

# Onderstepoort Veterinary Research

National Reference Laboratories for  
Veterinary Diseases, South Africa.  
Challenges and Opportunities

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**ONDERSTEPOORT BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY 1908**

## Mission

To provide scientific support for Veterinary Services in effective risk management for quality of life for all in South Africa.

OVR promotes animal health and welfare by providing effective veterinary diagnostic and research services.

- ▶ National Reference Laboratories for Veterinary Diseases
- ▶ WOAHP Reference Laboratories / FAO Collaborating centers

# Thematic Programmes



**Dr Andrew Magadela**  
Group Executive:  
Animal Sciences



*Dr Misheck Mulumba*  
Senior Manager: Animal Health and Protection



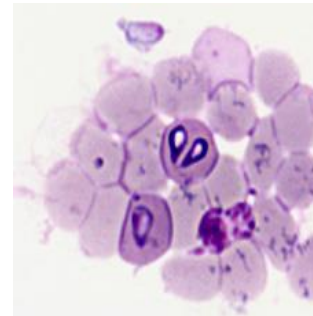
**Vaccine  
Production**



**Vaccines & Diagnostics  
Development**



**Public Health &  
Zoonoses**



**Epidemiology,  
Parasites and  
Vectors**



**Diagnostic Services**

# International Recognition

## WOAH REFERENCE LABORATORIES

African Horse Sickness

African Swine Fever

Blue tongue

Foot and Mouth Disease

Lumpy Skin Disease

Rabies

Rift Valley Fever

Theileriosis

## African Swine Fever Reference Laboratory Network



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE



OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory  
Network for Foot-and-Mouth Disease



**WOAH**

Reference Laboratory  
Network for PPR

## FAO REFERENCE CENTRES



Foot and Mouth Disease

African Swine Fever Disease

Vector and Vector-borne Diseases

# Diagnostic Capacity

## VIROLOGY (SANAS: V 0001)

Serological Virology  
Molecular Virology

## BACTERIOLOGY (SANAS: V 0003)

Bacterial Serology  
General Bacteriology  
Molecular Bacteriology

## TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES (SANAS: V 0034)

## DIAGNOSTIC PARASITOLOGY (SANAS: V 0017)

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND ZONOSIS (SANAS: V 0003)

ISO 17025 Accredited



# Aquatic Diagnostic Capacity

## Molecular Diagnosis

Infectious salmon anaemia virus  
Salmonid alphavirus  
Renibacterium salmoninarum

Piscine orthoreovirus  
Koi herpesvirus  
Tilapia lake virus  
Viral nervous necrosis virus

Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus  
Epizootic haemopoietic necrosis virus  
Infectious haemopoietic necrosis virus  
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome

## Virus Isolation

Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus  
Epizootic haemopoietic necrosis virus  
Infectious haemopoietic necrosis virus  
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

## Bacterial Isolation

Renibacterium salmoninarum

# Clients of Aquatic Diagnostics

## Surveillance of Commercial Farms

Predominantly commercial trout farms  
Farms are sampled twice a year  
> 250 – 500 submissions / year

## Quarantine stations

Testing of imported material  
➤ 50 - 150 submissions / year

## Provincial Veterinary Services

Surveillance for Koi herpesvirus

## Private Veterinarians

Ad hoc Service  
Confirmation of clinical diagnosis  
e.g. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome



Infectious salmon anaemia



Koi herpesvirus



# Opportunities and Challenges

## Opportunities

Aquaculture is an emerging industry in South Africa.

Diagnostic capacity could be expanded to include aquatic animals other than fish.

## Challenges

The current demand for services is relatively low.

The lack of reference material complicates validation of diagnostic assays.

International proficiency testing schemes for Aquatic diseases are limited.

Laboratory capacity and expertise are limited hampering the expansion of diagnostic services

# Aquatic Diagnostic Services

## Molecular Diagnosis

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Biotechnology

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## General Bacteriology

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## Virus Isolation

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