



## FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

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### The Ohio State University Infectious Diseases Institute

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 680 members (faculty, staff, students) from a diverse range of disciplines representing 14 colleges across the university (Arts & Sciences, Business, Dentistry, Engineering, Education & Human Ecology, Food Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Affairs, Public Health, Social Work, and Veterinary Medicine) and the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Our approach to addressing infectious disease challenges is multidisciplinary with faculty-driven research programs within five overlapping thematic focus areas: (1) Viruses and Emerging Pathogens; (2) Host Defense and Microbial Biology; (3) Microbial Communities; (4) Antimicrobial Resistance; and (5) Ecology, Epidemiology, and Population Health. The Institute is led by a director (along with associate and thematic area directors), a strategic alliance officer, a business manager, a marketing and communications specialist, and a research 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. Alongside the Department of Microbiology, the IDI oversees the Applied Microbiology Services Laboratory (AMSL) which offers microbiology services to government and industry clients and is a CLIA-certified laboratory in order to house OSU's SARS-CoV-2 saliva surveillance testing program. The IDI is the UN FAO's North American Reference Center on Antimicrobial Resistance and is a member of the National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education (NIAMRRE). The IDI helped establish and works closely with OSU's Center of Microbime Science (CoMS).

The IDI represents a multi-million-dollar investment in infectious disease research and education through the university's Discovery Theme Program, 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
- Research development strategies and proposal development support for significant, large-scale research, education and infrastructure grants
- Seminars, conferences and meetings featuring thought leaders from Ohio State and around the world
- Speaker training that coaches postdocs, graduate students, and trainees in delivering concise, compelling and consistent messages to strengthen presentations and enhance awareness of infectious disease topics

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.