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Studied Veterinary Medicine at the Complutense University of Madrid (1986), gained the "Premio extraordinario de Licenciatura" in 1987 and obtained his PhD "cum laude" in Veterinary Sciences in 1991. His pre and postdoctoral experience includes stays at the Faculty of Medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook working in the development of new diagnostic tools for cryptosporidiosis (1989) and the Departments of Parasitology and Pathology of the Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh (UK) working in the development of innate immunity against ruminant cryptosporidiosis (1991, 1992 and 1993) and fetal diagnosis of bovine neosporosis (1997). From 1990 to 1995 he worked as Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of Leon (Spain). In 1995, he gained a Professor position and in 2007 a Full Professor position at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at the UCM. He has been visiting professor at the Federal University of Goias (Brazil) (2005) at the University of San Marcos in Lima (Perú) (2000 and 2006) and at the University of La Plata (Argentina) (2011) and it has been working as a research scientist at the Gabriel de Castilla Spanish Antarctic Station (2005). At present, he is Chair Professor at the Animal Health Department of the Veterinary Faculty of Madrid and Director of the SALUVET research group, including more than 20 scientists in the area of Animal Health. Prof. Ortega's main scientific interests concern the pathogenesis, diagnosis and vaccine development of protozoal diseases affecting ruminants. He has published over 125 articles in journals gathered in the SCI. He is author of 6 patents of which one of them was awarded the 2007 Prize for new patents in the Biotechnology area from the Regional Government of Madrid. At present, he is the President of the Scientific Committee and member of the National Board of the National Association of Cattle Practitioners (ANEMBE). He is also past coordinator of the National Research programme in the area of Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries at the Spanish Ministry of Economy.