

Paul Keim, Ph.D.

Dr. Paul Keim is the Cowden Endowed Chair of Microbiology at Northern Arizona University (NAU), the Director of Pathogen Genomics at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and research affiliate at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). He has been faculty member at NAU since 1988 after postdoctoral studies at the University of Utah and Iowa State University. He received his PhD in Plant Biochemistry from the University of Kansas in 1981. Dr. Keim is a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and a member of the National Science Advisory Board on Biodefense (NSABB). He led and wrote the ASM recommendations and report on Microbial Forensics in 2002. This led to the founding of the FBI's Scientific Working Group on Microbial Forensics, which he has played a major role in DNA based methods.

His research capitalizes upon genomic data to understand the population structure of dangerous pathogens: anthrax, plague, tularemia, glanders, melioidosis, Q-fever. The applications of this knowledge are directly applicable to microbial forensics, molecular epidemiology and disease diagnostics. Following the anthrax letter attacks, it was Dr. Keim's laboratory that filled a critical void in supporting the USG efforts to respond to this bioterrorism event. It was his laboratory that identified the Ames "anthrax" strain in the 2001 letter attacks and continued analyzing the forensic evidence under contract to the FBI and DHS. Dr. Keim is recognized as one of the world's leaders in anthrax research and it is his university laboratory houses one of the largest "anthrax" strain collections in the world.