

Curriculum Vitae - Prof. Felicity Jane Burt

Personal details

Name and surname: Felicity Jane Burt
Place of birth: Harare, Zimbabwe
Gender: Female
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Education and Qualifications

Institution and Location	Degree	Year
Alexandra Park Primary School, Harare, Zimbabwe. Queen Elizabeth High School, Harare, Zimbabwe.	School leaving qualification: Associated Examining Board, O, M and A levels (Matric Exemption)	1982
University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	BSc	1983
University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	BSc (Honours) (Biochemistry)	1984
University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	MSc (Physiology)	1988
University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	PhD (Medical Virology) Thesis title: Diagnosis, pathogenesis and epidemiology of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus	1998

Employment history

Period	Position	Place	Responsibility
Jan 2016- Dec 2026 (current)	Research Chair funded by the DST and administered by the NRF, South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) for Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Pathogens Research	Division of Virology, NHLS and Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Free State (UFS)	Holder of Research Chair and responsible for research activities in the Division of Virology
March 2006- present	Professor from 2016 & Medical Scientist	Division of Virology, NHLS and Faculty of Health Sciences, UFS	Responsibilities include managing all postgraduate activities within the Division of Virology. I am principal investigator and head of two research groups, responsible for conceptualising, managing and supervising research programs.

Oct 1988- Feb 2006	Specialist Scientist	Special Pathogens Unit (SPU), NICD, NHLS, Johannesburg.	The SPU is now known as the Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases. Responsibilities included second in charge of the SPU, responsible for the diagnosis and investigation of viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF), arboviruses and rabies in southern Africa; responsible for the diagnostic laboratory in SPU and the Arbovirus Unit, confirmation of international outbreaks of VHF and submitting results to World Health Organization and partners; principle investigator for grant applications and managing research projects; publication of research and presentation of research at conferences, development and implementation of molecular and serological diagnostic assays including preparation of reagents and validation of assays for diagnostic purposes, training of new staff, accreditation of Arbovirus Diagnostic Laboratory with SANAS.
Feb 1985- Sept 1988	Medical Scientist	Serum and Vaccine Department, South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg.	Responsibilities included preparation and purification of hyperimmune antiserum, establishment of Quality Control Laboratory and preparing related Standard Operating Procedures

Brief profile

I am currently the holder of a South African Research Chair in vector-borne and zoonotic pathogens research. The work of the Research Chair is to investigate medically significant vector-borne and zoonotic viruses. The research activities of the Chair include establishing a metagenomics platform for virus discovery and improve molecular and serological tools for diagnosis and detection of known and novel vector borne pathogens; to genetically characterize novel pathogens and determine genetic relationships between novel and existing vector-borne and zoonotic pathogens; to investigate host immune responses (innate and adaptive) against selected pathogens of medical significance in South Africa, (e.g. CCHFV), and to understand immune correlates of protection that contribute to development of novel treatment and vaccines and establish a drug discovery programme for arboviral/zoonotic viruses.

I am a virologist with expertise in viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF) and arboviruses. I have investigated associations between genotype and virulence, immune profiling, identifying immune correlates of protection and evaluation of candidate vaccines. Studies on molecular epidemiology contribute to our knowledge and understanding of how viruses circulate and are maintained in nature, their endemicity and factors that play a role in outbreaks. Genetic diversity is important for development of molecular assays and vaccine development. Identifying immune correlates of protection plays a role in development of novel vaccines. While employed at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in Johannesburg (1988-2006) I was involved in the diagnosis and investigation of outbreaks of VHF and arboviruses. This included outbreaks of CCHFV that occurred annually in South Africa; filovirus outbreaks in other regions of Africa (Ebola DRC 1995, SA1996, Uganda 2000, Marburg DRC 1999) and RVFV in Saudi Arabia 2000. I have developed in house serological and molecular assays that were used as tools for identification of outbreaks, as well as tools for surveillance. I contributed to training scientists on serological techniques during the RVFV outbreak in Saudi Arabia (2000). I have now established a research group at the University of the Free State and National Health Laboratory Service in Bloemfontein, and I train postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows in arbovirus research and surveillance, with a One Health approach to zoonotic diseases.

