

CURRICULUM VITAE - DR. GIUMA ELHAFI

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Specialist in Veterinary Virology, Public Health Strategy & Immunization Policy

Veterinary virologist and senior academic with over two decades of leadership in animal health, infectious disease control, and immunization policy. Former Director of Libya's Department of Animal Health and national delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Extensive experience coordinating veterinary education and advising on zoonotic disease strategy through a One Health lens that integrates animal and human health. Proven track record in collaborating with global health partners. Committed to advancing Libya's national immunization program through evidence-based policymaking, regional expertise, and virological insight.

Professional Experience

Professor of Virology

Department of Medical Technologies & Virology

Tripoli, Libya

2025 – Present

- Teaching advanced virology, medical technologies, and diagnostics.
- Advising on higher education policy development and training standards.

Dean – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Zaytoona University

Tarhuna, Libya

2014 – Present

- Directed faculty administration and curriculum development, emphasizing practical virology and field immunization protocols.
- Strengthened academic collaboration with national animal health authorities.

Health Consultant

Golden Poultry Company

Tripoli, Libya

2023 – Present

- Developing and advising on poultry immunization programs.
- Designing health monitoring strategies for disease prevention

Local Expert – Virologist (Consultant)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Libya

2022

- Provided technical expertise on animal disease prevention and control.
- Advised on virology protocols and veterinary capacity-building efforts.

President of the Medical Sciences Division

Jisr Al-Manar University

Tripoli, Libya

2019 – 2022

- Oversaw university-level education in medical sciences, dentistry, anesthesiology, and intensive care.

President of the COVID-19 and Epidemic Control Committee

Zaytoona University

Tarhuna, Libya

2019 – 2022

- Led regional pandemic response efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Coordinated local mitigation plans, diagnostics, and public health interventions.

Dean – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Faculty of Agriculture

Zaytoona University

Tarhuna, Libya

2012 – 2014

- Led academic development, faculty oversight, and interdisciplinary research initiatives.

- Integrated animal health policy and zoonotic disease prevention into teaching and student research.
- Supported applied immunology and virology training aligned with Libya's agricultural needs.

Veterinary Sciences Branch Coordinator

Zaytoonah University

Tarhuna, Libya

2012 – 2013

- Managed coordination between the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture.
- Promoted applied research on disease prevention, surveillance, and vaccine programs.

Director – Department of Animal Health

Government of Libya (Ministry of Agriculture)

Tripoli, Libya

2005 – 2010

- Oversaw national disease surveillance, vaccination campaigns, and regulatory compliance for animal health.
- Coordinated Libya's participation in regional outbreak responses and cross-border animal movement monitoring.
- Supervised laboratory systems supporting diagnostics, vaccine efficacy, and biosecurity protocols.

Official Delegate – Libya to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

World Organisation for Animal Health, formerly OIE

Tripoli, Libya

2005 – 2010

- Represented Libya in the World Assembly of Delegates, contributing to global veterinary standards and immunization frameworks.
- Strengthened Libya's alignment with international health reporting systems and biosafety protocols.
- Facilitated cross-border coordination with regional WHO/WOAH counterparts on zoonoses and immunization preparedness.

Education

PhD in Veterinary Virology

University of Liverpool

Liverpool, United Kingdom

2004

- Thesis: Elhafi, G.E. (2004). Studies on Avian Infectious Bronchitis Including Viral Persistence.

MPhil in Veterinary Virology

University of Liverpool

Liverpool, United Kingdom

2001

- Extensive training in virus study, diagnosis, and isolation techniques.

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetMed)

University of Tripoli

Tripoli, Libya

1989

Relevant Committee Memberships and Technical Advisory Roles

1. **Member, Study Committee on Poultry Vaccination Schedules** – Libya (2006): Contributed to reforming national poultry immunization protocols based on disease prevalence.
2. **Member, Poultry Disease Survey Program** – Libya (2006): Participated in the design and implementation of state-level epidemiological surveys for poultry diseases.
3. **Chair, PCR Diagnostic Devices Committee** – Libya (2006): Advocated for and facilitated the acquisition of Libya's first PCR machines, foundational for COVID-19 response.
4. **Supervisor, PCR Deployment** – Tripoli and Benghazi Labs.
5. **Member, Committee to Evaluate and Revise National Poultry Vaccination Programs and Strain Guidelines** (2006).
6. **Member, High Committee for Cross-Border Animal Disease Control** – Community of Sahel-Saharan States.

