

Profile of Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Position

General Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB), Professor of Medical Microbiology/ Virology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kinshasa

Date of Birth

Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on March 17, 1942

Education

1969 M.D., University of Lovanium (present University of Kinshasa), DRC

1973 Ph.D. (Medicine/Virology), Rega Institute for Medical Research, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium



Career

1974 Professor of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kinshasa, DRC

1976 Investigation of a mysterious disease (known later as Ebola) in Yambuku Village, Province of Equateur, DRC

1976-1981 Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Kinshasa, DRC

1981 Sabbatical leave at Institut Pasteur of Dakar for Arboviruses study (3 months) and at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Atlanta, USA for Ebolavirus study (3 months)

1984-1986 Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Kinshasa, DRC

1995 Detection and struggle measures against the first urban Ebola virus Hemorrhagic Fever outbreak in Bandundu, DRC

1996 President (under the aegis of WHO) of International Committee on struggle against Ebola virus Hemorrhagic Fever outbreaks in DRC

1998-Present General Director of National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB), DRC

1999-2000 President (under the aegis of WHO) of International Committee on struggle against Marburg virus Hemorrhagic Fever outbreaks in DRC

2001-14 President (under the aegis of WHO) of International Committee on struggle against Ebola virus Hemorrhagic Fever outbreaks in Gabon (2001), DRC (2001, 2007–2008, 2012, 2014)

2018-2019 Principal Investigator (PI) of the ring vaccination Study with the Merck rVSV-Zebov-GP vaccine in DRC

Major Awards and Honors

- 1996 Chevalier de l'Ordre National de Léopard (National Distinguishing Award), (Zaire [present DRC])
- 2001 Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary International
- 2004 National Gold Medal for High Achievement in Science, Art, and Literature
- 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award, 7th International Symposium on Filoviruses (Washington)
- 2015 Christophe Mérieux Prize (Paris)
- 2015 Royal Society Pfizer Advanced Award (London)
- 2017 Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Lubumbashi (DRC)
- 2017 Honorary International Fellow, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
- 2018 U.S. Patent No.10,160,795 issued December 25, 2018 for Neutralizing Antibodies To Ebola Virus Glycoprotein And Their Use
- 2019 Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Antwerp (Belgium)