

Randal J. Schoepp, Ph.D.

Dr. Randal J. Schoepp, Ph.D. serves as Applied Diagnostics Branch Chief in the Diagnostic Systems Division, US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), Fort Detrick, Maryland. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Ph.D. degree from Colorado State University in Microbiology. He completed his training as an NIH postdoctoral fellow in Molecular Virology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As a classically trained virologist, Dr. Schoepp is interested in the pathogenesis and ecology of arthropod-borne and hemorrhagic fever viruses in the human host and the animal and/or arthropod reservoir. Throughout his career he has developed molecular and immunologic tools to detect, identify, and study viral pathogens. These reagents, assays, and techniques are used in the study of the disease process and often evolve into diagnostic assays for many of these orphaned diseases for which no diagnostic assays are available. Since 2006, Dr. Schoepp has been working in Sierra Leone on the detection and identification of Lassa fever that is hyper-endemic in the region. Recently, he has been investigating undiagnosed febrile illnesses that are mistaken for Lassa fever. This work has expanded into pathogen discovery in Sierra Leone and other areas in Africa.

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