



Abridged Biography | Prof Corli Witthuhn



Prof Corli Witthuhn was appointed as Vice-Rector: Research at the University of the Free State (UFS) in April 2013. Her academic career started in the Department of Food Science at Stellenbosch University (SU) in 1999 after she completed a PhD in Microbiology at the UFS.

She was chair of the Department of Food Science at SU from 2005 until 2009 when she accepted the position of Vice Dean of the Faculty of AgriSciences at SU. She then returned to the UFS and was appointed as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences in 2011, before she took up the position of Vice-Rector. Her research interests include the rapid detection and identification of microbes in foods.

She has a keen interest in pathogenic and spoilage microbes in the South African food processing environment, specifically focusing on *Cronobacter* and *Alicyclobacillus* spp. She is also interested in food fermentation and its possible anti-microbial effects on food-borne pathogens such as *Mycobacterium bovis*. She has published more than 60 international peer-reviewed scientific papers, as well as 6 popular scientific articles. She is NRF rated and has trained 7 doctoral and 26 masters students.
