

Dr. Karen Gruszynski attended veterinary school at UW-Madison where she fell in love with wildlife medicine, epidemiology, and infectious diseases. After finishing her degree, she went on to do a PhD focusing on West Nile virus epidemiology at LSU where she developed skills in a variety of areas including mapping, laboratory diagnostics, and field epidemiology. During her program, she was offered an opportunity to do a concurrent MPH at LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans. Her capstone project focused on zoonotic parasites of dogs evacuated during Hurricane Katrina. She has extensive experience working for various agencies including the National Wildlife Health Center, National Center for Biomedical Research and Training, and the CDC.

In 2009, she joined the Virginia Department of Health as the veterinary epidemiologist where she investigated outbreaks related to animals. In addition, she conducted several studies related to a novel parapoxvirus associated with deer hunters and as well *Salmonella* associated with produce to understand the sources of the pathogens. Dr. Gruszynski also spent countless hours educating and providing guidance to physicians, local health departments, and the general public on rabies. Bats exposure questions were frequently encountered at the health department.

In 2018, Dr. Gruszynski joined the faculty at Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine. She was instrumental in planning the first Appalachia One Health Leadership Event for students on campus. Her research interests focus primarily on infectious diseases, but has also done work on One Health disparities in Appalachia.