I have more than 30 years' experience in research, diagnosis and investigation of viral haemorrhagic fevers and arboviruses in Africa, including Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), Rift Valley fever (RVF), yellow fever, and the formidable Ebola and Marburg viruses. I have extensive experience in handling biosafety level 3 pathogens and was responsible for the establishment of a biosafety level 3 facility for zoonotic pathogens at the University of the Free State. I previously handled select agents of arboviral and zoonotic origin within the confines of a maximum security laboratory (biosafety level 4 laboratory) situated at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. As a result of my publications and contributions to the field, I am recognized internationally in the field of viral haemorrhagic fevers and arboviruses.

Research groups

SARChI, Vector borne and zoonotic viruses research group

Principal Investigator and group leader of the "Vector-borne and zoonotic viruses research group". Research focuses on characterizing humoral and cellular immune responses in patients with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus infections; preparation of recombinant antigens for development of diagnostic assays for diagnosis of CCHF, detection and differentiation of flaviviruses, identification of novel viral pathogens and arboviruses and evaluation of vaccines for CCHF, yellow fever and Rift Valley fever viruses.

I am involved in all relevant academic duties and member of management team for the Division of Virology. I am responsible for publication of research findings in international journals, and presentation of results at international and local conferences.

Principal investigator for grant applications for funding for research projects Management of NHLS intern medical scientist training programs in the Division of Virology.

Establishing research collaborations, within the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS), University of the Free State (UFS), and with national and international collaborators.

Current collaborators

- **Prof A Mirazimi**, Karolinski Institute, Stockholm.
- **Prof S Mahalingham**, NHMRC Senior Research Fellow (SRF) and Professor of Virology, Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia.
- **Dr J Weyer**, Head of Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Pathogens, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), Sandringham, Johannesburg. CCHFV research.
- **Prof D Goedhals**, PathCare Vermaak, Pretoria

Study trips

May-July 1996: Infectious Disease Pathology Activity, Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Completed project on immunohistochemical and *in situ* localization of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever in human tissues and implications for CCHF pathogenesis.

Member of international outbreak response teams for investigation of viral haemorrhagic fever outbreaks

1. **Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1995.** Member of international team investigating outbreak of Ebola virus in Kikwit, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
2. **Saudi Arabia, September, 2000.** Travelled to Saudi Arabia as a member of a team of scientists from the Special Pathogens Unit to set up laboratory facilities for testing livestock sera for evidence of Rift Valley fever infection. Responsible for training of the Saudi Arabian laboratory staff to perform the tests. Successfully tested in excess of 7000 livestock sera in 3 weeks.
3. **Uganda, November, 2000.** Member of international team investigating outbreak of Ebola virus in Gulu, Uganda.

Professional registration, member of scientific advisory boards, committee membership, expert committees

Professional registration

Registered with Health Professions Council South Africa as Medical Biological Scientist, category: Medical Virologist. Registration no MW0002720

Scientific advisory boards

Current memberships

Member of the International Scientific Advisory Board for The Lancet, Infectious Diseases,

Member of the International Scientific Advisory Board for Southern African Centre for Infectious Diseases Surveillance (SACIDS).

Member of Scientific Advisory Board for Polio Research Foundation, (grant funding for Virology), Sandringham, Johannesburg.

Scientific advisory boards

Previous memberships

Member of International Scientific Advisory Board for Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (2016-2019)

International Committee

Member of the Advisory Council for International Society on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever

Member of international advisory committee for taxonomy of Bunyaviridae family

Invited member of Bunyaviridae family advisory group for the current World Health Organization (WHO) led effort to prioritize diseases of epidemic and pandemic threat

Invited member of Toganviridae family advisory group for the current World Health Organization (WHO) led effort to prioritize diseases of epidemic and pandemic threat

Expert committees

Member of Department of Health One Health Forum and member of Expert Committee for Zoonotic Diseases.

Member of Virology Expert Committee (while acting HOD)

Editorial Boards

Editor Journal of Virological Methods

Associate editor Virology Journal

Guest associate editor Frontiers in Virology

Guest co-editor Vaccines Special Issue Perspective technologies of vaccination and immunotherapy

UFS Committees

Chair of University of the Free State Three Schools of Medicine: Research and Postgraduate Committee.

Member of the Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

Member of the Health Sciences Research Ethics Exco Committee

Member of the School of Pathology Exco Committee.

