2016 Distinguished Alumni

George Sandusky, DVM, MS, PhD
For his innovation in the development of treatments for cardiovascular, neoplastic, and neurologic diseases, his efforts to establish multi-institutional tissue banking, and his contributions to comparative medicine, we are pleased to recognize Dr. George Sandusky as a 2016 Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. George Sandusky’s accomplishments highlight the power of a veterinary medical education to advance both human and animal health. George’s major contributions to the development of new drugs and devices for the treatment of a broad spectrum of cardiovascular, neoplastic, and neurologic diseases in people has significantly impacted both the profession and society.

George completed both his DVM (1971) and MS (1976) at The Ohio State University, and his PhD and Board Certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists at Louisiana State University. He began his academic career at the Indiana School of Medicine on the Indiana University – Purdue University campus focused on comparative pathology in support of discovery and clinical trials targeting cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Recognition for his contributions resulted in being named a Research Fellow and a joint appointment with Lilly Research from 2005-2007. His academic career continued to advance as he rose through the ranks to his current position as Professor of Comparative Pathology at Purdue University and Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine.

There are multiple accomplishments that distinguish George’s career. He has supported the advancement of multiple drugs through all three phases of the FDA clinical trials approval process, including formulations of gemcitabine and pemetrexed (tumor chemotherapeutics), an analogue of parathyroid hormone (for the treatment of osteoporosis), and activated protein C (an anti-thrombotic, anti-inflammatory, and profibrinolytic agent). He has been an active primary and collaborative investigator and has published over 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts.

However, there is one accomplishment that exemplifies the impact his activities have had on human and animal health. George has leveraged his experience, expertise, and collaborations in the areas of cardiovascular, neoplastic, and neurologic disease to lead an effort in tissue banking that serves as a vital multi-institutional resource.

Examples include banking of adolescent and young adult tumors currently used by investigators at major research institutions seeking therapeutic breakthroughs for these cancers and a biorepository of post-mortem samples for the study of psychiatric disorders and autism. George’s leadership in these areas represent an unprecedented scope of specimen banking that amplifies contributions to research and the benefit to society to a level that is far beyond what one normally thinks of in terms of individual contributions.