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By Vicki Hamende, Senior Editor and Writer
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Expert in bacterial pathogenesis joins vet sciences faculty

A self-proclaimed “science nerd” who has been at the forefront of the nation’s fight against infectious diseases, Gerry Andrews has joined the Department of Veterinary Sciences as an assistant professor of bacteriology.

His expertise in *E. coli*, dysentery, bubonic and pneumonic plague, and anthrax stems from a long career as a research scientist for the U.S. Army.

“My interest has always been bacterial pathogenesis as it applies to the development of vaccines and therapeutics,” Andrews explains. “In addition to studying the molecular basis of diseases, I work on extending that understanding to preventing diseases in humans and animals.”

As a College of Agriculture faculty member, he will be adding brucellosis and tularemia to his repertoire of research focuses.

A native of Springfield, Pennsylvania, Andrews was educated in biology and microbiology at Penn State University and the University of New Hampshire. As an ROTC-commissioned first lieutenant, he earned a Ph.D. in microbiology at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland.

Following post-doctoral work at Fort Detrick in Maryland, Andrews began the first of two stints with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, eventually serving as chief of bacterial pathogenesis and immunology and as division chief in charge of bacteriology.

He describes his tenure as program manager for the army bio-warfare countermeasures program as “stressful,” particularly after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. “Our mission kind of changed focus very rapidly,” Andrews says. After retiring from the military [as a – give rank] in 2003, he served as an applied research consultant for the U.S. Department of Defense.

The opportunity to enter a teaching and learning environment to share his knowledge with students drew him to his new post at the University of Wyoming. Having

already traveled and worked throughout the world, Andrews says he is looking forward to expanding his work on bacterial select agents, with an eye toward applied research as it pertains to Wyoming and nearby western states.

One of his first tasks is to develop and receive certification from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for two college bio-containment laboratories which will require stringent safety measures and regular government inspections.

“I am hoping to learn a lot here,” Andrews says. “When I first found out about the opening, I thought, ‘Hey, this is the position for me.’”

PHOTO CAPTION: Assistant Professor Gerry Andrews