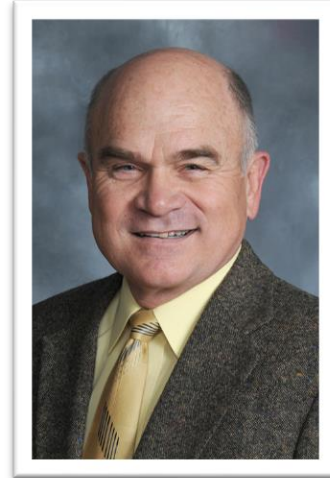


**Frank Blecha, MS, PhD**

Frank Blecha is a University Distinguished Professor, emeritus at Kansas State University. After 43 years of service to the College of Veterinary Medicine at K-State, he retired in June 2024.



Dr. Blecha received his BS (1971) and MS (1977) from the University of Idaho and his PhD (1981) from Washington State University. At K-State, he served as Associate Dean of Research in the College of Veterinary Medicine from 2010-2023. Prior to that, he was Head of the Anatomy and Physiology Department from 1998-2011 and Assistant Department Head from 1991-1998. From 1988-1989, Dr. Blecha and his family lived in Paris, France while on sabbatical leave at the Station de Recherches de Virologie et d'Immunologie Moléculaires du Centre de Recherches de Jouy-en-Josas, France. He has served as a faculty member and research scientist focused on immunology since joining K-State in 1981. In 2001, Dr. Blecha was recognized by K-State as a University Distinguished Professor, the highest honor the university bestows on its faculty members. In 2004, he received the Presidential Award for Outstanding Department Head.

Dr. Blecha's research focus has been on the evaluation of the regulatory mechanisms involved in innate immunity, including the role of antimicrobial peptides and antiviral cytokines. He has published 158 peer-reviewed publications, holds five U.S. patents and delivered 138 invited presentations. He has held leadership positions in national and international organizations, including the American Association of Immunologists and the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists. In 2010, Blecha received the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award from the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists. Dr. Blecha served as major professor for nine doctoral and three master's students and a mentor for four postdoctoral fellows. In addition, he served on the supervisory committees for 56 graduate students. In 1998, he was presented with the University Distinguished Graduate Faculty Member Award at Kansas State University.

**2025 CRWAD Fellows Inductee**

