

Marietjie Venter

Marietjie Venter has a BSc in molecular biology(cum laude), BSc(Hons)(Genetics)(Cum Laude), MSc(Genetics) University of Pretoria, South Africa and a PhD in Medical Virology, University of the Witwatersrand (2003). She obtained postdoctoral training at the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA on West Nile virus pathogenesis (2003). From 1999-2002 she headed the Respiratory Syncytial virus laboratory National Institute for Communicable diseases (NICD) before moving to the Special Pathogens Unit in 2003 focusing on research and diagnoses of zoonotic arboviruses and hemorrhagic fevers. In 2005 she joined the University of Pretoria, Department Medical virology as a faculty member and initiated a programme on Respiratory and Zoonotic viruses. In 2009 was promoted to Associate Professor, and Virology head of the Centre of Respiratory diseases and Meningitis, National Influenza Centre director for South Africa at the NICD. Her research focused on the molecular epidemiology and diagnostics of viral causes of pneumonia in including Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial virus and was a member of the global influenza surveillance network advising WHO on updating the Influenza vaccine for the Southern hemisphere. She won the National Science and technology Forum award in South Africa in 2013 for the best output by an individual over 5-10 years and is currently full professor University of Pretoria in zoonotic viral diseases in humans and animals. In March 2014 she joined the US-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Global Disease Detection Centre, South Africa as One Health Program director and acting International Emerging Infections Program director. She has over 95 publications in international journals on respiratory and zoonotic viruses and continues to work closely with South African and international partners to detect and respond to zoonotic diseases.