



# College of Veterinary Medicine

## ENDOWED CHAIR FOR WILD SHEEP DISEASE RESEARCH

**Rank:** Endowed Chair – Associate or Full Professor

**Description of Position:** This is a full-time (12 month) tenured Professor or Associate Professor faculty position in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. We seek an outstanding scientist to lead our bighorn sheep research program.

**Title:** Rocky Crate/Wild Sheep Foundation Endowed Chair for Wild Sheep Disease Research

**Salary:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Qualifications:** A PhD degree in biomedical science or a related field is required.

Candidates must have demonstrated abilities in conducting hypothesis-based research and publishing high-quality papers in top-tier journals on topics related to this research program.

Candidates must have a track record of attracting extramural funding.

Candidates must have a history of and interest in contributing to high-quality graduate education.

Candidates are expected to have a background or experience enabling broad cross-disciplinary research collaborations, including those supporting applied field research.

Candidates are expected to have background, training, and experience enabling development of a strong research program in disease ecology or epidemiology relevant to diseases associated with pathogen spillover at the wildlife-livestock interface.

Candidates are expected to have the willingness and the ability to communicate research results both orally and in written formats so that they are easily understood by multiple individuals and groups of diverse backgrounds.

Candidates are expected to have an understanding and appreciation of the role of hunting in the management of big game animals in Western North America.

**The Endowed Chair:** This search is for the third Rocky Crate/Wild Sheep Foundation Endowed Chair for Wild Sheep Disease Research. This endowed chair was established in 1998 with private support from Dr. Rocky Crate and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (now the Wild Sheep Foundation) to focus research on understanding and eventually controlling or preventing the most devastating disease of bighorn sheep, pneumonia. The new endowed chair will be expected to emphasize research directed toward the same end. Also, the new endowed chair will be expected to interact collegially and collaboratively with the officials of the Wild Sheep Foundation as well as the officials of the WSF Chapters and keep them informed with respect to research progress. Furthermore, the new endowed

chair will be expected to establish or continue broad collaborations with the staff of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, with state game/wildlife department biologists and managers, with the Wild Sheep Working Group of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and as appropriate, with relevant agricultural officials at state and federal levels.

**Background:** Epizootic pneumonia is a severe disease of North American wild sheep that contributed to their decline in the 19th and early 20th centuries and that continues to limit the recovery of their populations today. Over the past three decades, WSU researchers in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology have conducted cutting-edge research to determine the cause(s) of bighorn sheep pneumonia and to elucidate management approaches for the recovery of this iconic species. The Rocky Crate/WSF endowed chair position is dedicated exclusively to research on wild sheep diseases and graduate education, with a principal focus on respiratory disease.

**Description of Recent Advances by the Incumbent Endowed Chair and His Collaborators, and Links To Recent Pertinent Papers.** During the past 10 years, the bacterium *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* has been recognized as the primary infectious agent and a necessary component of polymicrobial bighorn sheep pneumonia based upon multiple lines of evidence, including a) experimental reproduction of polymicrobial pneumonia following *M. ovipneumoniae* exposure that microbiologically, pathologically, and epidemiologically resembles the naturally occurring disease, b) epidemiologic and molecular epidemiologic evidence for the role of *M. ovipneumoniae* in naturally occurring pneumonia outbreaks affecting wild bighorn sheep populations, and c) successful efforts to reduce pneumonia-associated morbidity and mortality in both captive and free-ranging bighorn sheep following interventions based upon *M. ovipneumoniae* alone. This evidence lends additional mechanistic support to the previously recognized increased risk of bighorn sheep pneumonia following contact with *M. ovipneumoniae* reservoir hosts, particularly domestic sheep. Additional work has characterized significant adverse effects of *M. ovipneumoniae* on the health and productivity of domestic sheep, and has produced preliminary results in the development of methods to eliminate this pathogen from domestic sheep flocks.

Recent publications can be accessed at: <http://bighornhealth.org/publications/>

**DEPARTMENT** – – The Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology is one of five departments/schools in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The departmental mission is “to enhance animal and public health through teaching veterinary and graduate students, training veterinary pathology and microbiology residents, and conducting biomedical research infectious diseases/immunology”. The Department takes pride in what we believe is an environment that fosters collaboration, creativity, personal and professional growth, and productivity, and which has led to high performance faculty with award-winning programs in the research, teaching, and diagnostic service arenas. Although few faculty members are personally involved in all of the traditional missions of teaching, research, and service, we seek and value excellence in all three.

