

Qualifications

- PhD in Aquatic Health, University of Johannesburg (UJ - previously Rand Afrikaans University - RAU), Johannesburg, South Africa, 2012
- MSc in Aquatic Health, RAU, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002
- BSc (Hons) Zoology, RAU, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1999
- BSc Biological Science (Zoology and Botany), RAU, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1998

Professional Career

- Senior Researcher and Project Manager to the University of Pretoria Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP ISMC), School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH), University of Pretoria (UP) – From mid-2017 to present (permanent)
- Project Coordinator to the UP Centre for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP CSMC est. 2012), SHSPH, UP – From March 2013 to mid-2017
- Project Officer / field supervisor for a NIEHS funded research project in Limpopo Province, Department of Urology, UP – From 2010 to 2012
- Lecturer of various undergraduate courses (SET Zoology, SETH Bioscience, Biology 1A, Functional Science Education, Zoology 2A – Parasitology), RAU and UJ – From 2005 to 2009.

Affiliations with Professional Organisations

- Member of the South African Malaria Elimination Committee (SAMEC)
- Member of the SAMEC Health Promotion Sub-Committee

Career Highlights

- Awarding of South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) Collaborating Centre of Malaria Research status to the UP CSMC in 2014 – I was part of the team that finalised the application
- Successful hosting of the 2nd Annual South African Malaria Research Conference in 2016 – I was the event coordinator
- The approval for the UP CSMC to be upgraded to a research institute, the UP ISMC, by the UP Senate in 2016 – I was part of the team that finalised the application
- The UP ISMC was awarded the 2017/2018 NSTF-South32 Award in the category: Communication for outreach and creating awareness of SET and innovation Award (by a team or individual over the last 5 years) – I was part of the team, and facilitated the application.

Understanding the malaria challenge: The UP ISMC's perspective on attaining malaria elimination through transdisciplinary research, innovation, education, and capacity building

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Keywords: Malaria, transdisciplinary research, malaria elimination

Overview:

Malaria remains the deadliest tropical infectious disease, impacting adversely on the existent poor quality of life in malaria-endemic communities in Africa, despite the significant advances made to combat the disease through research.

Malaria is a very complex and challenging disease to control and eliminate. The main strategies behind malaria control are the use of antimalarial drugs to kill parasites and methods to prevent mosquitoes biting people, including the use of bed nets and insecticides or repellents. To attain malaria elimination there is a need to include novel innovative and sustainable methods and strategies in addition to existing approaches to overcome challenges.

Challenges such as drug- and insecticide resistance, change in vector habits, climate and climate change, cross-border movement, lack of capacity in malaria control programmes and more, severely impact on a country's elimination agenda. The University of Pretoria Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP ISMC) is a transdisciplinary research entity that utilises novel, innovative and translational research and education to contribute towards safer and sustainable malaria control and elimination strategies in South Africa and the African continent. The Institute's researchers focus on all aspects of the disease, providing a holistic approach to address existing challenges to attain malaria elimination.