

## **Xiang-Jin “X.J.” Meng, M.D., Ph.D.**

University Distinguished Professor  
Interim Executive Director, Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech  
Director, Virginia Tech Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens  
Meng Lab URL: <https://www.themenglab.science/>

Dr. X.J. Meng currently is a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech. He is the Interim Executive Director of Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech, and Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Emerging, Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens. Dr. Meng is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, an elected Fellow of American Academy of Microbiology, and an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS).

Meng received his medical degree (Medicine) in 1985 from Binzhou Medical University, M.S. (Microbiology and Immunology) in 1988 from Wuhan University School of Medicine (formerly Hubei Medical University), and Ph.D. (Immunobiology) in 1995 from Iowa State University. From 1995 to 1999, Dr. Meng worked in the Lab of Infectious Diseases at NIAID, NIH first as a John Fogarty Visiting Scientist and later as a Senior Staff Fellow. In 1999, Dr. Meng joined the faculty at Virginia Tech, where he rose through the academic ranks, and is currently a University Distinguished Professor - a pre-eminent life-time title and highest faculty recognition bestowed by the Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors.

Dr. Meng's research focuses on emerging and zoonotic viruses, including hepatitis E virus and coronaviruses such as SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2. Dr. Meng's group discovered swine hepatitis E virus (swine HEV) from pigs and avian hepatitis E virus from chickens and demonstrated its ability to infect across species barriers, which led to a paradigm-shift recognition of human hepatitis E as a zoonotic disease. Dr. Meng's group has also been studying the molecular mechanisms of virus replication and pathogenesis with emphasis on vaccine developments for several important emerging viruses such as porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV), porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2), and porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV).

Dr. Meng has published more than 347 peer-reviewed scientific papers, reviews and book chapters. According to Thompson Scientific's ISI Essential Science Indicators, Dr. Meng is ranked in the top 1% highly-cited scientists in the field of Microbiology from 1997 to 2007. Dr. Meng's publications have been cited for more than 32,513 times with an h-index of 93. He currently serves as Editor-in-Chief or Editor for 4 international journals (*PNAS*, *mBio*, *Virus Research*, *Veterinary Microbiology*). Dr. Meng is an inventor on 22 awarded and 17 pending U.S. patents on various vaccines against emerging virus diseases. Two licensed commercial vaccines from Dr. Meng's inventions are currently on the global market.

Dr. Meng has served in many leadership positions at national and international levels such as chair of the “Summit on Emerging Infections and Preparedness” at the National Academy of Sciences in 2017 (which was hosted by U.S. Senator Mark Warner), co-chair of the 2016 American Society for Virology Annual Meeting's local planning committee, chair of the USDA NC-229 Committee, Board of Directors of Virginia Academy of Sciences, Medicine and Engineering, Board of Directors of Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties Inc., Chair of NIH Special Emphasis Panel IDM-B, Chair of International PRRS Symposium, Rapporteur of the 7th Framework Programme for Research of the European Union's Panel on PRRS, Chair of DOD's Military Infectious Diseases Research Program's Viral Hepatitis Annual Report Review Panel, and Chair of ICTV's *Hepeviridae* Committee.

Dr. Meng received more than 30 prestigious awards and honors. For examples, he is the recipient of the Inaugural Lorraine J. Hoffman Alumni Award from Iowa State University, recipient of the Dr. Mikhail Balayan Medal for Significant Contribution to the Study of Hepatitis E, recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Faculty Award by State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) - the highest honor bestowed to a faculty at Virginia's public and private colleges and universities, Honorary Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, the 2001 and 2007 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence. Dr. Meng was elected as a Fellow to the American Academy of Microbiology in 2012, inducted into the National Academy of Inventors in 2015, elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 2016, and elected as a Fellow to the AAAS.