



James M “Jim” Welch

Jim Welch retired in 2018 after serving 19 years as the executive director of the Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that works around the world on biosafety and biosecurity in fostering global health security. He is now an affiliate with the Elizabeth R. Griffin Program of the Center of Global Health Science and Security of Georgetown University and works independently as a consultant, speaker, and instructor. Educated at East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee, Welch is a member and former chair of the steering group of the Global Health Security Agenda Consortium and served as the nongovernment spokesperson on the Global Health Security Agenda Steering Group. He has been a member of the Joint External Evaluation International Alliance (JEE) and the OIE Consultation Group on Sustainable Biosafety and Biosecurity.

He has served on the advisory board of the National Biosafety and Biocontainment Training Program at the National Institutes of Health and the board of directors of the International Federation of Biosafety Associations where he functioned as a global ambassador of biosafety and biosecurity. He served as a named member of the Law Enforcement and Veterinary International Conference at INTERPOL, as an external advisor for the Duke University Infectious Disease Response Training Program, and as a member of the Global Health Security Roundtable.

He was the 2011 recipient of the John H. Richardson Award of ABSA International and is an honorary member of the Association of Primate Veterinarians as well as the International Veterinary Biosafety Working Group. He currently serves as an elected member of the Council of ABSA International and was elected to the Kingsport, Tennessee Board of Education in 2019. He has been a key speaker, instructor, moderator, and panelist at professional and governmental conferences, seminars, universities and private companies around the world.