

Professor Osterhaus (DVM PhD) has been Head of the Department of Viroscience at Erasmus MC Rotterdam until July 1st 2015, is currently Professor of Wildlife Virology and Virus Discovery at Utrecht University, and Director of the Center of Infection Medicine and Zoonosis Research and Guest-Professor at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover. He has a long track record as a scientific researcher and Principal Investigator of numerous major scientific projects.

At Erasmus MC, Professor Osterhaus has run a diagnostic virology lab with more than 40 staff and a research Virology lab with over 150 personnel. His research programme follows a novel integrated “viroscience” concept, bringing together world-leading scientists in molecular virology, immunology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, and intervention studies on human and animal virus infections.

Among the major accomplishments are the discovery of more than 40 new viruses of humans and animals (e.g. human metapneumovirus, human coronaviruses, influenza viruses), elucidation of the pathogenesis of major human and animal virus infections, and development of novel intervention strategies. This has enabled health authorities like the WHO to effectively combat disease outbreaks like SARS and avian influenza. The spin-off, Viroclinics Biosciences BV, is another societally relevant success, allowing effective testing and refining of diagnostic tools and other intervention strategies.

The international recognition of Professor Osterhaus is further highlighted by awards, prizes, guest lecture invitations, (co-)organiserships of international meetings and editorships of scientific journals.

Professor Osterhaus has acted as PhD mentor for more than 70 students and holds several key patents. He is also the author of more than 1100 papers in peer-reviewed journals, together cited more than 50,000 times, and his H index is 97. Most of all, Professor Osterhaus firmly believes that scientists have a role to play in translating their knowledge for the benefit and protection of society