



NAME: ETHEL-MICHEL DE VILLIERS

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ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE

Ethel-Michel de Villiers was born in Pretoria, South Africa. After finishing high school (1964) in Pretoria she studied biology at the University of Pretoria. After obtaining her PhD in 1980, she spent a postdoctoral period at the University of Freiburg in Germany, before returning to South Africa where she worked at the Veterinary Institute Onderstepoort. In 1984 she accepted a position at the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg, initially as senior scientist and since 1992 as Head of the Division for the Identification of Human Tumourviruses. Academically she received her “Habilitation” in 1986 and was promoted to Professor in Virology at the University of Heidelberg in 1997. From 1984 to 2013 she chaired the Reference Centre for Human Papillomaviruses, during the latter part of this period as International WHO Papillomaviruses Reference Centre. She identified and characterized a large number of novel human papillomaviruses types and analysed the role of papillomaviruses in cutaneous human malignancies. Since the year 2000 until present, she has actively been engaged in the identification and analyses of single’ stranded circular human DNA- viruses (T- or Torque Tenoviruses) and of similarly structured, but genetically very different, Bovine Meat and Milk Factors (BMMFs). She characterized four groups and demonstrated the presence of specific types in lesions of multiple sclerosis and in sera from the same patient group.