

University of Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa

Event Title: Zoonotic Disease Awareness Day - One Health Day Students Initiative

Contact: Dr Krpasha Govindasamy (krpasha@gmail.com)



Andre Coetzer, MSc

PhD Candidate
University of Pretoria
Gauteng, S. Africa

I am currently a PhD student at the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology at the University of Pretoria. I did my undergraduate, Honours and MSc degrees in the same department of the University of Pretoria. My main focus is canine-mediated rabies and my current PhD work is focused on the epidemiology of rabies in sub-Saharan African countries.



Banenat B Dogonyaro, BSc, MSc

PhD Candidate
Faculty of Veterinary Science
Onderstepoort
University of Pretoria, S. Africa

I obtained a M.Sc.- research base *cum laude*, in Veterinary Science-Virology, 2011, from the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria, South Africa; a Postgraduate Diploma in Epidemiology and Control of Communicable Diseases in Humans from the Health and Health related programme, Biological Sciences *cum laude*, 2004, from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Nigeria and a B.Sc. (Hons) in Zoology, 1999, from the Department of Zoology, University of Jos, Nigeria. I received an award as a member of the [Golden Key International](#)

[Honour Society](#) (GK) with the GK No.:13141516, for an outstanding Academic achievement. I am the present coordinator for the Entomological Society of Nigeria, Vom Chapter and Chairman of the Research Officers Association (ROA) in the National Veterinary Research Institute Vom, Plateau State, Nigeria. My research experience for over 10 years cuts across virology (Isolations of field viruses, cell cultures base vaccines development and production); Parasitology and Bacteriology using molecular biology methods and serology. I am currently a 2016 registered PhD student in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria. My research project is titled: *“Prevalence and characterization of Leptospirosis in slaughter animals at Gauteng Province abattoirs: Food safety implications for meat consumers and zoonotic risks posed to abattoir workers”* applying the One Health approach. My research interest is in infectious diseases at the ecology to animals and humans interface.



***Krpasha Govindasamy, BVSC,
MPH**

PhD Candidate
University of Pretoria
S. Africa

I am a veterinary epidemiologist working for the Gauteng Department of Agriculture & Rural Development since 2014. I qualified with a BVSc in 2005 from the University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort. I completed the South African Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program and was awarded my MPH in 2013. The research for my Masters was to assess the capacity of a District in South Africa to detect and respond to Rabies as an example of a zoonotic disease of Public Health Importance, using the WHO – IHR evaluation tool. I am currently completing my PhD, part of which focuses on the Epidemiology and management of Zoonotic Bovine Brucellosis in Gauteng. My field of interest is in the epidemiology of zoonotic diseases and the use of a One Health Field Methodology to build healthier people, animals and ecosystems. My motivation and belief in the feasibility and appropriateness of One Health to heal our planet comes from a strong love and trust in Jesus Christ and our Creator, God. My other interests are Psychology, creative writing, project management and my animals – Jilly, Bernie, and Storm and my angels Jack and Dewey.



Ayesha Hassim, BS, MSc

PhD Candidate

University of Pretoria, S. Africa

Obtained an Agricultural Sciences degree with specialization in Animal Science and wildlife management from the University of Pretoria. After helping out on the university's proefplaas (experimental farm) and observing the influence of bacterial pathogens on production, I became interested in disease ecology. I joined the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases for my MSc degree evaluating anthrax outbreaks and methods of genotyping *Bacillus anthracis* in the typical African laboratory. Many years later, and with an even greater passion for research, I am completing my PhD on the study of anthrax in the Kruger National Park. I have been witness to the effects of climate change on the disease and its spread. I believe that now more than ever, we need to work across many disciplines to understand and resolve the threat posed to both the environment and all of us who are so dependent on this earth for sustenance- One Health for all of us – because whether good or bad, we are in it together.



Aqil Jeenah

BvSc Candidate

University of Pretoria, S. Africa

Born to a medical doctor and an agriculturist, from early in his studies Aqil was able to connect these two fields. The lack of a strong surveillance system for infectious and zoonotic diseases, and a small health force stretched to its limit showed the fatal flaws in having a one-dimensional view to health. Currently Aqil works with local communities, running pilot projects on having a untied health force of veterinary science and medical students providing free primary health care. Aqil has now become a leading veterinary student in the One Health field and regularly gives lectures and workshops on a wide range of topics from climate change to inter-professional education. He views his final job as working in rural communities across the developing world, working with communities to create a better health system for humans, animals and the environment. He led the team to create World Rabies Day project with medical students around the world. Coming from South Africa, where rabies is rife, he has done

multiple rabies vaccination campaigns. A member of the Standing Committee on One Health (SCOH) for the International Veterinary Students' Association for 2014-2015. He then moved on to the Executive Committee (ExCo) of the IVSA for 2015-2016, as well as being appointed to the board of the One Health Commission as a leading student voice within One Health. He was also recently selected to be a part of the World Veterinary Association Advisory Group on Zoonotic Diseases.



