

# TILAHUN YILMA, M.D., D.V.M., PH.D.

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**Title:**

Distinguished Professor

**Project Role:**

PI of subcontract

**Project Responsibilities:** Will work closely with researchers and technicians on specific aims of the project and will be responsible for the overall administration and direction of the project.

**Relevant Expertise:**

Dr. Yilma is an expert on recombinant vaccine and diagnostic kit development and exotic diseases including foot-and-mouth virus, rinderpest virus, peste-des-petits ruminants virus, Rift Valley fever virus, etc. He has extensive experience in development of recombinant vaccinia virus and baculovirus expression vectors for use in controlling diseases in livestock.

**Education and Training:**

University of California-Davis	B.S.	1968	Vet Science
University of California-Davis	D.V.M.	1970	Vet. Medicine
University of California-Davis	Ph.D.	1977	Microbiology
Cornell University Medical School	M.D.	1980	Medicine

**Professional Appointments:**

1977-1979	Research Scientist, USDA, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Greenport, NY.
1980-1985	Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Microbiology/Pathology, WSU, Pullman, WA.
1985-1986	Assoc. Professor, Dept of Vet Micro/Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.
1986-2006	Professor of Virology, School of Vet. Med., Dept of Path., Micro., & Immunology, UC Davis.
1990-present	Director, International Laboratory of Molecular Biology for Tropical Disease Agents, UC Davis.
2006-present	Distinguished Professor of Virology, School of Medicine, Dept of Med. Micro. & Immunology, School of Vet. Med., Dept of Path., Micro., & Immunology, UC Davis.

**Honors:**

1986, 1988	Beecham Award for Research Excellence. Washington State University & UC Davis.
1989	Ciba-Geigy Award for Res in Animal Sci, Switzerland (Highest Inter. Award in Animal Science).
1991	University of California, Sch of Vet Med Alumni Achievement Award (Highest Vet Sc. Award).
1991, 1993	University of California, Davis School of Vet Medicine Faculty Award for Research Excellence.

- 1995 University of California, Davis Distinguished Public Service Award (Highest Service Award).
- 1998 Burrough Wellcome Visiting Professorship in the Micro Sciences, Louisiana State University.
- 2002 University of California, Davis 2001-2002 Faculty Research Award (Highest Research Award).
- 2002 University of California, School of Vet Medicine, Class of 2004 Outstanding Teaching Award.
- 2004 Fellow, American Academy of Microbiology.
- 2004 Member, US National Academy of Sciences.

### Relevant Publications:

1. Ismail, T., S. Ahmad, M. D'Souza-Ault, M. Bassiri, J. Saliki, C. Mebus, **T. Yilma**. Cloning and expression of the N gene of rinderpest virus in baculovirus: use in differential diagnosis between vaccinated and infected animals. *Virology* 198: 138-147, 1994.
2. Ismail, T., M. Yamanaka, J. Saliki, A. El-Kholy, C. Mebus, and **T. Yilma**. Cloning and expression of the N gene of PPRV in baculovirus for use in serological diagnosis. *Virology* 208, 776-778, 1995.
3. Verardi, P., F. Aziz, S. Ahmad, L. Jones, B. Beyene, R. Ngotho, H. Wamwayi, M. G. Yesus, B. Egziabher, **T. Yilma**. Long-term sterilizing immunity to rinderpest in cattle vaccinated with a recombinant vaccinia virus expressing high levels of the F and H glycoproteins. *J Virol* 76: 484-491, 2002.
4. Legrand FA, PH Verardi, KS Chan, Y. Peng, L. Jones, **T. Yilma**. Vaccinia viruses with a serpin gene deletion and expressing IFN- $\gamma$  induce potent immune responses without detectable replication in vivo. *PNAS USA* 102:2940, 2005
5. Lin FC, Y Peng, LA Jones, PH Verardi, **T.D.Yilma**. Incorporation of CD40 Ligand into the Envelope of Pseudotyped Single-Cycle Simian Immunodeficiency Viruses Enhances Immunogenicity. *J. Virol* 83:1216-1227, 2009.

### Research Support:

**Title:** Innate Immunomodulating Genes of Smallpox Vaccines

**Contract No.:** 5 U01 AI066344-02 **PI:** Yilma **Years:** 7/01/2005 – 3/31/2010

**Agency:** NIH/NIAID

**Summary:** The major goal of this project is to develop safer and more efficacious smallpox vaccines by deleting innate immune suppressing genes of vaccinia virus and co-expressing interferon-gamma.

**Role:** Principle Investigator

**Title:** National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense

**Contract No.:** N00014-04-1-0660 **PI:** Clark **Years:** 10/1/04 – 9/30/09

**Agency:** Office of Naval Research (Subaward Number 570232) / Department of Homeland Security,

**Summary:** The major goals of this project are to develop an animal recombinant vaccine for Rift Valley Fever and to develop rapid animal diagnostic kits for Rift Valley Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease.

**Role:** Principle Investigator