The Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at The Ohio State University was established in 2017 to accelerate a collective interdisciplinary capacity to generate solutions to the impacts of microbes on the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment for the benefit of society, as we work toward our vision of a world free from the threat of infectious diseases.

The Institute encompasses the work of 179 faculty from a diverse range of disciplines representing 10 colleges across the university including Arts & Sciences, Dentistry, Engineering, Food Agriculture & Environmental Science, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Affairs, Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine. Our approach to addressing infectious disease challenges is multidisciplinary with faculty-driven research programs within six overlapping thematic focus areas: (1) Viruses and Emerging Pathogens; (2) Host Defense and Microbial Biology; (3) Microbial Communities; (4) Antimicrobial Resistance; (5) Ecology, Epidemiology and Population Health; and (6) Prevention, Detection and Therapies. The Institute is led by a Director (along with associate and thematic area directors) and a Chief Operating Officer, a business manager, a program coordinator, and a proposal development specialist.

In addition to human clinical trials on therapies for infectious diseases conducted at OSU’s Wexner Medical Center, our Veterinary Medical Center conducts numerous clinical trials for companion animals. IDI is supporting development of one of the few Infection Control and Antibiotic Stewardship Programs at a Veterinary Medical Center in the United States. OSU’s facilities for infectious diseases research and teaching include a gnotobiotic facility, the only known resource for procurement and maintenance of germ-free, food-producing animals. Our Plant and Animal Agrosecurity Research (PAAR) Facility is the only facility in Ohio and one of only two nationally with capacity for both plant and animal research at the Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) and BSL-3-Ag safety levels. To meet the growing needs of scientists engaged in research on pathogens transmitted by insect vectors, OSU is in the process of constructing an Arthropod Containment Level 2 (ACL-2) facility.

The IDI represents a multi-million-dollar investment in infectious disease research and education at Ohio State, supporting researchers and educators across the university with resources, connections, and opportunities. The Institute provides the following for its members:

- Seed grants and targeted investments in interdisciplinary research
- Educational awards and scholarships for graduate students
- Trainee externships with government agencies, industry and non-profit organizations
- Proposal development support for research, education and infrastructure grants
- Seminars, conferences and meetings featuring thought leaders from Ohio State and around the world
- Speaker training that coaches faculty, postdocs, graduate students and trainees in delivering concise, compelling and consistent messages to strengthen presentations and enhance awareness of infectious disease topics
- Public speaking opportunities, including the Discovery Talks programs, at local and national levels and in the government, public health, commercial and academic sectors

The Infectious Diseases Institute is maximizing the societal impact of infectious disease work at Ohio State by: (1) developing resources for sharing accurate and accessible information about infectious diseases with the community and policy makers, including the science of infectious diseases and innovations in human, animal and plant health management; (2) driving the construction and maintenance of a research infrastructure to predict and respond to emerging outbreaks; and (3) promoting international collaborations, especially with developing countries where infectious diseases often emerge or re-emerge.