

## **Dr. Luis Rodriguez**

### **Foreign Animal Disease Research Unit USDA / ARS**

Dr. Luis L. Rodriguez obtained his DVM in 1979 from the National University of Costa Rica and his Ph.D. in animal virology in 1985 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. From 1986 to 1995 he joined the faculty at the School of Veterinary Medicine, National University of Costa Rica where he taught veterinary virology and carried out research tropical veterinary viral diseases including Vesicular Stomatitis. From 1995 – 1997 worked at the Special Pathogens Branch, Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in Atlanta Georgia. There Dr. Rodriguez research focused on hemorrhagic fever viruses such as Ebola, Crimean-Congo and Hantaviruses. In 1997 joined the US Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) where he is the Research Leader of the Foreign Animal Disease Research Unit (FADRU). This is the primary laboratory in ARS responsible for research on foreign animal diseases of livestock, such as foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever and vesicular stomatitis. Dr. Rodriguez's current research focuses on studying Foot-and-mouth disease virus - host interactions, specifically in the early (previremic) and persistent phases of FMDV infection and also carries out research on the molecular epidemiology, pathogenesis and insect-transmission of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) in cattle.