



Georgia Schäfer obtained her PhD from Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, in 2003 in Molecular Biology where she specialized in cancer research and infectious diseases. She then completed a post-doc at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa, focussing on the innate immune receptors involved in infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, before taking up a research scientist/lecturer position at the Division of Medical Biochemistry, UCT, in 2010. She has also been an Associate Member of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT since 2015.

Georgia is currently leading the research group “Virology-Emerging Viruses” at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) Cape Town, South Africa, where her group investigates the entry mechanisms of Kaposi’s sarcoma herpesvirus (KSHV) and Human papillomavirus (HPV), two oncogenic viruses associated with AIDS-defining malignancies, with the long-term aim of developing novel preventative and diagnostic tools. In response to the current COVID-19 outbreak, Georgia’s group has also set up several SARS-CoV2 diagnostic and pseudovirus neutralization assays to support various nation-wide research activities.

Georgia is holding research grants from various South African funding agencies and has been awarded a European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) senior fellowship in 2019. She has published about 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals with approximately 2000 citations and an h-index of 22. She currently supervises 1 post-doctoral fellow, 3 PhD students and 1 MSc student in the laboratory.