



Professor John Pluske

Professor John Pluske is currently Director of the Animal Research Institute at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia. Prior to this position, John held appointments as Associate Faculty Dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Associate Professor (Biochemistry and Nutrition) in the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences.

John obtained a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) degree with First Class Honours in 1988 and a PhD in 1995, both from The University of Western Australia. His PhD project investigated the physiology, morphology and enzymology of the small intestine in response to nutritional and social stress imposed on piglets at weaning. Following this, John undertook post-doctoral studies in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada (1993-1994), where he worked on nutrition/reproduction interactions in first-litter sows and continued his work with weanling pigs. John was then a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the School of Veterinary Studies at Murdoch University, Western Australia (1995-1996), where he worked on the nutritional modulation of some economically significant enteric diseases in pigs. Between 1996 and 1999, John was Senior Research Scientist in the Monogastric Research Centre at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, where he conducted research in pigs and chickens. John returned to Murdoch University in Perth in 1999.

His major research interests presently are related to nutrition and digestive physiology of a number of animals including pigs (particularly weanling pigs), dogs and chickens. Other research interests encompass alternatives to antimicrobials in piglet diets, role of nutrition and the environment in modifying immune function and the gastrointestinal microbiota, feedstuff evaluation, and controlling enteric diseases in pigs without antimicrobials.