



Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy
University of Minnesota

Chronic Wasting Disease Response, Research and Policy Program Activity

Cory Anderson, MPH

Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH

Testimony for the Minnesota House of Representatives
and Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance
Division Joint Hearing

September 1, 2020



Chronic Wasting Disease Resource Center

CWD Response, Research, and Policy Program

The Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response, Research, and Policy Program addresses the transmission of CWD in cervids and its potential for spread to humans and other animal species. The program supports current and reliable information on CWD for the public, including hunters; the medical, veterinary and public health communities; wildlife scientists and managers; and public policymakers.

[About CIDRAP's CWD Program](#)

[About CWD](#)

Expert Advisory Group

The program includes 57 national and international world-renowned and distinguished leaders in public health, medicine, science, wildlife, and agriculture.

[CWD Advisory Group](#)



Minnesota finds CWD in wild deer in just 1 area; new Wisconsin county affected

Jim Wappes | Editorial Director | CIDRAP News | Jan 23, 2020

The 27 detections from the 2019 hunting season were confined to southeastern Minnesota.

CWD CONTENT

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CIDRAP CWD Program Expert Advisory Group

- CIDRAP's CWD Program receives critical input and direction from 57 national and international, world-renowned, and distinguished leaders in public health, medicine, science, wildlife, and agriculture.
- The CIDRAP CWD Program Expert Advisory Group:
 - Represents six countries (Canada, France, England, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States).
 - Includes 34 PhDs, 12 DVMs, eight MDs, 12 wildlife managers, and eight leaders from conservation and hunting organizations.
 - Features internationally renowned experts on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE):
 - Sir Roy Anderson, PhD, FRS, FMedSci
 - John Collinge, MD, FRCP, FRS

U of M Chronic Wasting Disease Resource Center names fourteen international experts to executive committee



January 15, 2020

- Terry Kreeger, DVM, PhD – *Former Wyoming State Wildlife Veterinarian, Wyoming Game and Fish Department*
- Russell Mason, PhD – *Executive in Residence and Adjunct Professor, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources*
- Debbie McKenzie, PhD – *Associate Professor, Centre for Prions and Protein Folding Diseases, University of Alberta*
- Nick Pinizzotto, MA – *President and CEO, National Deer Alliance*
- Krysten Schuler, PhD – *Wildlife Disease Ecologist and Assistant Research Professor, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine*
- Kelly Straka, DVM, MPH – *Section Supervisor and State Wildlife Veterinarian, Wildlife Health Section, Michigan Department of Natural Resources*
- Mark Zabel, PhD – *Professor and Associate Director, Prion Research Center, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University*
- Wiktor Adamowicz, PhD – *Professor and Vice Dean, Agricultural Life and Environmental Sciences, Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta*
- Brian Appleby, MD – *Associate Professor and Director of the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University*
- Jason Bartz, PhD (Chair) – *Professor, Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs, and Vice Chair, Medical Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine, Creighton University*
- Ermias Belay, MD – *Associate Director for Epidemiologic Science, Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- Neil Cashman, MD – *Professor, Department of Neurology, University of British Columbia, and Academic Director, Vancouver Coastal Health ALS Centre*
- John Collinge, MD, FRCP, FRS – *Director, Medical Research Council Prion Unit and Institute of Prion Diseases, University College London*
- Colin Gillin, DVM – *State Wildlife Veterinarian, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Ongoing Activities: Webinar Series

- Launched a free webinar series featuring live presentations on topics related to CWD directly from experts and distinguished leaders.
- Viewers attending the live webinar can ask questions and have them answered following the presentation.
- Archived webinars are made available on the CIDRAP CWD YouTube channel.
 - Debbie McKenzie, PhD — CWD prion strains
 - Vic Adamowicz, PhD — Human dimensions of CWD



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Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy



Chronic Wasting Disease Resource Center

September 24, 2020 (11:30am CT) Webinar: What Hunters Should Know About CWD



**Presenter:
Nick Pinizzotto**

President and CEO
National Deer Alliance & Quality
Deer Management Association

Register now at: cidrap.umn.edu/cwd/podcasts-webinars

Ongoing Activities: CWD Whitepapers

- Starting an initiative to publish whitepapers on various CWD topics in collaboration with other institutions.
- Priority topics for these comprehensive reports include the safety of using certified landfills to dispose of CWD-infected carcasses and what we know and don't know about CWD tests.
- Formed a CWD carcass management working group that includes experts in landfill engineering, prion biology, human health, and wildlife management.
 - Whitepaper will detail the latest science related to this issue.

Ongoing Activities: Monthly CWD Newsletters

- Since November of 2019, CIDRAP has published monthly CWD newsletters.
- Monthly newsletters feature the latest CIDRAP CWD activities, summaries and links to noteworthy news stories, and recent peer-reviewed publications.
- Those interested can sign up for free at **cidrap.umn.edu/newsletter**

Conclusions

- CWD remains a critical wildlife management challenge that is spreading both by the movement of infected wild and captive cervids.
- Guided by a premier group of expert advisors, CIDRAP aims to provide comprehensive and authoritative information on CWD to the general public, hunters, government officials, and policymakers through a variety of formats.
- Through CIDRAP's collaboration with the Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach, the University of Minnesota has established itself as a leader in CWD research and policy.