


Prof Christo Botha

Name:	Prof CJ Botha BVSc MMedVet PhD	
Position:	Head of Department	
Section:	Pharmacology and Toxicology	
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Academic memberships: Registered veterinarian with the S.A Veterinary Council, Registered as a Veterinary Specialist (Toxicology) with the S.A Veterinary Council, Member of the S.A. Veterinary Association (SAVA), Member of the Livestock Health and Production group of the SAVA, Fellow of the American Academy of Veterinary and Comparative Toxicology

Biography

Christo qualified as a veterinarian in 1982 and registered with the South African Veterinary Council. Thereafter he spent two years in the SA Defence Force completing his national service and then worked for four years as a state veterinarian. Christo was appointed as a senior lecturer in Toxicology/Pharmacology in 1988, in the previous Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria. He completed a BVSc Honours degree in 1989 and the specialist MMedVet degree in veterinary toxicology in 1994 and registered as a Veterinary Specialist (Toxicology) with the South African Veterinary Council. In 2003 he was awarded a PhD by the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science with a thesis entitled "Krimpsiekte, a paretc/paralytic syndrome of small stock, in South Africa. Christo is currently Professor and Head of the Department.

Research interests

Christo generally focuses his research in two main areas i.e. (1) plant poisonings and mycotoxicoses and (2) environmental toxicology. Since research on poisonous plants and mycotoxicoses affecting livestock in South Africa is extremely important, he is conducting research on economically important plant poisonings such as krimpsiekte and other cardiac glycoside poisonings. In addition, he also investigates new or lesser-known plant poisonings and mycotoxicoses occurring in livestock and companion animals.

Funds have been received to develop a project around the aquatic ecosystem. Previously the harmful effects of persistent organic pollutants (POP's) have been investigated, but the research emphasis has now shifted to the detrimental effects of eutrophication of surface waters with resultant *Microcystis* blooms and cyanobacterial toxins.

Teaching

Christo is the course coordinator for the undergraduate Toxicology module (Tox 300). He is also a supervisor or co-supervisor of some of the postgraduate students enrolled for a MSc or PhD degree in the Department.

Publications

Botha CJ, Coetser H, Schultz RA, Labuschagne L and Van der Merwe D
2013 Spatial variation of epoxyscilliroside concentrations in *Moraea pallida* (yellow tulip) in South Africa. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* 80(1), Art. #543, 6 pages. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/ojvr.v80i1.543>

Arnot LF, Duncan NM, Coetzer H and **Botha CJ** 2012 An outbreak of canine aflatoxicosis in Gauteng Province, South Africa. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* 83(1), Art. #2, 4 pages. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/jsava.v83i1.2>

Botha CJ, Lewis A, Du Plessis EC, Clift SJ and Williams MC 2012 Crotalariosis equorum ("jaagsiekte") in horses in southern Mozambique, a rare form of pyrrolizidine alkaloid poisoning. *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* 24(6): 1099–1104
<http://vdi.sagepub.com/content/early/2012/09/18/1040638712460673>

Botha CJ, Steenkamp PA, Olivier A and Bekker LC 2011 *Nicotiana glauca* poisoning in ostriches (*Struthio camelus*). *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* 82: 116-119

Du Plessis EC, Prozesky L and **Botha CJ** 2011 The pathology of acute *Nolletia gariepina* poisoning of cattle. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* 82: 144-149

Ellis CE, Naicker D, Basson KM, Labuschagne L, **Botha CJ**, Meintjes RA and Schultz RA 2010 Cytotoxicity and ultrastructural changes in H9c2(2-1) cells treated with pavetamine, a novel polyamine. *Toxicol* 55: 12-19

Ellis CE, Naicker D, Basson KM, **Botha CJ**, Meintjes RA and Schultz RA 2010 Damage to some contractile and cytoskeleton proteins of the sarcomere in rat neonatal cardiomyocytes after exposure to pavetamine. *Toxicol*: 2010: 1071-1079

Ellis CE, Naicker D, Basson KM, **Botha CJ**, Meintjes RA and Schultz RA 2010 A fluorescent study of subcellular damage in H9c2 cells caused by pavetamine, a novel polyamine. *Toxicology in Vitro* 24: 1258-1265

Botha CJ, Truter M, Bredell T, Lange L, Mülders MSG 2009 Putative *Aspergillus niger*-induced oxalate nephrosis in sheep. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* 80: 50-53

Botha CJ, Penrith M-L 2009 Potential plant poisonings in dogs and cats in southern Africa. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* 80: 63-74

Uhlig S, **Botha CJ**, Vrålstad T, Rolén E, Miles CO 2009 Indole–diterpenes and ergot alkaloids in *Cynodon dactylon* (Bermuda grass) infected with *Claviceps cynodontis* from an outbreak of tremors in cattle. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* 57: 11112-11119

Snyman LD, Schultz RA, **Botha CJ**, Labuschagne L, Joubert JPJ 2009 Evaluation of activated charcoal as treatment for yellow tulip (*Moraea pallida*) poisoning in cattle. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* 80: 274-275

Braathen M, Mdegela R, Correia D, Runberget T, Myburgh JG, **Botha CJ**, Skaare JU, Sandvik M 2009 Vitellogenin in African Sharptooth catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*): Purification, Characterization and Elisa development. *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part A* 72: 173-183

Masgoret MS, **Botha CJ**, Myburgh JG, Naudé TW, Prozesky L, Naidoo V, van Wyk H, Pool E, Swan GE 2009 Molasses as a possible cause of "Endocrine Disruptive Syndrome" in calves. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* 76: 209-225