Member of the Environment and Biosafety Research Ethics Committee

Previously Head of the UFS COVID-19 Task Committee during pandemic

NHLS

Member of the PathRed 2023 Scientific Organising Committee

Academic expertise**Teaching and training of students**

Prior to 2006 I was employed at the National Institute for Virology (now the National Institute for Communicable Diseases) for 17 years where I was involved in detection and investigation of outbreaks of viral haemorrhagic fevers and arboviruses in Africa and therefore not involved in postgraduate training, teaching or supervision of students.

- **2020 – to date:** responsible for establishment and managing of DALRRD and NDOH compliant biosafety level (BSL) 3 laboratory
- **2010 – to date:** responsible for postgraduate science degrees offered by the Division of Virology.
- **2010 – to date:** responsible for establishing and implementing guidelines for the training of intern medical scientists. This is a two year internship that qualifies students to register with the Health Professions Council South Africa (HPCSA).
- **2006 – 2009:** Module leader: 3rd year Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, UFS, Mechanisms of Disease
- **2006 – 2009:** Module leader: 3rd year Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, UFS, Pathogenic Microorganisms
- **2007 – 2014:** Course co-ordinator: BMedSc Honours,
- **2007 – 2014:** Module leader for BMedSc Honours module Current Topics in Virology
- **2004 – 2005:** Lecturer: Diploma Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, University of the Witwatersrand, Topic Arboviruses

Postgraduate supervision completed, (MMedSc and above only) (Institution only mentioned if not UFS)

Name of student (Institution if not UFS)	Degree / Title of dissertation / Thesis	Year completed
PS Seleka University of Witwatersrand	MSc: "Recombinant antigens for diagnosis of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) infections "	2003
Rudo Ruth Samudzi	MMedSc: "Preparation of recombinant antigens for demonstrating antibody responses in patients with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus infections"	2011
Catharina Elizabeth Combrinck	MMedSc: "Development of detection methods for human papillomaviruses associated with recurrent respiratory papillomatosis and characterization of associated strains"	2013
Azeeza Rangunwala	MMedSc: "Identification of antigen-specific serological cross-reactivity among survivors of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic fever"	2013
Shannon Lucrecia Smouse	MMedSc: "Identification of antigenic regions and linear B cell epitopes on yellow fever virus"	2013
Hermanus Albertus Hanekom	MMedSc: "Development of detection assays for sindbus virus and investigating in vitro infection of mammalian cells"	2013
Dominique Goedhals	PhD: "Immune responses to Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus and molecular characterization of viral isolates"	2014
Lehlohonolo Mathentheng	PhD: "Immunogenicity and serological applications of flavivirus EIII proteins and multiplex RT-PCR for detecting novel southern African viruses"	2014
Natalie Viljoen	MMedSc: "Preparation and immunogenicity of a candidate replicon based yellow fever vaccine"	2014
Danelle Pieters	MMedSc: "Development of molecular and serological assays for diagnosis and surveillance of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus"	2015
Tumelo Robert Sekee	MMedSc: "Molecular assays for detecting human papillomavirus in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma"	2016
Deborah Rethabile Damane	MMedSc: "Preparation of recombinant antigen for serological detection of African hantaviruses"	2017
Jan-G Vermeulen	PhD: "Preparation and in vitro characterisation of an anti-Tissue factor single chain variable fragment"	2017
Sabeegah Vawda	MMedSc: "Seroepidemiologic survey of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus amongst healthy individuals in select risk groups in South Africa"	2018
Elisabeth Hendrika Bonnet	MMedSc: "The development and validation of a reverse transcription recombinase polymerase amplification assay for detection of flaviviruses"	2019
Atang Bulane	PhD: "Detection of human papillomavirus associated with head and neck cancer in archived tissues and novel biomarkers"	2019
Nicole Kennedy	MMedSc: "Development of in house assays for detection of Sindbis virus infections"	2019
Makgotso Golda Maotoana	MMedSc: "Characterization of T cell responses to the non-structural proteins of the M segment in survivors of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever"	2019
Yuri Munsamy	PhD- "Characterisation of the human papillomavirus genome and p53 mutations in head and neck squamous cell carcinomas"	2019
Gert Ignatius du Preez Terblanche	MMedSc: "Identification of arboviruses circulating in mosquito populations in the Bloemfontein area, South Africa"	2019
Thomas Tipih	PhD: "Immunogenicity of Sindbis based replicons for Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus"	2019
Natalie Viljoen	PhD: "Innate immune signalling induced by Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus proteins in vitro"	2019
Matefo Millicent Litabe	MMedSc: "In vitro immune responses to Sindbis virus"	2020
Peter Mwangi	PhD: "Molecular characterization of rotavirus strains from pre- and post-vaccine introduction in South Africa"	2020
Corné Thuynsma	MMedSc: "Genetic analysis of human papillomavirus type 11 isolates from patients with recurrent respiratory papillomatosis treated at Universitas Academic Hospital"	2021
Cornelius Gerhardus van der Westhuizen	MMedSc: "Zoonotic diseases in high-risk populations in the Free State province, South Africa"	2021
Micah Dimaculangan	MMedSc: "Development and application of molecular assays for mosquito-borne alphaviruses in South Africa"	2021
Veerle Dermaux-Msimang University of Pretoria	PhD: "A One Health investigation of Rift Valley fever and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever among animal workers and of biosecurity on livestock farms in central South Africa"	2021
Siewert Christiaan Wiid	MMedSc: "Molecular and serological evidence for the circulation of orthobunyaviruses and orthonairoviruses in South Africa"	2022
Nosipho Zanele Masoto	MMedSc: "Development of a rapid detection assay and screening of mosquitoes for arboviruses in South Africa"	2022

