On March 25, 2024, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was detected in diagnostic samples from two dairy cattle farms in Texas and two in Kansas. This significant finding was announced jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Mostafa Ghanem-Aavian Influenza in dairy cows: What you need to know.

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Dr. Mostafa Ghanem featured in Maryland Today.

A Mysterious Illness Is Spreading Among Dogs Nationwide. Here’s What You Need to Know
Congratulations to Dr. Meiqing Shi, who has been promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Maryland, VMCVM & AGNR. A well-deserved promotion!

Dr. Meiqing Shi and Dr. Weizhong Li were honored at the 2024 AGNR Awards Ceremony. Dr. Shi received the Faculty Research Award for his pioneering work in veterinary medicine, focusing on immune defenses and infectious diseases such as Cryptococcus neoformans and Trypanosoma brucei. Since joining UMD in 2011, he has published 78 papers, secured $3,572,220 in grants, and actively mentored students while serving on various academic committees.

Dr. Li received the On-Campus Professional Track Faculty Excellence Award for his research on mucosal vaccines to prevent respiratory infections. His nasal vaccines against influenza and SARS-CoV-2 have led to significant discoveries and over $3.2 million in research funding. Dr. Li’s work has resulted in two patents and recognition as the Inventor of the Year at UMD in 2022.
Faculty Highlights

Dr. Daniel Nelson


Dr. Xiaoping Zhu

Dr. Xiaoping Zhu’s article made it into the Top 25 Nature Communications COVID-19 articles of 2023.

Dr. Yanjin Zhang

Dr. Yanjin Zhang published a paper titled: "Langat virus inhibits the gp130/JAK/STAT signaling by reducing the gp130 protein level" was published in the Journal of Medical Virology 2024

Dr. Daniel Nelson

Dr. Daniel Nelson published a paper titled: “Bacteriophage endolysin treatment for systemic infection of Streptococcus iniae in hybrid striped bass” was published in the Fish and Shellfish Immunology Journal.

Grants/Funding

Dr. Seth Dickey received a MAES grant entitled “Mechanistic analysis of a novel antimicrobial pore-forming peptide” for $30,000

Dr. Mostafa Ghanem was awarded funding from the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association for his research proposal "Evaluation of The Efficacy of a Bivalent Live-Attenuated Non-Transmissible (LANT) Vaccine Candidate for The Control of Salmonella serogroups B (O:4) and D (O:9) in Chickens."
Student Spotlight

Adit Alreja defended PhD and graduated December, 2023 title of dissertation is:

“An investigation on the molecular basis for dimer formation of a bacteriophage endolysin possessing antimicrobial activity against streptococcus pneumoniae”

Student Spotlight

Urmil Dave Selected as Fellow in ASM Future Leaders Mentorship Fellowship Program & awarded the Kulkarni Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship for Summer 2024

Gemstone Team, TOXINS, won second place!

“The Gemstone Team, TOXINS, won second place in the University Libraries Award for Outstanding Gemstone Team. The prize was $1000 for team research.” - Dr. Zhang
Dr. Ghanem, Dr. Tablante, and Madhusudan Timilsina spearheaded our Maryland Day exhibit for the VetMed Department. Despite the weather conditions, there was a considerable turnout, and the event effectively educated the community about our initiatives.

New Graduate Student Association (GSA) Cabinet

President: Kalpita Bose
Vice President: Hope Pruitt
Treasurer: Dhiraj Chundru
Secretary: Cornelia Zhu
Public Relations Officer: Zizhen (Jenny) Miao