



Roan Louw

Dr Roan Louw is currently a senior lecturer at the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University (NWU), South Africa. He obtained his PhD in 2005 from the same institution, working on the aetiology of neural tube defects, specifically the metabolic perturbations caused by specific teratogens. After his studies he was appointed at the NWU (Biochemistry) where he shifted his focus to mitochondrial disease (MD). Since then he has studied MD in the South African context and is currently the head of the sub-program “Metabolomics of mitochondrial disease” at the NWU Focus Area for Human Metabolomics. Here he uses a metabolomics approach to search for MD biomarkers using patient samples, tissue cultures and animal models. His emphasis is on the development and implementation of analytical methods, both for targeted and untargeted metabolomics using different hyphenated analytical techniques involving liquid chromatography and gas chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry as well as nuclear magnetic resonance. His research group is unique in South Africa and has strong collaboration with local and international researchers.