



Francois van der Westhuizen

Starting his academic career in 1993, Francois is currently Professor of Biochemistry at the School for Physical and Chemical Sciences, North-West University (NWU), Potchefstroom. He received his PhD at the NWU in 1998, with subsequent post-doctoral and sabbatical research experiences at Nijmegen Centre for Mitochondrial Disorders, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre (2000 – 2001), and the Mitochondrial Research Group, Newcastle University (2011), respectively.

In 2002 he and colleague Dr Roan Louw formed the Mitochondria Research Laboratory, focussing on mitochondrial bioenergetics involvement in human diseases. His research has contributed to the characterization and aetiology of mitochondrial respiratory chain disorders (RCD) in the South African population, cell biological responses (transcriptomics and metabolomics) in RCD models and the involvement of mitochondrial bioenergetics and mtDNA genetics in non-communicable diseases.