**  
**Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology**  
Dr. Orme co-founded the Mycobacteria Research Laboratories at CSU, and is internationally recognized for his development of animal models that are used to understand the host response to tuberculosis, and ways to treat it with drugs and vaccines. He is currently focusing on multi-drug resistant TB and ways to treat it, including the development of post-exposure vaccines.



*Orme*

**David A. Randall, B.S., M.S. (The Ohio State University), Ph.D. (University of California – Los Angeles)**  
**Department of Atmospheric Science**  
Dr. David Randall works on simulation of the global climate, with an emphasis on clouds and precipitation. He created and directs the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes, a National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center. He has strong interests in science education and scientific publishing.



*Brennan*

**Patrick J. Brennan, B.Sc., M.Sc. (National University of Ireland), M.A., Ph.D. (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland)**  
**Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology**  
Dr. Patrick Brennan's research involves two bacterial diseases, leprosy and tuberculosis. He founded and was Director of the Mycobacteria Research Laboratory, which uses laboratory animal studies, immunology, synthetic and analytical chemistry, molecular biology, and genetics to develop new vaccines, diagnostic reagents, and drug targets.

**Jan E. Leach B.S., M.S. (University of Nebraska), Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)**  
**Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management**  
Dr. Jan Leach studies how plants respond to diverse disease-causing microbes, including bacteria and fungi. She and an international team of scholars then use this fundamental information to develop plants, particularly rice, with long-lasting disease resistance to multiple pathogens.



*Leach*

**Dr. C. Wayne McIlwraith, B.V.Sc (Massey University, New Zealand), M.S., Ph.D. (Purdue University), Department of Clinical Sciences**  
Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, Director of the Orthopedic Research Center and Barbara Cox Anthony Chair in Orthopedics, is recognized internationally as a leading equine orthopedic surgeon as well as a researcher in joint problems (arthritis) of horses and humans. Research focuses include novel arthritis treatments (including gene therapy), new methods of cartilage repair and early diagnosis of pre-arthritis and pre-fracture disease using novel imaging and fluid biomarkers. He also directs the Musculoskeletal Research Program of Scholarly Excellence.



*McIlwraith*



*Randall*

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**Philip E. Risbeck, B.F.A., M.F.A. (University of Kansas)  
Department of Art**

An active artist, professor Risbeck teaches in the graphic design concentration. Especially active in poster art, he co-founded and co-directs the Colorado International Invitational Poster Exhibition. He has won medal awards in competition and has had numerous group and solo exhibitions in Poland, Czech Republic, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, China, Mexico, Russia and Portugal. His work is included in permanent collections of poster museums in Europe, Asia and North and South America.



*Risbeck*

**Bernard E. Rollin, B.A. (City College of New York), Ph.D. (Columbia University)**

**Department of Philosophy, Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Department of Animal Sciences**

Dr. Bernard Rollin's focus is on animal ethics, genetic engineering, animal pain, animal research, animal agriculture, veterinary ethics, and various other topics in bioethics and philosophy of interest to medical researchers, attorneys, psychologists, students, ranchers, and lay people all around the world.



*Rollin*

**Thomas H. Vonder Haar, B.S. (St. Louis University), M.S., Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)**

**Department of Atmospheric Science**

Dr. Thomas Vonder Haar studies the Earth's atmosphere using observations from weather satellites. He investigates the fundamental components of the energy and water cycles in the climate system and seeks to understand the life cycle of cloud systems and severe storms. Dr. Vonder Haar is the Recipient Program Manager and Principal Investigator for the DoD Center for Geosciences/Atmospheric Research at Colorado State University which designs and analyzes new instruments, algorithms and data sets to obtain weather and climate information related to improving, understanding and forecasting the Earth's environment. He is also the Emeritus Director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere.



*Vonder Haar*

**Robert M. Williams, B.A. (Syracuse University), Ph.D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Post-doctoral (Harvard University)**

**Department of Chemistry**

Dr. Robert Williams' research harnesses the interplay of synthetic organic chemistry, physical organic chemistry, microbiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology. His research interests have included the total synthesis of natural products with an emphasis on cytotoxic agents relevant to cancer and antimicrobial therapies, studies on drug-DNA interactions, design and synthesis of antibiotics and DNA-cleaving molecules, and biosynthetic pathways.



*Williams*



*Rocca*



*Sofos*



*Wall*

**Jorge J. Rocca, B.S. (Universidad de Rosario, Argentina), Ph.D. (Colorado State University)  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and  
Department of Physics**

Dr. Jorge Rocca's research concerns physics and development of x-ray lasers, application of coherent short wavelength light, and study of dense plasmas. He is internationally recognized for his contributions to development of compact soft x-ray lasers and their application to scientific and technological problems. He serves as Director of the NSF Engineering Research Center for Extreme Ultraviolet Science and Technology, a consortium between CSU, the University of Colorado, and the University of California Berkeley

**John N. Sofos, B.S. (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), M.S., Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)  
Department of Animal Sciences**

Dr. John Sofos is internationally recognized for his research in the area of food safety enhancement through bacterial pathogen control. Notable research contributions have addressed control of *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* in fresh beef and *Listeria* in ready-to-eat foods. Ongoing research interests deal with sources, ecology, extent of contamination, antimicrobial resistance and stress adaptation, and procedures to reduce contamination and inactivate or inhibit growth of bacterial food-borne pathogens.

**Diana Wall, B.A., Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)  
Department of Biology, Natural Resource Ecology  
Laboratory, School of Global Environmental  
Sustainability**

Dr. Diana Wall is actively engaged in research to explore how soil biodiversity contributes to healthy, productive soils and thus to society, and the consequences of human activities on soil sustainability. Her research examining soil biodiversity and ecosystem processes, stretches globally from the tropics to the Antarctic Dry Valleys, where she has worked for the past 20 years.

**Dr. Stephen J. Withrow, D.V.M. (University of Minnesota)  
Department of Clinical Sciences**

Dr. Stephen Withrow, associate director of the Animal Cancer Center and Stuart Chair in Oncology, is a veterinarian who has gained international status and acclaim for cancer research. The Animal Cancer Center at Colorado State University, the largest center of its kind in the world, has trained more veterinary surgical, medical, and radiation oncologists than any other veterinary institution. Dr. Withrow is Director of the Supercluster in Cancer Research and Chief Scientific Officer of NeoTREX the entrepreneurial arm of the Supercluster.



*Withrow*

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## University Distinguished Professors Emeritus/Emerita

- Dr. Jack Cermak, Department of Civil Engineering
- Dr. Mortimer Elkind, Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences (deceased)
- Dr. Howard Evans, Department of Zoology and Entomology (deceased)
- Dr. John Stille, Department of Chemistry (deceased)
- Dr. Takumi Tsuchiya, Department of Agronomy (deceased)
- Dr. Anne Fisher, Department of Occupational Therapy
- Dr. Marshall Fixman, Department of Chemistry
- Dr. Louis Hegedus, Department of Chemistry
- Dr. Willard Lindsay, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences (deceased)
- Dr. Albert Meyers, Department of Chemistry (deceased)
- Dr. Gordon Niswender, Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Dr. Holmes Rolston III, Department of Philosophy
- Dr. Stanley Schumm, Department of Earth Resources (deceased)
- Dr. John Wiens, Department of Biology
- Dr. Graeme Stephens, Department of Atmospheric Science
- Dr. Gary Smith, Department of Animal Sciences
- Dr. George Seidel, Jr., Department of Biomedical Sciences