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Ausama Abd El-Raouf Abd El-Moneim Yousif Attia

أسامة عبد الرؤوف عبد المنعم يوسف عطية

Biography

Professor Attia graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University (VMCU). He was awarded a master's degree in virology for his work on the production of monoclonal antibodies to differentiate animal *Capripoxvirus* species affecting cattle and sheep. He was offered an opportunity to study at South Dakota State University after isolating the first ever camel *Pestivirus*, and in 2002 he was awarded his PhD from the same university after developing a PCR assay and a DNA vaccine for bovine pestivituses. In Egypt, he held several positions in the Department of Virology of VMCU and served as department head. He also served on VMCU's Faculty Board, Graduate Studies Board, and Undergraduate Education Board for several years. As a career educator, he helped with formulating the Egyptian National Academic Reference Standards for Veterinary Education, and taught students from twenty-four different nationalities in Egypt and elsewhere in the world. Professor Attia also served as the dean's assistant for international cooperation. Moreover, Professor Attia worked with the industry on several aspects of research and development, production, and quality control of vaccines, and served on the board of one government-owned company. He cofounded a research and development company with an international partner and held the position of manager of technical operations for a large privately-owned national vaccine production company. Over the years, Professor Attia focused his academic and professional activities on addressing topics related to developing a sustainable livestock industry within the One-Health framework. He worked on various aspects of diagnosis, pathogenesis, and control of viruses belonging to fifteen virus families of veterinary and public health importance, including lumpy skin disease, camelpox, Rift Valley fever, foot and mouth disease, and avian influenza viruses. His research group has recently unveiled the presence of Equine hepaciviruses in Egypt, a transboundary genotype of fish iridoviruses, and the viral cause of massive tilapia mortalities in Egyptian aquacultures. His work also uncovered the underlying cause behind the failure to control the 2018 outbreak of lumpy skin disease in Egypt. Finally, professor Attia is recognized as a virology and vaccinology expert by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) of the Arab League, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He has recently joined the experts of the Near East Group for Vaccination Advice, Guidance, and Consultation (GVA) of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) of the FAO, and the *ad hoc* Group for Sheep Pox and Goat Pox of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

Summary of employment history

- Nov. 18 – 22, 2024, **Arab Organization for Agricultural Development of the Arab League (AOAD). Virology Expert.** Prepared and delivered in-person courses on Rift Valley fever preparedness, and PPR eradication for countries in North Africa.
- Oct. 08, 2024 – Nov. 20, 2024, **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Sheep Pox and Goat Pox Diseases (SGP) Consultant.**
- Sep. 2024, **World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). Expert, ad hoc Group on Sheep and Goat pox.** Responsible for reviewing and updating the Animal Health Code and Manual for sheep and goat pox in collaboration with other international experts.