Nyiko Given Maswanganyi	MMedSc: "Expression of arbovirus antigens for preparing multiplex immunofluorescent platform for serology."	2023
Matefo Millicent Litabe	PhD: "Adaptive immune response in COVID-19 patients and innate immune modulation of SARS-COV-2"	2023

Students graduated summary:

Academic Level	Year graduated	Number of students	Total number of students
Honours / BTech	2008	3	27
	2009	2	
	2011	2	
	2012	2	
	2013	2	
	2014	2	
	2015	1	
	2017	1	
	2018	2	
	2019	2	
	2020	2	
	2021	2	
	2022	2	
	2023	2	
Masters	2003	1	22
	2011	1	
	2013	3	
	2014	1	
	2015	2	
	2016	1	
	2017	1	
	2018	1	
	2019	4	
	2020	1	
	2021	2	
	2022	3	
	2023	1	
Doctoral	2014	2	10
	2017	1	
	2019	4	
	2021	1	
	2022	1	
	2023	1	

Students currently being supervised:

Honours: 1
 Masters: 1
 Doctoral: 4
 Postdoctoral: 2

Students currently being co-supervised

Masters: 4
 Doctoral: 2

Academic expertise**Ad hoc:** Frequent external examiner for the following institutions:

University of Cape Town, University of Pretoria, Rhodes University, Stellenbosch University, University of Witwatersrand, University of the North West, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Zambia

Referee for international scientific journals

Ad hoc: Frequent referee for following journals for publications on topics related to arboviruses and viral haemorrhagic fevers. Including but not limited to: Journal of Virological Methods, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Scandinavian Journal of Infectious Diseases, Antiviral Research, Future Virology, Vaccine, Clinical and Vaccine, Immunology Infection, Genetics and Evolution Clinical Microbiology and Infection, Expert Review

of Anti-infective Therapy, The Lancet, The Lancet Infectious Diseases, Virus Research, Epidemiology and Infection

Referee for granting bodies

Ad hoc: Referee for applications for projects in the field of arbovirology, viral haemorrhagic fevers and medical virology for the following granting bodies:

The Medical Research Council (MRC), South Africa National Research Foundation, Wellcome Trust, National Health Laboratory Services Research Trust, Pasteur Institute

Research grants awarded (2006 -)

