

# Marco van Zwetselaar

## Bioinformatician / IT Professional

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Bioinformatician with a decade of experience in whole genome sequencing and high-performance computing. Twenty years prior experience as an IT professional, from board level consulting down to the bits and the iron. Open source software developer since the dawn of personal computing. GNU/Linux expert. Academic origins in geography, AI computing, modelling and statistics.

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**CURRENT**    **Self-employed** at Zwets IT. Independent contractor in IT and bioinformatics. On-site and remote software development; HPC design, construction and management; advanced systems management; bioinformatics training & mentoring

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**PREVIOUS**    **Lead Bioinformatician** at Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI, KCMC, Moshi, Tanzania), Aug 2012 – Feb 2023

- Build pipelines for genomic analysis; design and perform bespoke analyses of genomic data for numerous projects.
- Design, build and manage the high-performance cluster at KCRI; build the HPC at Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Accra
- Train post-doc, PhD and MSc students; supervise interns; teach bioinformatics and programming courses.
- Project coordination of the Fleming Fund SeqAfrica project: establish a reference sequencing lab for antimicrobial resistance.

**Enterprise architect** at Atos, Aug 2005 – Aug 2012

**Lead architect** at Delta Lloyd OHRA (through Atos), 2011 – 2012

**Consultant** at a.s.r. verzekeringen (through Atos), 2008 – 2011

**IT architect** at Achmea (through Atos Origin), 2005 – 2009

**Software architect** at Fortis, 1998 – 2004

**Software developer** Nat. Inst. Public Health & Env (RIVM), 1994 – 1998

**Scientific programmer** at Utrecht University, 1990 – 1994

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**EDUC-  
ATION**    **MSc Human Geography**, Utrecht University, 1992  
              **Cap. sel. Artificial Intelligence**, Utrecht University, 1992  
              **IB Diploma**, UWC of the Adriatic, 1986

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<b>LANG- UAGES</b>	<p><b>Spoken:</b> English, Dutch, Italian, German, French, some Swahili</p> <p><b>Computing:</b> C++, C, Python, awk/bash, R, Java, SQL, Haskell, JavaScript, Scheme &amp; LISP, Erlang, Smalltalk, Prolog</p>
<b>RECENT COURSES</b>	<p><b>Mathematics for Machine Learning</b>, Imperial College (Coursera), July 2020, licence 4CHZR56VKCFG</p> <p><b>Real-time Virus Genome Sequencing</b>, Nanopore sequencing &amp; bioinformatics for viral outbreak response, ARTIC Network, Accra, Dec 2018</p> <p><b>Specialization Probabilistic Graphical Models (Honours)</b>, Stanford (Coursera) Mar 2017, licence 6KVJTGm283MK</p> <p><b>Specialization Bioinformatics Algorithms (Distinction)</b>, UCSD (Coursera) Apr 2016, licence UQQK6D5JX8DV</p> <p><b>High-dimensional Data Analysis</b>, PH525.4.x (edX), Apr 2016, licence fd79ffa5aaed4e829401a42a1c548b9d</p> <p><b>Statistical Inference for High-throughput Experiments</b>, PH525.3.x (edX), Mar 2016, licence aec1b523e2d2418cbc0ab47d8ab5b35b</p> <p><b>Algorithms for DNA sequencing</b>, Johns Hopkins (Coursera), Jan 2016, licence GMWNE2NMP8</p>
<b>RECENT TEACHING</b>	<p><b>Bioinformatics Introduction</b>, CIDRZ, Lusaka, June 2025</p> <p><b>Bioinformatics for AMR surveillance</b>, CHSU, Lilongwe, Mar 2025</p> <p><b>Bioinformatics Refresher</b>, FAO/NMIMR, Accra, May 2023</p> <p><b>Advanced CLI Bioinformatics</b>, NMIMR, Accra, Oct 2022</p> <p><b>Command-line Bioinformatics</b>, NMIMR, Accra, Sep 2021</p> <p><b>Bioinformatics 101</b>, KCMUCo MSc, Moshi, Jun 2021</p>
<b>RECENT WORK</b>	<p><a href="https://github.com/zwets">github.com/zwets</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>unfasta</b> – command-line pipes and filters for genomic data</li> <li>• <b>gene-paths</b> – determine gene order from assembly graphs</li> <li>• <b>cge-bap</b> – bacterial analysis pipeline</li> <li>• <b>taxo</b> – offline command-line NCBI and GTDB taxonomy browsers</li> <li>• <b>kcst</b> – k-mer counting sequence typing and species identification</li> <li>• <b>picoline</b> – simplistic workflow &amp; job control for on-machine pipelines</li> <li>• <b>fastq-utils</b> – small utilities to manipulate fastq format files</li> </ul> <p><i>Access to internal bioinformatics analysis repositories provided on request</i></p>

