



Prof Louis H Nel

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Key Publications

Nel, L.H. Factors impacting the control of rabies (2013). *Microbiol. Spectrum* 1 (2): OH-0006-2012. Article in Press.

Scott, T.P., Fischer, M., Khaiseb, S., Freuling, C., Höper, D., Hoffmann, B., Markotter, W., Müller, T. & Nel, L.H. 2013. Complete genome and molecular epidemiological data infer the maintenance of rabies among kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) in Namibia. *PLOS ONE* 8 (3), art. no. e58739.

Wright, N., Jackson, F.R., Niezgodna, M., Ellison, J.A., Rupprecht, C.E. & Nel, L.H. 2013. High prevalence of antibodies against canine adenovirus (CAV) type 2 in domestic dog populations in South Africa precludes the use of CAV-based recombinant rabies vaccines. *Vaccine* 31 (38), pp. 4 177-4 182.

Rabies and other lyssaviruses

Louis Nel holds a PhD in Molecular Virology from the University of Pretoria. He has received numerous awards, among others the prestigious BP Research Scholarship and an EID International Fellowship (1999/2000) that allowed extensive sabbatical research visits to the CDC in Atlanta, USA. Prof Nel serves on the international steering committee of the BMGates Foundation/World Health Organization (WHO) rabies control programmes. Prof Nel is also the coordinator for the Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group and scientific advisor as well as organiser and chair for the past four international conferences. In other international and global roles he is an active member of the technical expert panel of the IAEA/FAO (International Atomic Energy Agency and UN Food and Agriculture Organization), and regularly serves on

rabies committees of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). Prof Nel currently serves as the African Director for the Global alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and serves on the research pillar of the highly influential PRP (Partners for Rabies Prevention within the GARC network) where he has been conference chair for the past three annual meetings in Banna, Italy. Prof Nel is a permanent member of the WHO expert advisory panel on rabies. He also served as chair for the WHO Expert Consultation on Rabies (2012), an event that takes place every seven to ten years and during which all relevant international guidelines are revised. Prof Nel has an extensive record of journal and book publications.

Research

Prof Nel leads numerous rabies research projects that are ultimately focused on a global quest to eradicate rabies – one of the most feared and deadly viral diseases ever known to humans. His research focuses on state-of-the-art approaches in molecular biology, diagnostic development, vaccinology, immune contraception, viral pathogenesis, host/virus ecology, molecular epidemiology and virus evolution. In addition, he is closely involved with rabies surveillance, control and prevention programmes within South Africa, neighbouring countries and beyond.

