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Alan Christoffels is the Director of the South African National Bioinformatics Institute and the DST/NRF Research in Bioinformatics and Public Health Genomics. After completing his studies in 2001, he moved to Singapore for a postdoc in the Sydney Brenner lab with a focus on genome evolution. During this time he contributed to the annotation and genome analysis of the Pufferfish genome and developed method for detecting genome duplication events. This methodology was later used in other international genome projects while he established his group in Singapore in 2004. In 2007 he returned to South Africa and established his group at the South African National Bioinformatics Institute based on the University of the Western Cape campus. He has driven a number genomics projects on the African continent. During the past 4 years his team has focused on infectious disease models including M.tuberculosis. The Christoffels laboratory ([christoffels.sanbi.ac.za](http://christoffels.sanbi.ac.za)) has been building tools ([combattb.sanbi.ac.za](http://combattb.sanbi.ac.za)) and analyzing data that leads to a better understanding of host pathogen interactions. Central to these methods is a computational platform that relies on reproducible workflows and a graph database. The ultimate goal is to ensure that these methods are readily accessible by biomedical researchers with a view of improved disease surveillance.