

Hello and welcome to the course of Diagnostic Virology. My name is Esperanza Gómez-Lucía, and I am a professor in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Complutense University of Madrid. I'll be your teacher throughout this course.

We've structured the course in five blocks that basically correspond to five weeks. In the first block we will see what is a Virology Lab, how are the viruses grown in the laboratory, and the effects they produce in the systems in which they are grown. The second block, with only two classes, includes the electron microscope and viral quantification techniques. In the third block we'll talk about methods that use nucleic acids, especially the PCR. We are assigning the fourth block to techniques that show the immune response against viruses. Finally, in the fifth block we'll talk about biological trials, to end with a global vision of how to integrate the different techniques in the routine diagnostic of viral diseases.

In each class we will not give specific protocols, but we will explain why we follow the different steps that we indicate. We hope that you like our approach. Are you ready to begin?