

Professor John Pluske



Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia

John obtained a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) degree (H1) 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, and is currently a Professor in the School of Veterinary and Life Sciences and President of the University's Academic Council.

John was the Australian-American Fulbright Commission Inaugural Distinguished Chair in Agriculture and Life Sciences at Kansas State University in 2014-15, where he worked with staff in the Departments of Animal Sciences and Industry and Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology on swine nutrition and the role of feed additives on antimicrobial resistance. Other major research interests presently are the nutrition and digestive physiology of pigs, particularly piglets and weanling pigs, but he has worked in other species including dogs and chickens. Other research interests encompass alternatives to antimicrobials in pig 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.