Francis Kolo, DVM, MSc

PhD Candidate, Department of
Veterinary Tropical Diseases
University of Pretoria, S. Africa

Dr. Lolo obtained his DVM degree (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) from Nigeria, then obtained an MSc degree from the University of Pretoria in 2015 focusing on the control of rabies around human, domestic animals and wildlife interface around Kruger National Park. He is currently doing a PhD degree in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, University of Pretoria. His current PhD study is on the Prevalence and Characterization of *Brucella* spp. in animals slaughtered in Gauteng province abattoirs, a food safety implication for meat consumers and the zoonotic hazard posed to abattoir workers. His field of interest is in the One Health concept, as it affects humans, animals and the environment.



Maphuti Betty Ledwaba, BS, MSc

PhD candidate, Faculty of Veterinary
Science
University of Pretoria, S. Africa

I obtained my Honours in Agricultural Management degree at the University of Limpopo in 2009 and then registered for my Masters in Veterinary Science at UP in 2012-2013. My MSc degree focused mainly on molecular characterization of *Bacillus anthracis* strains collected at Kruger National Park as well as *Brucella* species from Zimbabwe. I'm currently working on a project entitled Investigations in improving *Brucella* culture, serology and molecular assays in Gauteng Province, South Africa.

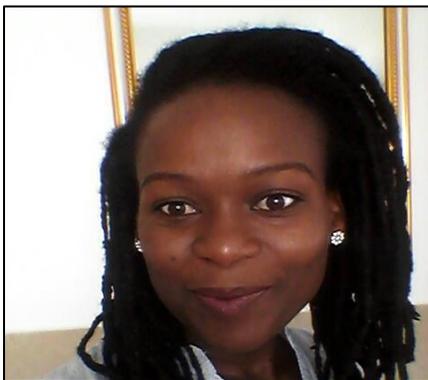
Carien van Loggerenberg, BS, MSc, Graduated with a Agricultural degree in Animal Science at the University of Pretoria, I obtained an MSc degree from the University of Pretoria in 2015, and currently doing a PhD degree in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, University of Pretoria. My current PhD study is on the Epidemiological dynamics of Rift Valley Fever in Kwa-Zulu Natal and Mpumalanga, South Africa. My field of interest is in the one health concept, as it affects both humans and the environment



**Dr L. Maki MBCHB (UCT),
Dipec(SA)**

Specializing in Public Health
University of Pretoria, S. Africa

Dr. Lwando Maki was born and raised in the rural Eastern Cape Province of South Africa and went to the University of Cape Town for his undergraduate studies. He served as manager of the University of Cape Town Health Sciences Rugby Team, Treasurer-General of the Student Representatives Council of the University of Cape Town and Southern Africa Coordinator for the Federation of African Medical Students Association during his time at the University of Cape Town. He completed his undergraduate degree in bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 2012 then completed his internship and community service at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital where he was the representative of the junior doctors. Dr. Maki is currently specialising in Public Health Medicine at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He also represents registrars (specialising doctors) in both the School of Medicine and School of Health Systems and Public health at the University of Pretoria. He also represents registrars nationally in South Africa as the elected Secretary-General of the South African Registrars Association. He enjoys playing Rugby and has interest in Infectious Diseases.



**Zamantuli Ntuli, National
Diploma: Language Practice**

Faculty of Humanities
Baccalaureus Technologiae Candidate
Department of Applied Languages
Tshwane University of Technology
Pretoria, S. Africa

I obtained my National Diploma: Language Practice in 2016 at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). I am currently doing my Baccalaureus Technologiae: Language Practice at TUT. I am interested in research; I have worked as research assistance, helping collect data for PHD student. As a Language student, I hope to bridge the gap between Epidemiology (especially the ones interested in Zoonotic

diseases) and upcoming farmers who are uneducated about the Zoonotic diseases, so that the information the epidemiologist are trying to convey is communicated effectively and understood by farmers using their own languages. My major languages are isiZulu and English.



Jumari Steyn, MSc

PhD Candidate, Centre for Viral Zoonoses,
Department of Medical Virology
University of Pretoria, S. Africa

I am currently a PhD student at the Centre for Viral Zoonoses, Department of Medical Virology, University of Pretoria. My main focus is arboviruses that causes neurological disease and/or febrile illness at the human-animal interface. I did my undergraduate and Honours degrees in Zoology and obtained my MSc in Veterinary Science. As a country rich in wildlife, disease spill-over are inevitable, especially for community farmers. I think we are therefore in need of decent One Health practices and surveillance programs

Terence Scott, MSc. I am currently pursuing my PhD in Microbiology from the University of Pretoria. My PhD is focused on developing RNA- and DNA-based therapeutics for rabies. I completed my MSc in Microbiology in the same research group and focused on the identification of a novel, unique rabies virus variant circulating in Namibian kudu. I have published several articles in internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals throughout the course of my studies.

Additional Student Team members: Louwtjie Snyman, Low De Vries, Carien van Loggereneberg, Nomsa Letsoala, Noluthando Mthethwa, Colbin Greene, Faith Shikwanbana, Khethinkabini, Kgothatso Nkanyane