

**Thérèse L Coetzer PhD
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Thérèse L Coetzer graduated with a BSc and a BSc Honours degree in biochemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). She worked as a research scientist in Austria and Germany and then took up a research position at the South African Institute for Medical Research (SAIMR) and obtained her PhD from Wits. She did postdoctoral research on red blood cell membrane disorders at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, USA. She returned to South Africa to head the Red Cell Membrane Research Unit and elucidated the molecular basis of inherited haemolytic anaemias in Southern African kindred.

She subsequently shifted her research focus to the malaria parasite and established the Plasmodium Molecular Research Unit, which is now part of the Wits Research Institute for Malaria. Her laboratory investigates fundamental aspects of the biology of the malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*, with the ultimate aim of identifying novel drug targets. She also works on the automated diagnosis of malaria and is involved in an international drug discovery programme to identify compounds that inhibit the transmission stages of the parasite, which is a crucial aspect of global efforts to eliminate malaria.