

Dr. Gary ZeRuth is an Associate Professor of Cellular and Molecular Biology and the Houston Endowed Professor of Biomedical Science at Murray State University. Dr. ZeRuth came to Murray State in 2014 after earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of South Florida and completing a six-year postdoctoral fellowship within the Laboratory of Immunity, Inflammation, and Disease at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. ZeRuth serves on the editorial board or as an *ad hoc* reviewer for numerous scientific publications including *Frontiers in Endocrinology*, *SCIOL Biomedicine*, and *Scientific Reports* and is an active member of the Endocrine Society, the Kentucky Academy of Science, the Kentucky Institutional Network for Biomedical Excellence, and the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society. Dr. ZeRuth has been awarded over \$500,000 in research funding since coming to Murray State and has been recognized with several research and teaching awards including the Fellows Award for Research Excellence, the Emerging Scholar Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and twice honored as the Outstanding Professor of Biology. The ZeRuth research lab is broadly interested in understanding how genes coordinate cell-fate specification decisions during development with the hope of identifying novel therapies for the treatment or prevention of diseases such as diabetes and cancer.

In addition to scholarship and teaching, Dr. ZeRuth is an active member of the university community serving as the chair of the Pre-Health Professionals Scholarship Committee, co-chair of the Pre-Health Professionals Advisory Committee and the Recruitment and Outreach Committee, and is a member of the JCSET Advisory Board, the Institutional Review Board, and the University Studies Committee. Eager to share his passion for science, Dr. ZeRuth regularly engages in outreach events to foster scientific awareness and enthusiasm among the community and enjoys visiting local and regional public schools to promote scientific research and careers in science. As an advocate for higher education and faculty interests, Dr. ZeRuth has been an ardent voice for fair compensation, tenure protection, academic freedom, and shared governance.