



Jennifer McQuiston, DVM, MS (CAPT, USPHS)

Division of Public Affairs

Office of the Associate Director for Communication Science

Jennifer McQuiston, DVM, MS (CAPT, USPHS) is the Scientific Advisor for Public Affairs in the Division of Public Affairs at CDC's Office of the Associate Director for Communication Science. She is also a captain in the US Public Health Service.

As a veterinarian, Dr. McQuiston specializes in outbreak investigations and research involving diseases that spread from animals to people (zoonotic diseases). During much of her career at CDC, she has worked on diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Q fever and rabies. Her interests include diseases transmitted to humans by ticks, fleas and livestock.

Dr. McQuiston lives the CDC 24/7 work experience.

- **Rocky Mountain spotted fever**

Dr. McQuiston led the team that established the disease was being spread by an unexpected tick in a different manner than usual. She now has worked for over a decade to help decrease the number of disease-carrying ticks on tribal lands in the US Southwest and to prevent Rocky Mountain spotted fever deaths among American Indians.

- **Disease prevention**

During 2005-2007, Dr. McQuiston led a team in CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine that monitored imported animals and animal products that could pose infectious disease risks. Her team ensured that newly imported non-human primates underwent strict periods of observation to make sure they were free from dangerous diseases like Ebola.

- **Emergency response**

Dr. McQuiston has participated in numerous emergency responses, including serving on a CDC advance team that flew into New York City on 9/11 to help watch for possible bioterrorism events.

- **Outbreak investigation**

She led a team that helped trace imported wildlife that caused the first US outbreak of monkeypox in 2003. She also has participated in CDC responses to influenza and in the global polio eradication program.

- **Mentoring**

A passionate and outspoken supporter of the important role of veterinarians in public health, Dr. McQuiston regularly mentors veterinary students and new CDC staff.

Career Highlights

Dr. McQuiston received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. She earned the Masters degree in molecular biology and the BS in biology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She began her public health career at CDC in 1998 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer assigned to work on rabies and other zoonotic diseases.

Widely recognized for her expertise on zoonotic diseases, Dr. McQuiston has received numerous national awards, including the Daniel E. Salmon award from the National Association of Federal Veterinarians and CDC's James H. Steele Award for outstanding work on veterinary public health issues. She has more than 50 scientific publications and frequently is requested to speak at conferences and meetings.

As a scientist, mother and veterinarian, Dr. McQuiston believes that helping people understand how to prevent disease is her most important job. Her life's passion is translating science into easy-to-understand disease detection and prevention strategies to keep both people and animals healthy and on the go.

