

## **NPHL Newsletter Introduction**

*by Steven Hinrichs M.D., Director, NPHL*

This issue of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory Newsletter emphasizes one of the most important components of emergency response preparedness, the people who work in the laboratory. While technology plays a key role in the diagnostic capability of public health laboratories, as illustrated by the article on West Nile Virus and the description of the new STATPack™ system developed by UNO researchers, we recognize that it is the people who make the system function and perform. Public Health is about people serving people, to protect individual health and improve the collective health of the larger community. The Nebraska Public Health Laboratory community extends to all sections of the state and recognizes that laboratorians in community hospitals and doctor's offices are really at the front line of public health. Therefore, we are pleased to have a new section in the Newsletter that will introduce our readers to laboratorians throughout the state beginning with Ruth Uhrich, the Microbiology Supervisor at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte. Please join us in thanking Ruth for her dedicated service and contributions to the public health of Nebraskans and we look forward to knowing a little more about other Nebraskan laboratorians in the future.