# Table of Contents

- Get to know SA's Researchers ................................................................. 3
- News Articles ......................................................................................... 4
- Recently published articles ................................................................. 5
- Funding / Opportunities .................................................................... 5
- Local & Overseas Conferences ......................................................... 6
- Presentation Ice-breaker! ................................................................. 8
GET TO KNOW SA’s RESEARCHERS

Prof Erick Strauss

Professor Erick Strauss is professor of Biochemistry at the University of Stellenbosch. He obtained his PhD in chemistry and chemical biology in 2003 from Cornell University, in the USA. Prof Strauss’ major contributions to science include: “Elucidating the CoA biosynthetic pathway;” “Discovery of a third type of pantothenate kinase (PanK);” and “Rediscovery and development of the pantothenamide class of antimicrobials.”

Prof Strauss’ research group is currently one of the leaders in the field of coenzyme A (CoA) biosynthesis, with a specific focus on the elucidation of organism-specific differences in how the cofactor is made and used, and the application of this knowledge to the development of novel antimicrobials. A key recent achievement of the Strauss Research Group was the discovery of a specific pantothenamide—an antimetabolite of vitamin B₅—that shows nanomolar potency (on par with chloroquine) against the blood-stage of the malaria parasite. This work was done in collaboration with Prof. Kevin Saliba at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

Prof Strauss has also been actively involved in research capacity development in South Africa and to date has supervised more than 25 postgraduate (MSc and PhD) students and postdoctoral fellows, some of whom have initiated their own independent academic careers.

Over the years, Prof Strauss has been the recipient of various prizes and awards. In 2012 he was elected as Founding member of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) and in 2013 the South African Chemical Institute awarded him the Raikes Medal. Prof Strauss enjoys membership on a number of professional bodies such as the South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology & the South African Chemical Society and the American Chemical Society. He currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for the journal ACS Infectious Diseases.
Prof Strauss was invited to present at many seminars, lectures and conferences with the most recent being in August 2016 when he was invited to speak on “Coenzyme A and its derivatives in health and disease” at the FEBS Workshop in Marseille, France. His work has been disseminated through scholarly articles and publications in peer-reviewed manuscripts.

Some of his most recent publications include:


**NEWS ARTICLES**

Some “light” reading – kindly visit the links to read the full articles.

- “Malaria cases rise 50% after delays in spraying.” Access the complete article: [https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/health/2017-05-02-malaria-cases-rise-50-after-delays-in-spraying/](https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/health/2017-05-02-malaria-cases-rise-50-after-delays-in-spraying/)

- A new report declares that malaria is on the rise in the US. [http://www.inquisitr.com/4183423/malaria-mosquito-on-the-rise/](http://www.inquisitr.com/4183423/malaria-mosquito-on-the-rise/)
“Tablets made from dried leaves of the Artemisia annua plant cured 18 critically ill patients in a Congo clinic.” Read the article: https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170424141222.htm

“First malaria vaccine to be introduced in three countries.” The RTS,S vaccine will be launched in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi in 2018. Read the full article: http://www.bbc.com/news/health-39666132


RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Venter et al. Benchmarking insecticide resistance intensity bioassays for Anopheles malaria vector species against resistance phenotypes of known epidemiological significance. Parasites & Vectors 2017. 10:198. DOI: 10.1186/s13071-017-2134-4

FUNDING / OPPORTUNITIES

Thuthuka 2018. The Call for Thuthuka applications opened on Monday, 3 April 2017. Applications from individuals must be submitted on the NRF Online Application system at https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za by Wednesday 24 May 2017. For more information visit: http://www.nrf.ac.za/content/thuthuka-2018
LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONFERENCES

Below please find links to malaria related conferences advertised for 2017. For more information please visit the relevant websites:

1. 15th Conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine (CISTM15)
   May 14-18, 2017
   Barcelona, Spain
   http://www.istm.org/cistm15

2. Impact of Environmental Change on Infectious Diseases (IECID)
   May 17-19, 2017
   Trieste, Italy
   http://www.iecid.com

3. BioMalPar XIII: Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite
   May 29-31, 2017
   EMBL Heidelberg, Germany
   http://www.embl.de/training/events/2017/BMP17-01/index.html

4. 6th International Conference of Research on Plasmodium vivax malaria
   June 11-14, 2017
   Manaus, Brazil
   http://icpvr.org/

5. International Conference on Vector Borne Diseases
   June 29-30, 2017
   Philadelphia, USA
   http://vectorborne-diseases.conferences.com

6. Malaria: Gordon Research Conference
   July 2-7, 2017
   Les Diablerets, Switzerland
   https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12780
7. Third International Conference on Public Health  
   July 27-29, 2017  
   Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
   http://publichealthconference.co/

8. 4th International Conference on Tropical Medicine, Infectious Diseases & Public Health  
   September 7-9, 2017  
   Edinburgh, Scotland  

9. Vectors, Pathogens and Diseases: Current Trends and Emerging Challenges (T1)  
   September 10-14, 2017  
   Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa  

10. 10th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health  
    October 16-20, 2017  
    Antwerp, Belgium  

11. American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)  
    66th Annual Meeting  
    November 5-9, 2017  
    The Baltimore Convention Center  
    Baltimore, Maryland USA  
    http://www.astmh.org/

12. SAMRC Office of Malaria Research  
    3rd Annual Malaria Research Conference  
    November 7-9, 2017  
    Pretoria, South Africa
PRESENTATION ICE-BREAKER!