Scientific Symposium

NEW TOOLS FOR RESEARCH ON KINETOPLASTID DISEASES

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
SPEAKERS & CHAIRS
NEW TOOLS FOR RESEARCH ON KINETOPLASTID DISEASES

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Chair

**Dr Robert Don**, 
Discovery and Pre-clinical Director, 
DNDi – Switzerland

### SESSION ONE

**Moderator**

**Dr Eric Chatelain**, 
Head of Drug Discovery, DNDi – Switzerland

#### 13:30 – 15:30

**Tools and challenges for the next decade of leishmaniasis research**

**Dr Gerald Spaeth**, 
Head of Laboratory, Molecular Parasitology and Signaling Unit, Institut Pasteur – France

**The next generation of high throughput screens**

**Dr Manu De Rycker**, 
Team Leader Neglected Diseases, Drug Discovery Unit, University of Dundee – UK

**Tools and challenges for the next decade of Chagas disease research**

**Prof. Lucio Freitas-Junior**, 
LNBio – Brazil

**15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break**

### SESSION TWO

**Moderator**

**Dr Charles Mowbray**, 
Head of Drug Discovery, DNDi – Switzerland

#### 16:00 – 18:00

**Exploring chemical space for neglected diseases**

**Prof. Jean-Louis Reymond**, 
Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Berne – Switzerland

**Computational tools to analyse and compare compound libraries**

**Dr Thierry Kogej**, 
Associate Principal Scientist, Chemistry Innovation Centre, Astra Zeneca – Sweden

**Computational tools to support drug research**

**Dr Mark Gardner**, 
Consultant, AMG Consultants – UK

### CLOSING SESSION – PANEL DEBATE

**Moderator**

**Dr Robert Don**, 
Discovery and Pre-clinical Director, 
DNDi – Switzerland

**Panel debate with all speakers:**

Research challenges and opportunities for the most neglected diseases

**19:00 – 20:00 Networking Cocktail**
Dr Robert Don
Discovery & Pre-clinical Director, DNDi – Switzerland

Dr Robert Don holds the overall responsibility for DNDi’s discovery research and pre-clinical development. Prior to joining DNDi, he was Senior Vice President for Research and Clinical Development at the Australian based biotechnology company, Progen Pharmaceuticals for 10 years. In this position, he was responsible the company’s research programme to develop new therapeutics for treatment of cancer and guided the development novel anti-cancer agents from basic research to clinical trials in several countries including USA, United Kingdom, Taiwan and Australia. He was awarded his PhD by the University of Queensland in Australia and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the Medical University in Geneva and the New South Wales Cancer Council in Australia followed by a faculty position at the University of Queensland.

Session One

Dr Eric Chatelain
Head of Drug Discovery, DNDi – Switzerland

Dr Eric Chatelain joined DNDi in July 2007 as a senior project manager focusing on screening and discovery projects for new drugs for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), leishmaniasis, and Chagas disease. Prior to joining DNDi, he held various positions at Spirig Pharma Ltd, a Swiss-based company developing dermatology drugs, notably as the Head of Pre-clinical Research.

Dr Chatelain completed postdoctoral fellowships at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, UK, and the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel, Switzerland.

He earned his PhD in Biochemistry at the National Institute of Applied Sciences, Lyon France.
Dr Gerald Spaeth
Head of Laboratory and Head of the Molecular Parasitology and Signalling Unit, Institut Pasteur – France

Dr Gerald Spaeth obtained his PhD at University Paris 7 in 1997, carrying out his technical work at the Institut Pasteur in the laboratory of Dr Mary Weiss. He then joined the laboratory of Dr Stephen Beverley at the Washington University Medical School in St Louis, USA, for his postdoctoral research. He obtained his first faculty appointment in 2001 at the New York University Medical School, before returning to the Institut Pasteur in 2005 on the G5 and INSERM Avenir programmes. He was Scientific Director of the FP7 LEISHDRUG consortium, and currently coordinates the LeishRIIP network and a national consortium on anti-leishmanial drug development, ANR-TRANSLEISH. The main research projects conducted by the Unit apply genetic and proteomic methods to identify Leishmania-signalling pathways implicated in parasite pathogenicity, and to validate components of these pathways as potential target molecules for the development of novel anti-leishmanial strategies.

