

Professor John Morrey Honored for a Lifetime of Impacts in Virology

Lynnette Harris

03/19/2025

[Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences](#)

Professor John Morrey Honored for a Lifetime of Impacts in Virology

By Lynnette Harris | March 19, 2025



Research professor John Morrey in the Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences, and former director of USU's Institute for Antiviral Research, has been named the 2025 College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Distinguished Professor of the Year for his extraordinary contributions to scientific discovery, mentorship, and leadership.

Morrey's 37-year career at Utah State University has shaped the field of virology, advancing the study of influenza, hemorrhagic fevers, HIV, yellow fever, SARS, West Nile virus, and hepatitis B. His research has not only deepened scientific understanding but has also influenced the development of treatments and vaccines for viral diseases worldwide.

Morrey first arrived at USU as a doctoral student and returned in 1987 as an assistant research professor. From 2006 to 2020, he directed the Institute for Antiviral Research, leading a team of 10 Ph.D. scientists and 30 staff researchers in groundbreaking studies. His own research focused on the neurological effects of West

Nile virus and hepatitis, leading to discoveries that have shaped how these diseases are diagnosed and treated. Under his leadership, the institute secured over \$26 million in sponsored research funding from the National Institutes of Health and other partners. Morrey has authored 132 peer-reviewed publications, significantly expanding global knowledge in virology. His work has earned prestigious honors, including the 2007 CAAS Faculty Researcher of the Year award and the 2017 Utah Governor's Medal for Excellence in Science and Technology.

Beyond the lab, Morrey has been a dedicated mentor, inspiring students and colleagues through his passion for research and commitment to scientific progress. His legacy at USU is one of discovery, innovation, and mentorship, shaping the next generation of virologists and researchers.

CONTACTS

Lynnette Harris

Writer

lynnette.harris@usu.edu