

NETWORKING

WOTRO Grant Proposal Workshop

Two workshops were recently held at Tygerberg and in Pretoria with representatives from Stellenbosch University, Utrecht University, University of Pretoria, and Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. A grant proposal was submitted jointly by these groups to WOTRO, the funding body of NWO- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research. WOTRO received over 60 applications, and along with 10 other proposals. The South African/ Dutch collaboration was chosen to enter the final round of selection, from which 6 projects will be funded. To ensure the submissions are of high quality WOTRO finances a three day workshop so that all interested parties can meet to discuss the final application. The workshop was held in January at Intundla Lodge, near Pretoria for the South African and Dutch participants along with interested stakeholders. The proposal details a project which covers a number of disciplines from veterinary science, immunology, genetics, microbiology and molecular biology and will require the collaboration of these universities to investigate mycobacteria in buffalo, cattle and their environments. The meeting was a great success and a final proposal with workplan was agreed upon and has been submitted. If successful, funding will be available for two post doctorates and three PhD students. All applicants left the workshop encouraged and pleased to have had an opportunity to interact with each other and have already made plans for further collaborations. Participants at the workshop included Victor Rutten, Adrian Koets and Ildiko van Rhijn from Utrecht University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; Jacques Godfroid, Jacobus Coetzer, Nick Kriek and Darshana Morar from University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science; Anita Michel from Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, and Paul van Helden, Eileen Hoal-van Helden, Nico Gey van Pittius and Chantal Babb from the SU node of the CBTBR.

In Photo: seated (from left to right): Paul van Helden, Victor Rutten, Eileen Hoal-van Helden, Anita Michel and standing (from left to right): Nico Gey van Pittius, Ildiko van Rhijn, Adrian Koets, Chantal Babb, and Darshana Morar