- **2006:** Awarded two year research grant from the Polio Research Foundation (PRF). Title of research project: Genetic characterization of the M gene of southern African isolates of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
- **2006:** Awarded three year research grant from the PRF. Title of research project: Investigation to determine the presence of previously unidentified tick-borne viruses as human pathogens in Africa
- **2007:** Awarded an NHLS Research Trust grant to investigate human papilloma viruses in children with recurrent laryngeal papillomas.
- **2008:** Awarded an MRC three year grant to investigate T cell responses in survivors of CCHF
- **2008:** Co investigator on grant awarded by National Institutes for Health NIAID to investigate Rift Valley fever vaccines.
- **2008:** Awarded an NHLS Research Trust grant to investigate recombinant antigens for differentiation between tick borne and mosquito borne flaviviruses
- **2008-2010:** Awarded three year Major Impact research grant from the PRF. Title of research project: Host immune response in survivors of CCHF infection and evaluation of candidate vaccines.
- **2009:** Awarded research funding from the UFS Academic Cluster Funding for baculovirus expression of arboviral antigens
- **2009:** Awarded an NHLS Research Trust grant to investigate B cell epitopes, yellow fever virus
- **2010:** Awarded an NHLS Research Trust grant to investigate cytokine expression from Sindbis infected macrophages
- **2013:** awarded NHLS Research Trust grant to investigate novel assays for CCHFV
- **2013-2015:** awarded PRF research grant for developing stable cell lines
- **2013:** School of Medicine funding for hantavirus discovery
- **2012-2016** NRF incentive funding for rated researchers
- **2014-2016** NRF competitive funding for rated scientists, human papilloma viruses associated with head and neck cancers
- **2014** UFS interdisciplinary funding awarded for two projects, hantavirus studies and CCHF antigen preparation project.
- **2014:** NHLS Research Trust hantavirus project.
- **2015:** NHLS Research Trust, Pathology award, strategies for arbovirus vaccines
- **2015:** PRF research grant for CCHF studies
- **2015-2017:** NRF SA Sweden collaboration
- **2016-2020:** DST/NRF South African Research Chair Initiative, SARChI chair. Awarded at Tier 1 level.
- **2018-2020:** PRF research funding
- **2020:** awarded NHLS Research Trust Grant
- **2020:** awarded NHLS Pathology Grant
- **2020:** awarded Technology Innovation Agency, South Africa funding
- **2021-2025:** DST/NRF South African Research Chair Initiative, SARChI chair. Renewed and awarded at Tier 1 level.
- **2022-2024:** PRF research funding

Publications in peer-reviewed journals (n = 104)

1. **Burt, F.J.,** Swanepoel, R., Braack, L.E.O. (1993) Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays for the detection of antibody to Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus in the sera of livestock and wild vertebrates. *Epidemiology & Infection*; 111:547-557. doi: 10.1017/s0950268800057277.
2. **Burt, F.J.,** Leman, P.A., Abbott, J.C., Swanepoel, R. (1994) Serodiagnosis of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. *Epidemiology & Infection*; 113:551-562. doi: 10.1017/s0950268800068576.
3. **Muyembe, T., Kipasa, M. - on behalf of the International Scientific and Technical Committee and WHO Collaborating Centre for Haemorrhagic Fevers** (1995) Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Kikwit, Zaire. *Lancet*; 345:1448. doi: 10.1016/s0140-6736(95)92640-2

