



Simbarashe Chitanga

32 – 27/11/1980

Parasitology

schitanga@gmail.com, Chitanga@ukzn.ac.za



Zimbabwe

I am currently interested in vector-borne pathogens of zoonotic importance. This is because they have been neglected for a long time, yet they afflict the poor in our communities. Am interested in the dynamics of the host-vector-pathogen systems and how their interaction influences epidemiology of diseases. The encompasses the 'One-Health' concept. Also the interest in zoonoses is borne out of fact that most of the currently emerging or re-emerging diseases are of animal origin.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Topic

Molecular epidemiology of tick-borne zoonoses in eastern and southern Africa.

Methodology

- Field sampling from ticks, animals and humans
- Molecular analysis of samples
- Sequencing for new species/strains

Application

Tick-borne zoonoses are some of the neglected diseases. This study will show the threat of infection to the at risk population and will serve as platform for further research on control host-vector-pathogen interactions.

UKZN main Publications

Past Researches (Last 3 years)

1. Evolution of the trypanosome transmission cycle
2. Development of molecular tools for detection of drug resistance in trypanosomes
 - i. Shifting from wild to domestic hosts: the effect on the transmission of *Trypanosoma congolense* to tsetse flies. **Chitanga, S.**, Namangala, B., De Deken, R. & Marcotty, T. 2013. ACTA Tropica, 125.
 - ii. High prevalence of drug resistance in trypanosomes without a history of drug exposure. **Chitanga, S. et al 2011**. PloS Neglected Tropical Diseases 5(12)
 - iii. Virulence in *Trypanosoma congolense* Savannah subgroup. A comparison between strains and transmission cycle. Van den Bossche et al. 2011. Parasite Immunology 33 (8)

Future Interests

1. Vector-borne zoonoses
2. Malaria

Extra Interests

Sports (football, badminton), going out (drinking, chisa nyama)