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**Media Contact:**

Barbara Mitchell, Public Information Officer

[barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org](mailto:barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org)

Jennifer Dunlay, Risk Communicator

[jennifer.dunlay@jocogov.org](mailto:jennifer.dunlay@jocogov.org)

Media Line: (913) 477-8436

## **Doctors who inspired the movie “Outbreak” set to speak at the Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium**

Johnson County, Kan. (May 7, 2018) – In late 1989, Jerry and Nancy Jaax, both veterinarians and colonels in the U.S. Army, were part an interagency effort to stop a potential public health crisis when monkeys infected with the Ebola virus were brought into the United States. Their work formed the basis for the *New York Times* bestseller “The Hot Zone” and served as the inspiration for the movie “Outbreak.” Both of them will be speaking about this experience and other bio/agroterrorism threats at the second annual Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium on May 10 at 12:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Kansas City Olathe, 10401 S. Ridgeview Road, Olathe, Kan.

The two-day event hosted by the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on May 10-11 expects to draw 240 leaders from public health, health care and emergency response agencies in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa to learn how to prepare for and manage a highly infectious disease outbreak or bioterrorism attack.

“We’re thrilled so many nationally known speakers, as well as local individuals, will be at this event to share their experience and knowledge with the people in our region who work every day to protect the public from a health threat,” said Lougene Marsh, JCDHE director.

City of Olathe Mayor Pro Tem Jim Randall will welcome attendees on May 10. He will join more than 15 other speakers, including Dr. Mary Anne Jackson from Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics who will speak about the measles outbreak currently happening in the Kansas City metro area. A list of sessions and speakers can be found [here](#). Media wanting to schedule interviews with one of the event speakers should call JCDHE’s media line at 913-477-8436.

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