4. Swanepoel, R., Leman, P.A., **Burt, F.J.**, Zachariades, N.A., Braack, L.E.O., Ksiazek, T.G., et al. (1996) Experimental inoculation of plants and animals with Ebola virus. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*; 2:321-325. doi: 10.3201/eid0204.960407.
5. **Burt, F.J.**, Spencer, D.C., Leman, P.A., Patterson, B., Swanepoel, R. (1996) Investigation of tick-borne viruses as pathogens of humans in South Africa and evidence of Dugbe virus infection in a patient with prolonged thrombocytopenia. *Epidemiology & Infection*; 117:353-361. doi: 10.1017/s0950268800052687.
6. **Burt, F.J.**, Swanepoel, R., Shieh, W., Smith, J.F., Leman, P.A., Greer, et al. (1997) Immunohistochemical and in situ localization of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus in human tissues and implications for CCHF pathogenesis. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*; 121:839-846.
7. Swanepoel, R., Leman, P.A., **Burt, F.J.**, Jardine, J., Verwoerd, D.J., Capua, I., et al. (1998) Experimental infection of ostriches with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus. *Epidemiology & Infection*; 121:427-432. doi: 10.1017/s0950268898001344.
8. **Burt, F.J.**, Leman, P.A., Smith, J.F., Swanepoel, R. (1998) The use of a reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction for the detection of viral nucleic acid in the diagnosis of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. *Journal of Virological Methods*; 70:129-137. doi: 10.1016/s0166-0934(97)00182-1.
9. Ksiazek, T.G., Rollin, P.E., Williams, A.J., Bressler, D.S., Martin, M.L., Swanepoel, R., et al. (1999) Clinical Virology of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever (EHF): Virus, Virus Antigen, and IgG and IgM Antibody Findings among EHF Patients in Kikwit, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1995. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*; 179(Suppl 1):S177-87. doi: 10.1086/514321.
10. Tomori, O., Bertolli, J., Rollin, P.E., Flerackers, Y., Guimard, Y., De Roo, A., et al. (1999) Serologic Survey among Hospital and Health Center Workers during the Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever Outbreak in Kikwit, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1995. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*; 179(Suppl 1):S98-101. doi: 10.1086/514307.
11. Dunster, L., Dunster, M., Ofula, V.O., Beti, D., Kazooba-Voskamp, F., **Burt, F.J.**, et al. (2002) First documentation of human Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, Kenya. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*; 8:1005-1006. doi: 10.3201/eid0809.010510
12. **Burt, F.J.**, Grobbelaar, A.A., Leman, P.A., Anthony, F., Gibson, G.V.F., Swanepoel, R. (2002) Phylogenetic relationships of southern African West Nile virus isolates. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*; 8:820-826. doi: 10.3201/eid0808.020027
13. Jupp, P.G., Kemp, A., Grobbelaar, A.A., Leman, P.A., **Burt, F.J.**, Alahmed, A.M., et al. (2002) The 2000 epidemic of Rift Valley fever in Saudi Arabia: mosquito vector studies. *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*; 16:245-252. doi: 10.1046/j.1365-2915.2002.00371.x
14. Paweska, J.T., **Burt, F.J.**, Anthony, F., Smith, S.J., Grobbelaar, A.A., Croft, J.E., et al. (2003) IgG-sandwich and IgM-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for the detection of antibody to Rift Valley fever virus in domestic ruminants. *Journal of Virological Methods*; 113:103-112. doi: 10.1016/s0166-0934(03)00228-3
15. Onyango, C.O., Ofula, V.O., Sang, R.C., Konongoi, S.L., Sow, A., De Cock, K.M., et al. (2004) Yellow Fever Outbreak, Imatong, Southern Sudan. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*; 10:1063-1068. doi: 10.3201/eid1006.030738
16. Onyango, C.O., Grobbelaar, A.A., Gibson, G.V.F., Sang, R.C., Sow, A., Swanepoel, R., **Burt, F.J.** (2004) Yellow Fever Outbreak, Southern Sudan, 2003. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*; 10:1668-1670. doi: 10.3201/eid1009.030727.
17. Venter, M., Myers, T.G., Wilson, M.A., Kindt, T.J., Paweska, J.T., **Burt, F.J.**, et al. (2005) Gene expression in mice infected with West-Nile virus strains of different neurovirulence. *Virology*; 342:119-140. doi: 10.1016/j.virol.2005.07.013
18. **Burt, F.J.**, Swanepoel, R. (2005) Molecular epidemiology of African and Asian Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever isolates. *Epidemiology & Infection*; 133:659-666. doi:10.1017/S0950268805003730
19. Paweska, J.T., **Burt, F.J.**, Swanepoel, R. (2005) Validation of IgG-sandwich and IgM-capture ELISA for the detection of antibody to Rift Valley fever virus in humans. *Journal of Virological Methods*; 124:173-181. doi: 10.1016/j.jviromet.2004.11.020
20. Bausch, D.G.; Nichol, S.T.; Muyembe-Tamfum, J.J.; Borchert, M.; Rollin, P.E.; Sleurs, H.; et al. (2006) Marburg hemorrhagic fever associated with multiple genetic lineages of virus. *New England Journal of Medicine*; 355:909-919. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa051465
21. Swanepoel, R., Smit, S.B., Rollin, P.E., Formenty, P., Leman, P.A., Kemp, A., et al. (2007) Studies of reservoir hosts for Marburg virus. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*; 13:1847-1851. doi: 10.3201/eid1312.071115
22. Coetzee, P., Weyer, J., Paweska, J.T., **Burt, F.J.**, Markotter, W., Nel, L.H. (2008) Use of a molecular epidemiological database to track human rabies case histories in South Africa. *Epidemiology & Infection*;

