



Title: Virus Ecology & Global Health: The Shope Legacy
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Virus Ecology & Global Health: The Shope Legacy

In this talk, I will discuss the Shope legacy in the arena of virus ecology and global health. My grandfather, Dr. Richard Shope was an internationally renowned virologist and the person who first isolated the influenza virus in swine in 1931, observing the ecosystem of Iowa pig farms. My uncle, Dr. Robert Shope was the world's most distinguished arbovirologist, known for his skillful detective work tracking down viruses in tropical ecosystems. Both were pioneers in using ecological approaches in their epidemiological studies, with implications for global health. In November 2003, University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) celebrated the completion of a biosafety level 4 laboratory, the first in the U.S. at an academic institution—the laboratory was named in Bob's honor ("The Robert E. Shope, M.D. Laboratory"). UTMB also established in his honor a Fellowship in Emerging Viral Diseases Research ("The Robert E. Shope, M.D. Memorial Fellowship"). Bob Shope was one of the early voices alerting policy-makers to the global health concerns of emerging infectious diseases.

My name is Dr. Richard Shope III. I was born into the Shope family of virologists and had the opportunity to be immersed into science early on. I am a Science Educator with the Urban Ecology Working Group at Loyola Marymount University, helping inform teachers and students about urban ecology and the global health implications of climate change as it impacts urban regions, through a nationwide project, the Urban Science Corps, in which science-savvy undergraduates work as science coaches in urban communities. With the recent H1N1 outbreak and the movement of tropical disease into previously temperate climates, this presentation highlights the historical relevance of the Shope legacy, and current highlights of research conducted by recipients of the Robert E. Shope International Fellowship. I will also discuss the success of the Urban Science Corps, and its potential as a vehicle of global health education.

Scientific Inquiry & Virology



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15-Year Career at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory
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iNQUIRY Scenarios: Virology

Urban Science Corps

