



## Prof Wanda Markotter

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### Key Publications

Geldenhuys, M., Weyer, J., Nel, L.H. & Markotter, W. 2013. Coronaviruses in South African bats. *Vector Borne and Zoonotic Diseases* 13 (7): 516-519.

Kuzmin, I.V., Turmelle, A.S., Agwanda, B., Markotter, W., Niezgoda, M., Breiman, R.F. & Rupprecht, C.E. 2011. Commerson's leaf-nosed bats (*Hipposideros commersonii*) are the likely reservoir of Shimoni bat virus. *Vector Borne and Zoonotic Diseases* 11: 1 465-1 470.

Coertse, J., Weyer, J., Nel, L.H. & Markotter, W. 2010. Improved PCR methods for detection of African rabies and rabies-related lyssaviruses. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 48 (11): 3 949-3 955.

## Zoonotic pathogens associated with bats

Wanda is a senior lecturer in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology. She completed her PhD on the epidemiology and pathogenicity of the rabies-related lyssavirus, Lagos bat virus. Wanda was awarded two research fellowships that allowed her to complete part of her research towards a PhD degree in the USA at the Rabies Unit of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She received the L'Oreal, UNESCO and Department of Science and Technology Women in Science fellowship in 2008. She is a grant holder of several research grants, including the International Society for Infectious Diseases grant, the Thuthuka Women in Research National Research Foundation grant, the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation Research grant and an International Foundation for Science Research grant. She is a reviewer for several peer review journals and part of the *PLOS ONE* editorial board. Wanda is also a committee member for the Gauteng and Northern Region Bat Interest group and plays a key role in other national bodies, such as the National Rabies Advisory Group. Her research outputs include 21 peer-reviewed research papers published in international journals.

### Research

Prof Markotter focuses on the epidemiology and pathogenicity of rabies and rabies-related lyssaviruses unique to the African continent. Another important aspect of her research is the development of new diagnostic tools to improve diagnosis of rabies in the developing world. Originating from her interest in bat lyssaviruses, her current research projects now also include surveillance and detection of other known and novel zoonotic pathogens from bat species in Africa, including coronaviruses, paramyxoviruses, *Rickettsiae* and *Bartonella*. She and her colleagues also aim to develop and evaluate new diagnostic techniques with a specific focus on Africa.

