

## Governor Nominee

### Kevin D. Wells, PhD (USA)

Kevin Wells earned a BS in animal science from the University of Tennessee with a minor in biochemistry. He earned a PhD in genetics from North Carolina State University where he worked on embryo culture and genetic engineering in mice and pigs. Wells continued his training as a post-doctoral student at the US Department of Agriculture (Beltsville, MD) where he worked on the regulation of transgene expression. After obtaining a scientist position at the USDA, he transitioned to production of transgenic cattle and developed mastitis-resistant Jerseys that can neither contract nor propagate *Staphylococcus aureus* mastitis. His career then transitioned to commercial biotechnology when he joined PPL Therapeutics, LLC (now Revivicor Inc.). There, he was part of the team that produced the first knockout pigs.

Currently, Wells is an associate professor at the University of Missouri (MU) where his efforts are split between agricultural and biomedical applications of genome engineering. He is a

founding member of the MU livestock engineering team that has developed a series of genome edits in swine that provide for resistance to a variety of viruses. He co-directs the National Swine Resource and Research Center (NSRRC), a federally funded center that produces genetically engineered models of human conditions for the biomedical research community. Wells also co-directs the Swine Somatic Cell Genome Editing (SCGE) Center, which is tasked with testing the safety and efficacy of therapeutic genome editing technologies in swine. As either primary or co-investigator, Wells has secured approximately \$60M in funding for embryo technologies.

Wells first joined IETS 1997 during the Boston meeting. That meeting initiated a long list of interactions with IETS members that have become colleagues, collaborators, and friends. His goals for an IETS governor are to support a continuation of the long tradition of being relevant and involved in international policy, to maintain and expand the role of IETS in emerging genome editing technologies, and to maintain a financial stability that helps ensure a long future.