

Paul Wichgers Schreur

Senior Scientist, Wageningen Bioveterinary Research, The Netherlands



Paul Wichgers Schreur, obtained his PhD in molecular biology from the University of Utrecht after studying the interaction of the zoonotic *Streptococcus suis* pathogen with the innate immune system of humans and pigs. In 2012, he switched to the field of virology and started as a postdoctoral researcher at Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR), previously known as Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen University and Research. Using techniques like reverse-genetics, single-molecule microscopy, and 'bacterial superglue' he studied the infection cycle of bunyaviruses and used this knowledge to (co)developed vaccines and therapeutic antibodies. Two Rift Valley fever vaccines, initially designed by Paul, are currently taken beyond the proof of concept phase in both the livestock and human vaccine field. As part of a CEPI¹ project Paul is contributing to the preparation of a Phase 1 clinical trial and as part of a collaboration with a global veterinary vaccine producer he leads several studies for vaccine registration. Part of his work as senior virologist in the arbovirology group of Prof. Jeroen Kortekaas is setting up and guiding animal trials, varying from vaccination-challenge studies in rodents and large ruminants to studies focussing on viral pathogenesis and vaccine safety. He gained experience in vaccine production and currently supervises the daily practical work, including work at biosafety level 3 laboratoria, of about 6 people. He has (co)authored 30 peer-reviewed publications and is formal (co)applicant of 2 patent applications. He was formal co-applicant of the ZAPI project and was largely involved in the development of MPSP based bunyavirus vaccines and bunyavirus antibodies. In 2017, he co-founded and became COO of BunyaVax (www.bunyavax.com), a small company that focusses on the development of bunyavirus vaccines.

¹https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-awards-contract-worth-up-to-us12-5-million-to-consortium-led-by-wageningen-bioveterinary-research-to-develop-a-human-vaccine-against-rift-valley-fever/