

Scott Weese – Investigating Emerging Diseases

One of the most important issues in the equine industry centers on the health of the horses. Just like humans, horses have their own health concerns, including emerging infectious diseases. Horses by nature are social creatures, and constantly move around, through competition and being sold around the world. This means the risk of infection has never been more prevalent.

Over the years, scientists have developed many vaccines and treatments for various infections. However, these bacteria, viruses and fungi have also evolved to resist treatments, and infect other organisms in new ways.

To combat this situation, researchers such as Dr. Scott Weese, from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph, are constantly investigating known and emerging infectious diseases. Weese studies the effects and changes in microbial populations in the horses' digestive tracts, as well as sources and carriers of infections. In particular, He focuses on influenza and herpes virus strains, as well as clostridium difficile, a spore-forming bacteria that can cause diarrhea and inflammation of the colon.

Infectious diseases are often the cause of changes in horse health trends. Weese's research contributes to understanding how these pathogens operate and spread, and their effects on the horse, vital information for learning how to treat infected horses. Weese says scientists will never be able to completely eradicate infectious diseases, and pathogens will always evolve. But this

research will lead to veterinarians being able to better recognize symptoms, diagnose problems, and ultimately reduce horses' sicknesses and suffering.