

**LAUNCH CONFERENCE OF THE
SOUTH AFRICA–COST PARTNERSHIP
INNOVATION HUB : 8 SEPTEMBER 2009**

PROF MAUREEN B TAYLOR

**Enteric Virus and Environmental Research Group
Department of Medical Virology
Faculty of Health Sciences**

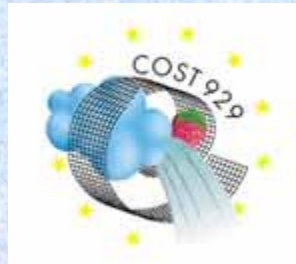


**UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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COST Action 929



A European Network for Environmental and Food Virology



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BACKGROUND



1988: Prof Grabow established a water virology research group in Dept of Medical Virology

1990: Prof Albert Bosch, Enteric Virus Group, University of Barcelona, visiting researcher

2003: Prof Grabow retired – water virology research initiative continued and food virology introduced

2006: Prof MB Taylor and Prof A Bosch awarded an NRF grant in the Spain/South Africa Research Partnership Programme (Oct 2006- Nov 2008)

*** Enteric viruses: water- and foodborne transmission**

- *Initiated development of standardized methods for the detection of viruses in food and water*

2007: Workshop on Food and Waterborne viruses



BACKGROUND



- **Relevance of research programme**
 - Climatic changes and increasing scarcity of water worldwide
 - Contamination of drinking and irrigation water
 - Concern regarding contribution of food and water to overall burden of disease
 - * *In SA: 12 x 10⁶ people without potable water*
 - * *In SA: Increasing number of immunocompromised people*
 - * *In SA: river water*
 - *used for domestic and recreational purposes*
 - * *In SA: irrigation water*
 - *partially treated/contaminated*
 - *infect farm workers*
 - * *In SA: 1991 Two consecutive outbreaks of foodborne gastroenteritis due to noroviruses*



BACKGROUND



- Relevance of research programme





BACKGROUND



Workshop on Food and Waterborne viruses March 2007: attended by students from different institutions , private pathologists, water utilities and international investigators

Prof A Bosch: Leader Working Group 2

Invited Prof Taylor as guest speaker: Cost 929 workshop

Wageningen October 2007

ENTERIC VIRUSES IN WATER AND FOOD SOURCES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Maureen B Taylor

Dept of Medical Virology

University of Pretoria /

National Health Laboratory Service TAD





INVITATION TO JOIN COST 929



- **Methods we were applying routinely for analysis of water were of great interest to the Cost 929 group**
 - *contributed significantly to expertise within working group 2 (Analytical methods)*
- **Social and environmental conditions in SA provided unique opportunities to determine the role of food and water in transmission of viruses**
 - *data generated important to working group 1 (Current and emerging viral hazards associated with food and environmental contamination)*

2008: UP/Prof Taylor invited to participate in cost Action 929

- **Relevance and benefit to UP and South Africa**
 - *national and international research co-operation*
 - *capacity building within region*



INVITATION TO JOIN COST 929



COST
EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

Brussels,

06 AOUT 2008

0388/10380

Prof. Maureen B TAYLOR
Department of Medical Virology, Pathology
Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Pretoria
PO Box 2034
0001 Pretoria
SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Prof. Taylor,

Participation in COST Action 929
"A European network for environmental and food virology"

I am writing to inform you that the COST Senior Officials Committee gave its approval to the participation of the University of Pretoria in the above COST Action on the basis of the information provided by the 929 Management Committee and its unanimous support for your application.

As you are aware, COST agreements usually take the form of a Memorandum of Understanding between the COST states interested in participating in an Action. However, in your particular case, it is considered appropriate that you indicate by letter your readiness to participate in the action in accordance with the terms set out in the Memorandum of Understanding, which governs the 929 Action.

I would be most grateful if you could kindly indicate in writing the willingness of your University to participate in the Action in the terms set out above and in conformity with the model attached in annex.

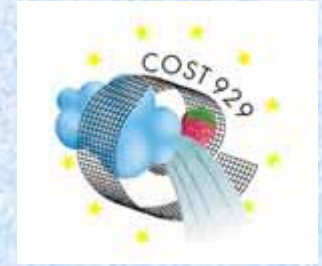
Yours sincerely,

Francesco FEDI
President
COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Copy: Mr. Martin GRABERI, COST Office



BENEFIT OF JOINING COST 929



- **Capacity building**

- *Prof MB Taylor, Dr WB van Zyl and MSc student Mr Rembuluwani Netshikweta were invited to attend a European Science Foundation sponsored COST 929 Action workshop on “Analytical methods in environmental and food virology” 18 April 2008 Sala Nicolau d’Olwer, Institut d’Estudis Catalans, C/Carme 47, Barcelona, Spain*





BENEFIT OF JOINING COST 929



- **Capacity building**

From 14-17 April 2008 prior to the workshop on “Analytical methods in environmental and food virology” Dr WB van Zyl and Mr Rembuluwani Netshikweta were guest researcher and student, respectively, in the Enteric Virus Group of Prof A Bosch, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, University of Barcelona





BENEFIT OF JOINING COST 929



- **Capacity building**

Post-doctoral fellow Dr Janet Mans was afforded the opportunity to visit the RIVM, The Netherlands to gain experience with regard to the typing of noroviruses

- **International exposure**

Prof Taylor invited to be an associate editor of the new journal “ Food and Environmental Virology”

Prof Taylor will be an invited guest speaker at the Cost 929 workshop Lisbon 6-7 October 2009



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2009



2007



2008