7. **Head of Delegation, Libya** – Launch of Regional Animal Disease Control Campaign in Niger (2007).
 8. **Co-founder of the Libyan Scientific Veterinary Association** and active participant in its conferences.
 9. **Delegate, Vaccine Evaluation** – Cameroon (Apr 2007).
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Academic and Scientific Trainings & Workshops

1. Training course on the use of laboratory animals, licensed by the UK Home Office (2000–2002).
 2. Participant, Spanish-Supported Avian Influenza Workshop – Tunisia (2007).
 3. Participant, FAO/WHO Workshop on Avian Influenza Response – Tunisia (2008).
 4. Training in Egypt on avian influenza pandemic preparedness under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (February 2007).
 5. Two-week training on avian influenza diagnosis using PCR, organized by the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit in Cairo (Summer 2006).
 6. Training in Germany on PCR diagnostics for avian influenza, sponsored by Roche (February 2007).
 7. Animal disease control training organized by FAO (1992).
 8. Delegation to Sudan for sheep selection (1992).
 9. Delegation to Ireland for cattle selection (1992).
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Scientific Contributions and International Engagements

1. Speaker, Local Training Courses on Rapid Detection and Prevention of Avian Influenza.
 2. Lecturer, Avian Disease Control – Ministry of Animal Health Missions.
 3. Contributor, National Infectious Animal Disease Surveys.
 4. Trainer, Laboratory Veterinary Staff – Zawiya.
 5. Lecturer, Avian Influenza Prevention Programs.
 6. Participant, FAO TCP Program on Avian Influenza – Egypt (Feb 2006).
 7. Trainee, Animal & Plant Health Regulations – WTO/Egypt (Mar 2006).
 8. Delegate, Maghreb Medical Conference – Tunisia (Apr 2006).
 9. Participant, Arab Veterinary Conference & Arab Animal Health Authority Meetings – Cairo (May 2006).
 10. Workshop Attendee, WOAHA Animal Health Strategy Workshop – Kuwait (2007).
 11. Participant, U.S. Dept of Agriculture Avian Influenza Preparedness – Egypt (Feb 2007).
 12. Delegate, Regional Agreement Signing – Zaytoonah Univ. Libya & Assiut Univ. Egypt.
 13. Participant, Environment Conference – Egypt (Mar 2014).
 14. Presenter, World Veterinary Congress – Czech Republic (Sept 2013): Delivered two scientific papers.
 15. Delegate, Mali & Burkina Faso – Cross-Border Animal Disease Control (2006).
 16. Trainee, PCR Diagnostics for Avian Influenza – Germany (Feb 2007, Roche).
 17. Delegate, Cross-Border Animal Health Program – Niger (2007).
 18. Participant, Global Health Information Systems Workshop – Kenya (May 2006).
 19. Libyan Delegate, 76th WOAHA General Session – France (May 2007).
 20. Libyan Delegate, 77th WOAHA General Session – France (May 2008).
 21. Libyan Delegate, 78th WOAHA General Session – France (May 2009).
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Publications

1. Elzlitne, R. & Elhafi, G. (2016). Seroprevalence of Chlamydia abortus in camel in the western region of Libya. *Journal of Advanced Veterinary and Animal Research* (In Press).
2. Elzlitne, R., Jones, R.C., Elhafi, G.E., Almesilaty, L.A., & Alzenad, A.F. (2015). Local antibody responses in the respiratory tract and intestine of chicks vaccinated with variant IBV vaccine CR88. *Azzaytuna University Journal*, 13, 29–41.
3. Elhafi, G., Almeslati, L., & Elzlitne, R. (2015). Clinicopathological and histopathological alterations following repeated oral administration of enrofloxacin to turkey poults. *Current Research in Microbiology and Biotechnology*, 3, 794–799.
4. Abdalla, A.A., Salah, K.M., El-Zelitne, R., Elhafi, G., & Almesilaty, L.A. (2014). Effect of seasonal variation on prevalence of Babesia ovis and Theileria ovis infection among sheep in northwestern Libya. *Al-Ostaz Magazine, Autumn* (7).
5. Elhafi, G., Elzlitne, R., & Jones, R.C. (2013). Local antibodies responses in chicks vaccinated with variant IBV vaccine CR88. 31st *World Veterinary Congress, Prague, Czech Republic*.
6. Elhafi, G. & Elzlitne, R. (2011). Seroprevalence of Avian Influenza in Broilers and Layers, *Northwestern Libya. Maghreb Veterinary Congress, Tunisia*.
7. Elzlitne, R.A., Elhafi, G.E., Vijayan, R., & Kumar, S. (2011). Carrier State of Chlamydophila abortus in Naturally Infected Sheep. *Current Trends in Biotechnology and Pharmacy*, 5(2), 1123–1129.
8. Elhafi, G., Naylor, C.J., Savage, C.E., & Jones, R.C. (2004). Microwave or autoclave treatments destroy infectivity of IBV and avian pneumovirus but allow detection by RT-PCR. *Avian Pathology*, 33(3), 303–306.