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Dr. Griffin is Professor and Alfred and Jill Sommer Chair of the W. Harry Feinstone Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She earned a biology degree from Augustana College in 1962, followed by M.D. (1968) and Ph.D. (1970) degrees from Stanford University. She was a resident in Internal Medicine at Stanford University Hospital between 1968 and 1970, before beginning her career at Johns Hopkins as a postdoctoral fellow in Virology and Infectious Disease. After completing her post-doctoral work, she was named an assistant professor of Medicine and Neurology. Since then, she has held the positions of Associate Professor, Professor, and now Professor and Chair. She served as an Investigator at Howard Hughes Medical Institute from 1973-1979.

Dr. Griffin's research interests include alphaviruses, acute encephalitis and measles. Alphaviruses are transmitted by mosquitoes and cause encephalitis in mammals and birds. She has identified determinants of virus virulence and mechanisms of noncytolytic clearance of virus from infected neurons. A gene on mouse chromosome 2 is an important determinant of susceptibility to fatal encephalitis and she and her colleagues are working to identify this gene. She is also working on the effect of measles virus infection and immune activation in response to infection on the immune system. Studies are being performed in tissue culture and monkeys, and of children with measles at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia.

In Zambia, she and her colleagues are also examining the effect of HIV infection on measles and measles virus vaccination. They have discovered that measles suppresses HIV replication

and are identifying the mechanism of this suppression. Vaccine studies are defining the basis for atypical measles and a new vaccine to induce immunity in infants under the age of 6 months is under development using a rhesus macaque model.

Dr. Griffin is the principal investigator on a variety of grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Dana Foundation. She is the author or coauthor of many scholarly papers and articles, is the past president of the American Society for Virology, the Association of Medical School Microbiology Chairs and the American Society for Microbiology. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Microbiology and the Institute of Medicine.