

Dr. Marisa Arias Neira

She was born in Valencia, Spain. She obtained the PhD degree in Biochemistry at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid. Since 2005 is the Technical Director at the Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal (Animal Health Research Center) – CISA, belonging to the National Institute of Agricultural and Food Research and Technology-INIA. Since then, she was also responsible for the National and International Reference laboratories, in a number of animal infectious diseases of obligatory report. At present she is Technical Director of the EU Reference Laboratory for African swine fever (ASF).

Throughout her career, Dr. Arias has been concerned in over forty National and EC-funded R&D projects as well as in National and International Agreements for Scientific and Technical cooperation with private Companies and international Organisms. As a result of it, she has contributed in around ninety scientific and technical publications. She obtained two national scientific awards for outstanding research in porcine investigation in 1990 and health and swine production in 2000. Therefore, she got a merit for the activity research performed in 1998-2000.



Her main expertise is related to R&D on emerging and transboundary animal diseases, mainly related with the development of new diagnostic tools and/or control strategies for a number of economically important animal viruses, including African swine fever, Classical swine fever, African Horse sickness, Bluetongue, Vesicular diseases, Aujeszky's disease, and PRRS. More than thirty five scientific publications are directly involved with the new developments.

From 1995 to date she gained a wide experience in the coordination of scientific and technical team groups to accomplish the activities derived from CISA activities and performances as National and International Reference Laboratories to the former OIE List A animal infectious diseases.

During this time, she had a great commitment of work in training and technology transfer for scientists and professionals in the field of Animal Health. She has participated in over forty international Courses on Animal Health and Infectious Exotic diseases, organised in Europe, and Central and South America, often in the capacity of Coordinator and /or Director. She has also worked actively in health alerts and various Spanish epidemiological surveillance and/or control and eradication programmes of several former OIE list diseases, for which the CISA-INIA has been participating as National Reference Laboratory.