The personnel of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, the USDA-ARS-Animal Disease Research Unit, the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, and the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory are housed in proximity in the College Veterinary Medicine. There are many productive interactions among individuals in the four units and many faculty members have appointments in multiple units. There are congruencies of interest and fruitful collaborations among the

faculty and personnel in these four units and aside from some unit-specific responsibilities, it is an overarching cohesive organization. Our aim and our expectation is that to the degree possible the programs of the four units will function seamlessly.

**UNIVERSITY** – – Washington State University is a land grant comprehensive research institution with an enrollment of just over 30,000 students with just over 20,000 on the Pullman campus. There are 11 colleges offering doctoral degrees in 46 disciplines; master’s and bachelor’s degrees are offered in 67 areas of study. The University is one the largest residential universities in the Northwest and Pullman offers a safe, friendly, small-town living environment. Branch campuses are located in four urban communities across the state. State-of-the-art core research facilities and equipment are available to facilitate research advances. The University is engaged in its aspirational “Drive to 25” initiative that aims to have WSU recognized as a top 25 public research university by 2030.

**AREA** – – Washington State University’s Pullman campus is situated in the rich agricultural area known as the Palouse, in eastern Washington. Pullman has a strong K-12 school system and a reputation as an excellent, safe environment in which to raise a family. Pullman is only 8 miles from the University of Idaho at Moscow, approximately 1.5 driving hours south of Spokane and 5.5 driving hours from Seattle. The Pullman environs offers many recreational activities, including skiing, fishing, hunting, white water rafting, camping, hiking, and rock climbing. Pullman is near the foothills the Rocky Mountains and near numerous rivers, lakes and wilderness areas; including the Snake, Salmon, and Clearwater rivers, Coeur d’Alene, Pend Oreille, Priest lakes, and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, to name a few.

**RESPONSIBILITIES** – – The position as defined is approximately 80% research/graduate education and 20% outreach. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and maintain a productive research program on the topic of respiratory disease of bighorn sheep, its causation, sources of the infectious agent(s), and methods to control or prevent pathogen transmission and disease through interventions in bighorn sheep, and pathogen reservoir hosts, or directed toward other disease co-factors that may be identified in the future. He or she will be expected to develop the requisite collaborations to move the research program forward, irrespective of the unit in which such collaborators have their formal appointments. Additionally, the successful candidate will be expected to develop productive contacts with state/federal/non-governmental wildlife agency officials, individuals, and organizations. The successful candidate will be expected to be active in the Department's graduate program including mentoring graduate students and serving as a member of student advisory committees. He or she will also be expected to be active in the academic service arena. The Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology seeks candidates whose experience and training has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and inclusion in higher education.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** – – Review of applications will begin on November 7, 2018 and will continue until filled. A letter of application, curriculum vitae, name and contact information for three references, and statement describing research approaches and plans must be submitted at [www.wsujobs.com](http://www.wsujobs.com).

Recognizing that diverse approaches to the problem of respiratory disease in bighorn sheep are possible, candidates are asked to include in their application a description of their proposed general approach and how their experience/expertise/skill sets will equip them to implement their approach.

## EEO Statements --

- WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EDUCATOR AND EMPLOYER. Members of ethnic minorities, women, special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam-era, recently separated veterans, and other protected veterans, persons of disability and/or persons age 40 and over are encouraged to apply.
- WSU is committed to excellence through diversity and faculty-friendly policy action, including partner accommodation and NSF ADVANCED Institutional Transformation programs (<http://www.advance.wsu.edu/>).
- WSU employees only U. S. citizens and lawfully authorized non-U. S. citizens. All new employees must show employment eligibility verification as required by the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- WSU is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodations and services, programs, activities, education, employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process, contact Human Resources Services: 509-335-4521(v), Washington State TDD Relay Service: Voice Callers: 1-800-833-6384; TDD callers: 1-800-833-6388, 509-335-1259(f) or [hrrs@wsu.edu](mailto:hrrs@wsu.edu).