Prof. Steve Ward  
Professor of Parasitology at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (UK)  

will give a presentation entitled

“Optimising Treatment for Human Filariasis: The importance of translational models and human dose predictions“

Friday, June 2, 2017, at 10:00 s.t.  
in Blg E8.1, Seminar Room (Ground Floor)

Host: Prof. Dr. Rolf Müller

There is opportunity to talk with the speaker before or after the talk.

For details and for making appointments please contact: Birgitta Lelarge,  
0681-98806-3022 or per email: birgitta.lelarge@helmholtz-hzi.de

Guests are welcome!
Abstract

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Onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis (LF) are priority neglected tropical diseases targeted for elimination. In both cases the filarial parasites harbor a symbiotic endobacterium, Wolbachia. Targeting Wolbachia with an antibiotic such as doxycycline results in a macrofilaricidal effect. The A.WOL consortia was established to look for new anti-Wolbachia based treatments that could reduce treatment timeframes and that could be deployed in children and pregnant women. The consortia has screened over 1.8 million compounds for in vitro anti-wolbachia activity the hits of which have been progressed through standard pipelines to deliver the next generation of marofilaricide. The outputs of this endeavor include three new repurposing opportunities, two new drug candidates in formal development and dozens of novel lead series ready for development. The establishment of a validated translational path for macrofilaricides has highlighted the critical importance of PK/PD relationships, model selection and model to human bridging studies in de-risking the drug discovery process. These key determinants of success will be described with appropriate examples.

CV

Professor Steve Ward is Deputy Director and Walter Myers Professor of Parasitology at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). Originally trained to PhD level in Liverpool, Steve has also worked extensively in the United States (Vanderbilt University), Kenya and Thailand.

In terms of research expertise, he heads Drug Discovery at LSTM, with a portfolio of antimalarial, anti-TB and antihelminthic drugs. Steve has delivered one molecule to full international registration, three molecules into human trials and four molecules through a completed full preclinical development. His over-riding philosophy has always been to exploit the best science to deliver products that can improve the health of vulnerable populations.

He has established a significant number of global collaborative links with key organisations in Africa, S.E Asia and China and has received accolades including the Dr Chitavat Sadavongvivad Memorial Medal from Thai Pharmacology Society (2010), Thompson Medal from the Royal Society for Chemistry (2011) and Sornchai Looareesuwan Medal from Mahidol University (2013).