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Yaoyu Feng received her microbiology education in China and postdoctoral training in water and food safety in the United States and Singapore. She worked at Tianjin University, Tongji University, East China University of Science and Technology, and is currently a Professor at College of Veterinary Medicine, South China Agricultural University.

Her earlier research interests were mainly on enzyme production and usage. Since 2000, she has been working on water and food microbial safety, focusing on molecular biology, epidemiology, diagnosis, taxonomy, environmental biology and pathogenesis of waterborne pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, microsporidia, and other protozoan parasites of humans and animals. She published 102 papers in renowned international journals, including *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, *International Journal for Parasitology*, etc. She is a member of the Editorial Boards of three international journals.