- March 2024 – Present, **The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), Group for Vaccination Advice, guidance, and Consultation (GVA), FAO.**
Regional Expert.
- July 10, 2023 – Sept. 10, 2023, **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.**
Virology-Vaccinology Consultant.
- Sept. 2024 – Aug. 2025, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University.**
Faculty Board.
- Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2025, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University.**
Undergraduate Education Board.
- Feb. 2023 – Dec. 2023, **Egyptian Company for Biological and Pharmaceutical Industries.**
Interim Manager of Technical Operations. Vaccine development and technical operations consultant.
- Feb. 2022 – Feb. 2023, **Egyptian Company for Biological and Pharmaceutical Industries.**
Manager of Technical Operations. Helped develop and execute company strategic plans and coordinate activities of the R&D, QC, QA, and Production departments to achieve target levels and product portfolio.
- Feb. 2019 – May 2022, **National Company for Animal Production, National Service Projects Organization, Egyptian Military, Egypt.**
Scientific advisor. Prepared the conceptual and operational designs of the BSL2 and BSL3 veterinary research and diagnostic facilities.
- Oct. 2018 – Feb. 2022, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.**
Dean's Assistant for International Cooperation.
- Oct. 2017 – Oct. 2018, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.**
Vice Dean Assistant for International Cooperation.
- Aug. 2016 – Nov. 2017, **Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Arab League.**
Virology Expert.
I designed and delivered in-person courses on Rift Valley fever, and the use of molecular techniques for diagnosis of pathogens. Courses were delivered in Sudan, Oman, and Bahrain.
- May 2016 – Oct. 2018, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.**
International Relations Coordinator.
- May 20, 2014- July 15, 2017, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University.**
Department head and graduate studies board member.
- Jan. 20, 2014 – Aug. 2014, **VACSERA, Ministry of Health, Cairo, Egypt.**
EgyVet board of directors.
- Jan. 20, 2014 – Present, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University.**
Professor of virology.
- Sept. 2010- Aug. 2012, **College of Science, Al-Baha University, KSA.**
Associate professor, department of biology.
- Apr. 2008- Sept. 2010, **College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Resources of King Faisal University, KSA.**
Assistant professor, acting director of the central biotechnology laboratory.
- Oct. 2008 – Dec. 2013, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University.**
Associate professor of virology.
- 2003- Nov.2006, **VACSERA, Ministry of Health, Cairo, Egypt.**
Consultant, then CEO assistant for Development in EgyTech and EgyVet, VACSERA.
- June 2002 – Oct. 2008, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University.**
Lecturer of virology.

- 1998 – May 2002, **South Dakota State University, College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. USA.**
Teaching assistant and research assistant positions.
- 1992 – 2002, **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University.**
Demonstrator, then assistant lecturer of virology.

Education

- 1998 – 2002, South Dakota State University, School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, SD, USA.
Ph.D. Biological Sciences - Virology. GPA 3.922 (GPA was 4.0 for courses studied in the US).
- 1992 -1995, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.
Master's degree in veterinary virology. GPA is not applicable.
- 1986 – 1992, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.
Bachelor of veterinary medicine. Top 1% of class (Grade: Very Good).

Language and communication skills

- Arabic and English (TOEFL= 667 of a possible 670; Test of Written English= 5 of a possible 6; Paper based, 1996).
- Competent Toastmaster. Toastmasters International, USA. 2000.

Academic experience

[A] Teaching conventional, web-based, and web-enabled courses.

[B] Courses which I helped design, coordinate, and/or teach include:

- Undergraduate courses: Laboratory Biosafety, Scientific Methodology and Communication, Health Education (in Arabic), Cytology, Virology 1 (VIR 312), Virology 2 (VIR 322), Molecular Biology, and Molecular Signals.
- Graduate courses: Advanced General Virology (VIR 1070), Vaccinology (Courses VIR 3178, and 217), Viruses of wild animals and birds (VIR 3177), General Virology (Course 74), General Virology for the Diploma of Microbiology, General Virology for the Diploma of Public Hygiene (VIR 4175), Special Topics in One-Health Virology (VIR 333), Special Topics in Translational Virology (VIR 334).
- In-person and online training courses for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) of the Arab League. These courses were designed for multinational audiences with diverse backgrounds. They were delivered in English and in Arabic. I also helped translate these courses. Topics covered by these courses include Rift Valley fever, lumpy skin disease, and sheep pox and goat pox.

[C] Teaching techniques adopted in classes: lectures, group activities, problem-solving approaches, and one-on-one needs-oriented approaches.

[D] Teaching graduate and undergraduate students from the following countries: the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States of America, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of the Sudan, Somalia, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Palestine, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Libya, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Djibouti, and the Republic of Tunisia.

[E] Teaching talented students in the National Research Center for Giftedness and Creativity of King Abdul-Aziz & his Companions Foundation for Giftedness & Creativity (MAWHIBA), Al-Baha University program on Biotechnology, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[F] Mentorship: I helped supervise or co-supervise over 17 Master's- and PhD-level students. I also helped mentor several undergraduate students while they prepared for their graduation projects.

