



DR. JOHN B. KANEENE,

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Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health

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ABOUT From growing up on a farm in Uganda to becoming a University Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, as well as the Director of the Center for Comparative Epidemiology at Michigan State University, Dr. John B. Kaneene has had an immensely impactful career. Dr. Kaneene is an outstanding epidemiologist and experienced professor who brings 40+ years of experience in international research and training in zoonotic diseases in livestock, wildlife, and human populations. As of 2023, Dr. Kaneene has trained 39 PhD students and 27 MS students, and his passion for his research has culminated in 350 publications to date. His accomplishments at (1) the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (The Union) and (2) Michigan State University have been revolutionary; his contributions during his tenure at each of these institutions are outlined below.

[Read More](#) at Michigan State University's faculty profile page.

1. INVOLVEMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST TB AND LUNG DISEASE (THE UNION)

Creation of the Zoonotic Tuberculosis Sub-Section

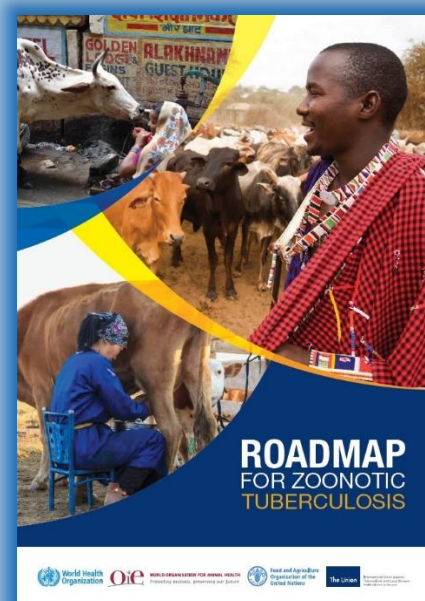
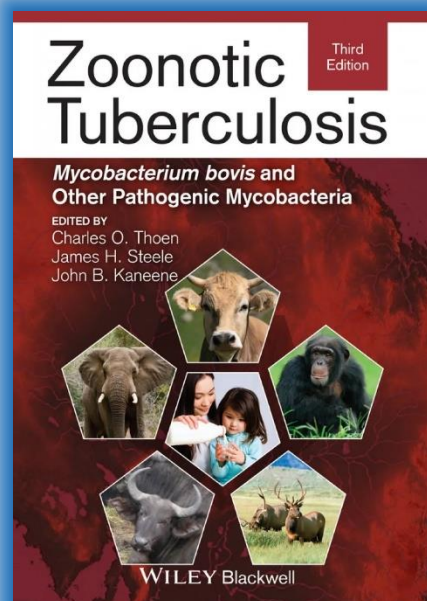
Prior to its creation, there was a section called “*Mycobacterium bovis* in Animals” - most often just referred to as TB in Animals. Dr. Kaneene served as the Program Secretary for two terms, and during the first term he was concerned by the incredibly small number of attendees at Union conferences. More importantly, all those attending were always veterinarians and other health related professionals who assumed that the sub-section was only concerned with TB in animals, not humans! Therefore, he proposed that they needed to change the name to reflect the importance of *Mycobacterium bovis* and other species to human health. He suggested that they change the name to the “Zoonotic TB sub-section”, which received full approval. He then presented their proposal of the name change to the large TB section of the Union's Coordinating Committee of Scientific Activities, and after extended discussion, the proposal passed.



Closely working with Professor Charles Thoen (Chairperson of the sub-section at that time), Dr. Kaneene addressed the large TB Section Committee requesting a recommendation from them suggesting that all clinical laboratories should use the recommended protocols to determine the type of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex species they were dealing with. They stressed that this would help ensure that the appropriate treatment would be used and would also contribute to the ongoing surveillance in any given country.

Changing the sub-section name from “TB in Animals” to “Zoonotic TB” has had several positive impacts, such as:

1. Attendance at The Union’s annual conference sessions have increased significantly.
2. Other health professionals (such as physicians, public health workers, microbiologists, etc.) now see the relevance and importance of zoonotic TB in fighting to eliminate TB in human populations.
3. The third Edition of the book, “*Mycobacterium bovis* and other pathogenic Mycobacteria” bears a new title, “Zoonotic Tuberculosis” by Charles O. Thoen, James H. Steele, and John B. Kaneene.
4. Members of the Zoonotic TB sub-section were authors of the Zoonotic TB Roadmap, in conjunction with the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health (called the OIE at the time), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Dr. Kaneene was one of the contributors to this Zoonotic TB Roadmap.



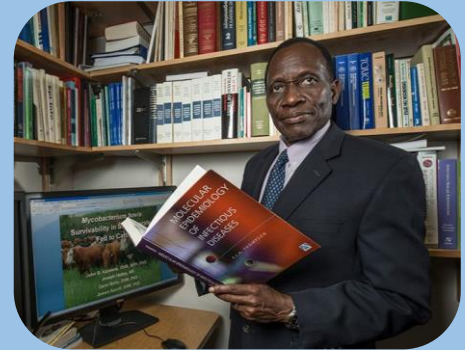
“Being brought up on a dairy farm in Uganda... made me see that there is a lack of simple information to increase people’s health and economic well-being. That has been at the back of my mind [throughout my career].” - Dr. John B. Kaneene

2. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Center for Comparative Epidemiology (CCE)

The CCE at Michigan State University prioritizes a multidisciplinary approach to conduct research in support of the design and implementation of effective disease control and prevention measures that promote both animal and public health. As Director of the CCE, Dr. Kaneene has worked with universities in over 20 countries, focused on scientific research in veterinary medicine and public health.

[Click here](#) for more information about the CCE.



Awards at Michigan State

Most recently, Dr. Kaneene was awarded the **K. F. Meyer-James H. Steele Gold-headed Cane Award** in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health at the 2023 American Veterinary Medical Association's annual conference.



[Read more](#) about Dr. Kaneene's most recent award here.

Other awards include:

- The Beecham Award for Research Excellence
- The University Distinguished Professor Award
- Distinguished Alumni Research Award, University of Minnesota
- The Charles A. Gliozzo International Award for Public Diplomacy
- The Ralph Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies & Programs

Recent TB Related Articles

1. Milk Contamination by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex, Implications for Public Health in Amazonas, Brazil (Nov 2022) *J. Food Protect.* <https://doi.org/10.4315/JFP-21-303>
2. Study on supplemental test to improve the detection of bovine tuberculosis in individual animals and herds (March 2021) *BMC Vet. Research* <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-021-02839-4>
3. Genetic Diversity and Potential Paths of Transmission of *Mycobacterium bovis* in the Amazon: The Discovery of *M. bovis* Lineage Lb1 Circulating in South America (Feb 2021) *Frontiers in Vet. Sci.* <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2021.630989>