136:1270-1276. doi: 10.1017/S0950268807009582

23. Heise, M.T., Whitmore, A., Thompson, J., Parsons, M., Grobbelaar, A.A., Kemp, A., et al. (2009) An alphavirus replicon-derived candidate vaccine against Rift Valley fever virus. *Epidemiology & Infection*; 137:1309-1318. doi: 10.1017/S0950268808001696
24. Venter, M., **Burt, F.J.**, Blumberg, L., Fickl, H., Paweska, J.T., Swanepoel, R. (2009) Cytokine Induction after Laboratory-Acquired West Nile Virus Infection. *New England Journal of Medicine*; 360:1260-1262. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc0808647.
25. **Burt, F.J.**, Paweska, J.T., Ashkettle, B., Swanepoel, R. (2009) Genetic relationship in southern African Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus isolates: evidence for occurrence of reassortment. *Epidemiology & Infection*; 137:1302-1308. doi: 10.1017/S0950268808001878
26. Kondiah, K., Swanepoel, R., Paweska, J.T., **Burt, F.J.** (2010) A Simple-Probe® real-time PCR assay for genotyping reassorted and non-reassorted isolates of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus in southern Africa. *Journal of Virological Methods*; 169:34-38. doi:10.1016/j.jviromet.2010.06.010
27. Mathengtheng, L., **Burt, F.J.** (2010) Development of a recombinant antigen and multiplex PCR for differentiation of tick-borne and mosquito-borne flaviviruses. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*; 14:e48. doi: 10.1016/J.IJID.2010.02.1594
28. Samudzi, R.R., **Burt, F.J.** (2010) Gene optimization for expression of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever viral nucleoprotein. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*; 14:e47. doi: 10.1016/J.IJID.2010.02.1592
29. Smouse, S., Burt, F.J. (2010) Preparation of antigenically active recombinant yellow fever viral envelope domain III protein. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*; 14:e47. doi: 10.1016/J.IJID.2010.02.1593
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Chapters in books (n = 9)

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Significant recent international and national conferences and workshops (2005-)

- Oral presentation. Studies of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. Mini colloquium. 21 July 2005. Rocky Mountain Laboratories, NIAID, Hamilton, Montana.
- Poster presentation: Molecular epidemiology of African and Asian Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever isolates. XIII International Congress of Virology, San Francisco, July 2005
- Oral presentation. M. Heise, A. Whitmore¹, J. Thompson¹, J. Paweska, K. Madric¹, L. White¹, R. Swanepoel, F. Burt. An alphavirus replicon derived candidate vaccine against Rift Valley fever virus. International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance. Austria, 23-25 Feb 2007.
- Speaker at the Tick-borne Flavivirus Research Symposium, Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Hamilton, Montana, US, 14-16 October 2007. Tick borne viruses as human pathogens in South Africa.
- Oral and poster presentations: XIV International Congress of Virology, Turkey, Aug 2008.