Technical experience

1. Design and execution of diagnosis and pathogenesis studies involving animal and zoonotic viruses belonging to the following families: *Flaviviridae*, *Orthoherpesviridae*, *Poxviridae*, *Reoviridae*, *Orthomyxoviridae*, *Paramyxoviridae*, *Picornaviridae*, *Coronaviridae*, *Birnaviridae*, *Retroviridae*, *Circoviridae*, *Arteriviridae*, *Iridoviridae*, *Nodaviridae*, and *Phenuiviridae*.
2. Development of diagnostic tools: including antigens, antisera, monoclonal antibodies, and PCR assays.
3. Design and management of technical solutions required for large-scale manufacture of inactivated veterinary vaccines in BSL-2+ environments.
4. Development and evaluation of vaccines: including modified live, inactivated, and DNA vaccines.
5. Development of conceptual and operational designs for BSL3 and ABSL3 diagnostic and research facilities.

Relevant references

Dr. Friederike Luise Mayen,

Senior Livestock Development Officer,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
Email: friederike.mayen@fao.org

Dr. Monal Daptardar,

Scientific Coordinator - Science Department,
World Organization for Animal Health,
Email: m.daptardar@woah.org

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Ex-Director MRO,
Arab Organization for Agricultural Development of the Arab League.
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Major General Dr. Fayez Abaza,

Ex-Chairman of the National Company for Animal Production,
Current Advisor to the Head of the National Services Projects Organization,
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Select publication list.

- Yousif, A.A. et al., 1995. Production and preliminary characterization of monoclonal antibodies to lumpy skin disease virus. *Journal of the Egyptian Association of Immunology*. Vol 2(1): 147-154.
- Saber, M.S., Yousif, A.A., et al., 2000. Preparation of an inactivated lumpy skin disease virus vaccine. *Vet. Med. J. Giza*. Vol. 48(4): 633-646.
- Yousif, A.A., et al., 2004. Cytopathic genotype 2 bovine viral diarrhea virus in dromedary camels. *Arab J Biotech*. 7(1): 123-140.
- Chase, C.L., Yousif, A.A., et al., 2004. The Immune response to bovine viral diarrhea virus: A constantly changing picture. *Vet Clin North Am Food Anim Pract*. 2004; 20(1): 95-114.
- Metwally, A.M., Yousif, A.A., et al., 2008. Re-emergence of Very Virulent IBVD in Egypt. *IJV*. 5(1): 1-17.
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- Yousif, A.A. et al., 2010. Rapid non-enzymatic extraction method for isolating PCR-quality camelpox virus DNA from skin. *J Virol Methods*. 169(1):138-42.
- Atwa, M.H. et al., 2011. ZH501-VSVRI: Is it still the best choice for vaccination against rift valley fever in Egypt? *J Vaccines Vaccin*. 2:121. doi:10.4172/2157-7560.1000121
- Shakal, M.A. et al., 2011. Use of VP60 RT-PCR to overcome the limitation of haemagglutination inhibition diagnosis of rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease. *World Rabbit Sci*. Vol. 19(1): 11-20.
- Yousif, A.A. and Al-Ali, A. M., 2012. A Case of Mistaken Identity? Vaccinia virus in a live camelpox vaccine. *Biologicals*. 40: 495-498.
- Yousif, A.A., and Al-Naeem, A.A., 2012. Recovery and molecular characterization of live camelpox virus from skin 12 months after onset of clinical signs reveals possible mechanism of virus persistence in herds. *Vet Microbiol*. 159: 320–326.
- Metwally, Ashraf; Yousif, Ausama. 2017. "Visualization of Alternative Functional Configurations of Influenza Virus Hemagglutinin Facilitates Rapid Selection of Complementing Vaccines in Emergency Situations." *Int. J. Mol. Sci*. 18, no. 4: 766.
- Abdulla NM, Mohran KA, Haroun M, Ausama AA, Shalaby MA. 2017. Identification of Foot and Mouth Disease Virus Strains Originating from Multispecies Susceptible Animals. *J Vet Sci Med Diagn* 6:1. doi: 10.4172/2325-9590.1000222.