Dr Manu De Rycker
Team Leader Neglected Diseases, Drug Discovery Unit, University of Dundee – UK

Dr Manu De Rycker obtained his degree in biotechnological engineering from the University of Ghent, Belgium in 1998. He received a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA in 2005. His PhD project focused on structure-function relationships for the tankyrase family of proteins. Following his PhD, Manu spent four years in Peter Parker’s group at Lincoln’s Inn Fields laboratories (CRUK) in London, developing high-content screening assays for cell migration and studying Protein Kinase C function. Manu is now team leader for parasite screening at the University of Dundee Drug Discovery Unit and oversees all kincoplastid phenotypic screening.
**Prof. Lucio Freitas-Júnior**  
**LNBio – Brazil**

Dr Lucio Freitas-Júnior obtained his PhD in 1999 on the characterization of Trypanosoma cruzi mucin gene family, developed under the supervision of Prof. Sergio Schenkman (UNIFESP-Brazil), and moved on to Paris to work with Dr. Artur Scherf in Institut Pasteur, where LFJ worked on antigenic variation and nuclear biology of malaria parasites until 2003. In 2005, he joined the Institut Pasteur-Korea as an independent investigator and became in 2009 the Director of the Center for Neglected Diseases Drug Discovery (CND3), leading several research lines on drug discovery for Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL), Chagas disease, Human African Trypanosomiasis, Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya. Among the work developed by CND3 is a high throughput/high content drug screening assay that radically changed the drug discovery landscape for VL. Following the VL screening assay, high content assays were developed for Chagas disease, dengue, and chikungunya. Together the VL and Chagas disease assays have been used by IPK and DNDi to screen over one million compounds and have helped advancing drug discovery for these diseases. Secondary assays were also developed for Chagas disease to enable screening against several Trypanosoma cruzi strains. Since 2013, Dr Freitas-Júnior is in the National Laboratory of Biosciences (LNBio), Campinas, Brazil, where he leads the implementation of a screening facility for drug discovery and bioassays, the first of its kind in Latin America, and organizing a collaborative drug discovery consortium for neglected diseases.

---

**Dr Charles Mowbray**  
**Head of Drug Discovery, DNDi – Switzerland**

Dr Mowbray joined DNDi in August 2011, taking on the responsibility for lead optimization in drug discovery projects. Prior to joining DNDi, Dr Mowbray spent 19 years at Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development, where he was most recently a Research Fellow in Worldwide Medicinal Chemistry at the Sandwich Laboratories, UK. During this time, he developed experience as a medicinal chemist, project leader, and people manager. He has delivered projects across many disease areas, target classes, and medicinal chemistry strategies, and from target selection through to clinical candidate delivery. Two of these molecules have completed Phase IIb clinical studies. Dr Mowbray was awarded his PhD by the University of Exeter and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University of British Columbia and the University of Nottingham.
Prof. Jean-Louis Reymond
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Berne – Switzerland

Professor Jean-Louis Reymond studied Chemistry and Biochemistry at the ETH Zürich and obtained his PhD in 1989 at the University of Lausanne in the area of natural products synthesis. After a postdoc and Assistant Professorship at the Scripps Research Institute, he joined the University of Berne in 1997. His current research focuses on expanding the accessible chemical space to novel scaffolds for drug design, including the synthesis of topologically diverse peptides such as dendrimers and polycyclic peptides identified by combinatorial library screening and computational design, and of innovative small molecules identified by virtual screening of the Chemical Universe Database GDB. These drug design activities engage his research group in multiple collaborative networks such as the NCCR TransCure, the NCCR Chemical Biology, SwissTransMed, MultiGlycoNano, and several industrial partners. Professor Reymond is the author of over 200 scientific publications and is currently an Associate Editor of Chemical Biology for the RSC journal ChemComm.

Dr Thierry Kogej
Associate Principal Scientist, Chemistry Innovation Centre, Astra Zeneca – Sweden

Dr Thierry Kogej obtained his PhD in Physical-Chemistry at the University of Mons-Hainaut in Belgium in 1998. He worked at UCB Pharma as a medicinal computational chemist to support discovery projects in CNS and rhino-inflamatory. Dr Kogej then obtained a master’s degree in Drug Design at the University of Lille, France, in 2000. He then joined the computational chemistry group at AstraZeneca R&D Mölndal in 2003, working on global cheminformatic projects around compound collection through design, analysis, and compound collection enhancement programmes. He supports lead generation projects through molecular modeling, QSAR, and HTS analysis.

Dr Mark Gardner
Consultant, AMG Consultants – UK

Dr Mark Gardner is a computational and medicinal chemist. For the last two years, he has worked on a range of drug discovery projects tackling global health diseases including malaria, TB, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, human African trypanosomiasis, and Chagas disease, working with a number of major organizations in global health drug discovery. Previously, Dr Gardner was a medicinal and computational chemist at Pfizer for 19 years, where he set up and managed the Lead Discovery Group, led outsourcing for the chemistry department, chaired a USD 90 million file enrichment collaboration and developed a number of chemoinformatic design tools. Prior to that, he spent a year in business and IT consultancy at Accenture.

Dr Gardner earned a BSc in chemistry from Imperial College and a PhD in natural product synthesis from the University of Cambridge, where he then carried out postdoctoral research in computational chemistry.
NEW TOOLS FOR RESEARCH ON KINETOPLASTID DISEASES

NOTES
NEW TOOLS FOR RESEARCH ON KINETOPLASTID DISEASES

NOTES