- Three poster presentations at the International Infectious Diseases Conference, Miami, Mar 2010. Presented by postgraduate students. Codon optimization of CCHF viral nucleoprotein gene (Samudzi and Burt); Preparation of antigenically active yellow fever viral envelop domain III protein (Smouse and Burt); Multiplex RT-PCR for detection and differentiation of mosquito and tick-borne flaviviruses (Mathengtheng, Samudzi and Burt).
- Attended and presented ArboZoonet, Morocco 2010, France 2011
- Invited speaker CCH-Fever and Arbo-Zoonet Joint course on Diagnostic Tuesday 4th September 2012 University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Virology Göttingen. Serological detection of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus. Presented at CCHFV workshop ArboZoonet, Germany 2012.
- Poster presentation at the International Meeting on Emerging Disease (IMED), “Immune responses against an alpha virus replicon derived candidate vaccine against Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus” in Vienna, Austria on 1-3 November 2014.
- Invited speaker, Oral presentation at First International Conference on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus. “34 years of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in South Africa.” Greece 13-14 Feb 2015.
- Co-author on numerous poster presentation at the Pathology Research and Development Congress (PATHRED) at Emperors Palace in Johannesburg on 15-16 April 2015.
- Oral presentation at “WAKA HPV Africa Symposium” at Southern Sun OR Tambo, Johannesburg, S.A. 28-29 May 2015. “Detection of human papilloma virus in head and neck squamous cell carcinomas.”
- Poster presentations at Virology Africa, Cape Town, 1-3 Dec 2015.
- Presentation at NRF STINT SA-Sweden kickoff workshop, Stockholm, 10 February 2016.
- Organised workshop titled: “Development of diagnostics and therapeutics for CCHFV 2018” during 6-7 Dec 2018 at the University of the Free State. This was attended by Prof A Mirazimi and 2 post-doctoral fellows from the Karolinska Institut in Sweden, 2 visiting scientists from the National University of Singapore, 1 visiting scientist from the University of Copenhagen, 8 post graduate students, one post-doctoral fellow and 4 staff members of the Division of Virology; many of whom presented and shared their expertise in the respective fields.
- Organised workshop titled: “Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever: detection diagnosis and tick vectors workshop” during 3-4 Dec 2019 at the University of the Free State. The workshop was presented by Mr Deon Bakkes and Miss Dikeledi Matloa from the Agricultural Research Council, Johannesburg. This was attended by Prof A Mirazimi from the Karolinska Institut in Sweden and a group of 11 which consisted of post graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and staff members of the Division of Virology and the Department of Zoology and Entomology from the University of the Free State.

Contribution towards research on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus in Africa: CCHFV Africa 2023 Conference, a platform for African researchers

The CCHFV Africa 2023 conference was conceptualised, organised and hosted by Professor Felicity Burt from the Division of Virology at the University of the Free State and NHLS and Professor Ali Mirazimi from the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Karolinska Institut, the Public Health Agency and National Veterinary Institute, Sweden. Professor Burt and Professor Mirazimi have collaborated for many years on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) and conceived the idea to host a conference which allowed participants from low resource countries in Africa to attend.

CCHFV is a tick-borne zoonosis found in Africa, Asia, eastern and southern Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East. The virus is listed as one of the priority pathogens for research and vaccine development by the World Health Organization due to significant public health implications and the absence of efficacious treatment. The distribution of CCHFV correlates with that of the primary vector of the virus, ticks belonging to the genus *Hyalomma*. The distribution of these ticks has, in recent years, expanded to regions where conditions are favourable for the species to establish endemnicity. Hence there is growing concern that this virus has the potential to emerge and spread to new geographic regions.

The CCHFV Africa 2023 conference was the first of its kind with an aim to create a platform for African researchers to showcase their research and interact with colleagues to establish collaborations and open

communication to further the preparedness capacity for CCHF outbreaks in Africa. The meeting would not have been possible without the support from the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) who partnered with the UFS in supporting CCHF research and biosurveillance efforts in South Africa, the Region and the African Continent. The conference, held on 3-4 May 2023 in Cape Town, was attended by participants from 16 countries which included 12 countries in Africa, and participants from the United States, Sweden, Turkey and France. African countries that were represented included South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroon, Mozambique, Tunisia, Central Africa Republic, Senegal, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso and Gabon. In addition representatives from DTRA and the European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents (erinha) attended the meeting. Oral presentations provided evidence of the virus circulating in multiple countries with potential to cause human infections. The presence of this virus emphasizes the urgent need to build diagnostic and surveillance capacity for CCHFV and other arboviral disease with potential to cause outbreaks throughout Africa.

One outcome was the establishment of a CCHFV Africa Committee chaired by Prof Burt and comprised of 15 members representing 12 countries in Africa and providing a platform for sharing and discussing CCHFV research.

Productivity and impact of published work (rating and h-indexes accessed 04 October 2024)

NRF rating for 2024-2028: B1

Productivity and impact of published work (h-indexes as on 04 October 2024):

Web of Science (ISI):	34	Scopus	36	Google Scholar:	42
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The total number of citations retrieved from Scopus from 1993 to 2023 are 5057 (retrieved 04 October 2024).

Other interests

Horse riding
Gardening and garden design
Nature and the environment
Walking, jogging and hiking

Referees

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