

Hans Zaaijer

was appointed professor of Blood Transmitted Infections at the University of Amsterdam's (AMC-UvA) Faculty of Medicine in 2009. Hans Zaaijer has been working on bloodborne infections since 1992. In addition to infections that can be transmitted through blood transfusion, blood products and transplantation, these include infections that occur from mother to child during birth, infections that healthcare workers contract through needlestick injuries, and infections that surgery can contract from an infected surgeon. Meticulous prevention of blood-borne infections is of course of great importance. Zaaijer was one of the founders of national guidelines for the prevention of iatrogenic hepatitis B, for the handling of needlestick injuries, for the screening of blood donors, and for the screening of organ and tissue donors. Zaaijer is also concerned with the increasing relevance for blood safety of imported infections such as dengue, West Nile fever and Chikungunya, and of zoonotic infections such as vCJD, Q fever and hepatitis E. In the near future he will expand his work with research into occult infection with hepatitis B virus and on decision-making in emerging infections and blood safety.

Zaaijer has been working at Sanquin Research as head of 'Blood-transmitted Infections' since 2008. Since 2003, he has been working as a medical microbiologist at the Department of Clinical Virology at the AMC. Before that, Zaaijer worked as a medical microbiologist and head of the Virology sub-laboratory of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention at VUmc. Zaaijer is chairman of the National Committee for the Prevention of Iatrogenic Hepatitis and HIV, and a member of the Committee on the Future of the National Immunization Program of the Health Council.

