



# CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Volume 4, Issue 1, March 2019

## Message from the Director

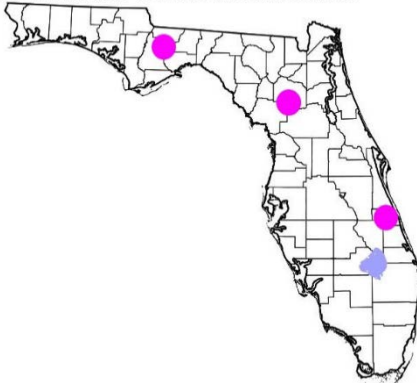
A vaccine for epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) would be an enormous economic benefit for deer farmers. CHeRI, in collaboration with Florida deer farmers and vaccine makers, is currently conducting a small field trial to determine if a new EHDV vaccine works. The next phase of testing will need more Florida deer farmers to participate and CHeRI would like to collaborate with as many Florida deer farmers as possible. Details are still being worked out, but stay tuned! We will have details available at the Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling in April. Together, Florida deer farmers and CHeRI can help pave the way forward for the industry.

Thank you, always, for your support - *Sam*

Dr. Samantha Wisely  
Director, CHeRI

## We are increasing the scope of our necropsy services

Locations of necropsy technicians in Florida.  
We will be able to serve the entire state.



Losing deer is hard, and not knowing why they died makes it harder still. We are grateful for the trust that deer farmers place in CHeRI by allowing CHeRI technicians to necropsy deer. Necropsies provide deer farmers with answers, and they provide CHeRI with valuable samples of the viruses and bacteria that kill deer. Those samples are the basis of our research into the development of rapid diagnostic testing, vaccines for deer, and animal husbandry practices that increases deer production. This year, we are adding a technician in southern Florida who will be based out of Vero Beach.

## Have you seen our research?

CHeRI entomologists, ecologists, geographers, virologists and veterinarians have been hard at work trying to understand the diseases that impact the deer farming industry. This research would not be possible without our deer industry partners. Here are the titles to some recent scientific publications. Click [here](#) to see downloadable copies of the studies.

- Host use patterns of *Culicoides* spp. biting midges at a big game preserve in Florida, USA, and implications for the transmission of Orbiviruses
- Complete genome sequence of mobuck virus from a Florida white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
- Vertical stratification of *Culicoides* biting midges at a Florida big game preserve
- Characterization of mule deer pox virus in Florida white-tailed deer fawns expands the known host and geographic range of this emerging pathogen
- Complete genome sequence of Epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus serotype 6 isolated in Florida white-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*
- Genomic sequencing of epizootic hemorrhagic disease viruses isolated in Florida white-tailed deer
- Ecological niche modeling the potential geographic distribution of four *Culicoides* species of veterinary significance in Florida, USA



## Upcoming Events – CHeRI will be at these locations this spring. Come visit us!



**[National Deer Farmer Association Annual Meeting](#)**, March 13-16 in Oklahoma City, OK. CHeRI researchers and UF IFAS Development are hosting a reception for Florida deer farmers on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5 at the Doubletree hotel bar. Please come by and enjoy some beverages and pre-dinner snacks!



**[Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling](#)**, April 12-13 in Orlando, FL. CHeRI will have 2 booths to highlight our deer health and entomology research. Come say hi to all of our necropsy and midge trapping technicians, students and researchers. Dr. Wisely will give an update on the status of EHDV vaccine research.

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