Robert P. Ellis, MS, PhD, CBSP, DACVM (Hon.) CRWAD Fellow Inductee

Robert Ellis graduated from the University of Wyoming (BS in Microbiology) and from Purdue University (MS and PhD) in the School of Veterinary Medicine (1966-1971). He joined the faculty of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at South Dakota State University in 1971 and the faculty at Colorado State University in 1978. Dr. Ellis was appointed to the CSU Biosafety Committee in 1978, and served as CSU's first Biosafety Officer 1986-1989, and CSU Biosafety Director 1997-2020. He retired from CSU in June 2020 and is Emeritus Professor and Biosafety Director.



Dr. Ellis is recognized internationally for his animal disease research leadership (primarily food animal enteric diseases and sheep foot rot), and biosafety and biosecurity training. The first PCR conducted at CSU was in Dr. Ellis's lab. He was awarded the Russian Academy of Agricultural Science Gold Medal of Achievement December 2008.

Dr. Ellis was the Executive Director of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases from 1987 - 2014, and was the Founding Editor-in-Chief of Animal Health Research Reviews (AHRR). In 2015, Robert P. Ellis, L. Susanne Squires Ellis, and Erwin M. Kohler, published "The history of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) 1920–2014" (Anim Health Res Rev. 2015 December; 16(2): 177–192.)

Dr. Ellis is a Certified Biological Safety Professional and a Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (Honorary). He was American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) President 2008-2009. He received the 2015 Everett Hanel, Jr. Presidential Award and the Arnold G. Wedum Distinguished Achievement Award (2020) from ABSA. Bob initiated and continues to direct the Biosafety and Biosecurity Training Course (BBTC) for international audiences in Fort Collins, CO, each August. The BBTC includes Animal, Plant, and General biosafety and biosecurity training sessions.