- Ahmed BM, Amer HA, Kissenkoetter J, El Wahed AA, Bayoumi MM, Böhlken-Fascher S, Elgamal MA, Yehia N, Yousif AA, Shalaby MA. 2020. Evaluating two approaches for using positive control in standardizing the avian influenza H5 reverse transcription recombinase polymerase amplification assay. *Mol Cell Probes*. Apr;50:101511. doi: 10.1016/j.mcp.2020.101511. Epub 2020 Jan 15.
- Engy Taha, Mohamed Shawky, Basem Ahmed, Mohamed Moustafa, Ausama Yousif, Mohamed Abdelaziz. Emergence of viral nervous necrosis is associated with mass mortality in hatchery-reared tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in Egypt. *Aquacult Int* 28, 1811–1823 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10499-020-00559-4>
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- Kamal H. Eltom, Anna Christina Althoff, Sören Hansen, Susanne Böhlken-Fascher, Ausama Yousif, Hussein A. El-Sheikh, Ahmed A. ElWakeel, Mahmoud A. Elgamal, Hadeer. M. Mossa, Emad A. Aboul-Soud, Janika Wolff, Christian Korthase, Bernd Hoffmann, Nabawia M. Adam, Sanaa A. Abdelaziz, Mohamed A. Shalaby, Ahmed Abd El Wahed. Differentiation of Capripox Viruses by Nanopore Sequencing. *Vaccines*- 9(4), 351; <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040351> (2021).
- Soad Eid, Sonia A. Rizk, Dalia Ayman, Mahmoud Ali, Mohamed Saad, A. A. Elsanousi, A. A. Yousif, M. A. Shalaby. Cost-Effective Suspension Adaptation of BHK-21 Cells for Scalable FMD Vaccine Production in Resource-Limited Settings. *Open Veterinary Journal* (Accepted, 2025. Manuscript Number: OVJ-2025-06-521).
- Trogu, Tiziana, Ferrari, Giancarlo, Abdulkader, Ayham, Younan, Mario, Dayub, Jaffan, Foglia, Efrem A., Baiomy, Shahin, van Maanen, Cornelis, Mansour, Hashim Abdelbaky, Yousif, Ausama A., Bennour, Emad, Osman, Nussieba A., Khalifeh, Mohammad, Rosso, Fabrizio, Grazioli, Santina, Update on Foot-and-Mouth Disease in North-Western Syria: Circulating Serotypes and Post-Vaccination Monitoring, *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*, 2025, 8865069, 9 pages, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1155/tbed/8865069>
- Mahmoud S. Safwat, Amany D. Bahr, Noha M. Bakry, Haitham M. Amer, Ausama A. Yousif, Amir A. Shehata, Othman N.O. Mansour, Nehal M. Shahen, Reham Karam, Samah Eid, Ghada M. Khalil, Omnia H. Refaei. Ancient and dominant: A novel feline immunodeficiency virus subtype “X-EGY” identified in Egyptian cats associated with high prevalence. Accepted. *BMC Veterinary Research*, 2025.

Awards

1. Scientific Achievement Award. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University. 1987.
2. Egyptian Society of Histology Scientific Achievement Award. 1987.
3. Science and Faith Society Award for Scientific Achievement. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University. 1987, 1988, 1990, and 1991.
4. Valedictorian. Class of 1992, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University.
5. Scientific Achievement Award. Cairo University. 1992.
6. Scientific Achievement Award. Veterinary Medical Syndicate. Egypt. 1992.
7. Scientific Achievement Award. Cairo University Social Club. 1993.
8. American College of Veterinary Microbiologists: Graduate Student Award for Best Poster in Viral Pathogenesis. *CRWAD* 1998. *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 1999, Vol 214(4): 474. USA.
9. First Place Award. District 41 Table Topics contest. Pierre, SD. Toastmasters International. 1999.
10. Best Ph. D. Paper award from the Sigma Xi honor society, 2001. SDSU, USA.
11. International publication award. Cairo University. 2013.
12. International publication award. Cairo University. 2017.

End.