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## RECENT PAPERS

- Mapunda L, et al. Co-existence of two blaNDM-5 and blaOXA-181 on distinct plasmids in a carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from a tertiary hospital, Tanzania. *Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance*. 2025;41: 173–180. doi:10.1016/j.jgar.2024.12.011
- Jaswant G, et al. Molecular characterisation of human rabies in Tanzania and Kenya: a case series report and phylogenetic investigation. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*. 2024;13: 79. doi:10.1186/s40249-024-01245-w
- Sarenje KL, van Zwetselaar M, Kumburu H, et al. Antimicrobial resistance and heterogeneity of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolated from patients attending sexually transmitted infection clinics in Lusaka, Zambia. *BMC Genomics*. 2024;25: 290. doi:10.1186/s12864-024-101155-y
- Mbwambo GA, van Zwetselaar M, Sonda T, et al. Complete genome sequence of *Brucella abortus* isolated from a human blood culture sample in Tanzania. *Microbiology Resource Announcements*. 2024;13: e00930-23. doi:10.1128/mra.00930-23
- Mziray SR, van Zwetselaar M, Kayuki CC, et al. Whole-genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 isolates from symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals in Tanzania. *Frontiers in Medicine*. 2023;9. doi:10.3389/fmed.2022.1034682.
- Kumburu HH, Shayo M, Zwetselaar M van, et al. Nanopore sequencing technology for clinical diagnosis of infectious diseases where laboratory capacity is meager: A case report. *Heliyon*. 2023;9. doi:10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e17439
- Sengeruan LP, van Zwetselaar M, Kumburu HH, et al. Plasmid characterization in bacterial isolates of public health relevance in a tertiary healthcare facility in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. *J Global Antimicrob Resistance*. 2022. doi:10.1016/j.jgar.2022.06.030.
- Sadiq AM, Mariki DE, Gundah CM, Assey EV, Zwetselaar M van, et al. Feeling the price tag of magnetic resonance imaging claustrophobia. *Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging*. 2021;54. doi:10.1002/jmri.27512.
- Nkya S, Mwita L, Mgaya J, Kumburu H, van Zwetselaar M, Menzel S, et al. Identifying genetic variants and pathways associated with extreme levels of fetal hemoglobin in sickle cell disease in Tanzania. *BMC Med Genet*. 2020;21:125.
- Kumburu HH, Sonda T, van Zwetselaar M, et al. Using WGS to identify antibiotic resistance genes and predict antimicrobial resistance phenotypes in MDR *Acinetobacter baumannii* in Tanzania. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 2019 doi:10.1093/jac/dkz055.4
- Sonda T, Kumburu H, Zwetselaar M van, et al. Molecular epidemiology of virulence and antimicrobial resistance determinants in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from hospitalised patients in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 2018; 1–14
- Sonda T, Kumburu H, van Zwetselaar M, et al. Whole genome sequencing reveals high clonal diversity of *Escherichia coli* isolated from patients in a tertiary care hospital in Moshi, Tanzania. *Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control* 2018; 7.
- Van Zwetselaar M, Nyombi B, Sonda T, et al. *Aeromonas caviae* mimicking *Vibrio cholerae* infectious enteropathy in a cholera-endemic region with possible public health consequences: two case reports. *Journal of Medical Case Reports* 2018; 12.
- Sonda T, Kumburu H, Zwetselaar M van, et al. Prevalence and risk factors for CTX-M gram-negative bacteria in hospitalized patients at a tertiary care hospital in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 2018; 1–10.
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