

# 53. Jahrestagung

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# 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

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**2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024**

**@ Josephinum, Währinger Straße 25, 1090 Wien**

[www.oegtpm.at](http://www.oegtpm.at)



\*Junior Award Candidate



Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen,

es ist uns eine besondere Freude und Ehre, Sie bei der **53. Jahrestagung** der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Tropenmedizin, Parasitologie und Migrationsmedizin willkommen zu heißen. Diese Veranstaltung bietet uns, nach einigen Jahren Pause, wieder eine wertvolle Gelegenheit, unser Fachwissen zu erweitern, neue wissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse auszutauschen und uns über aktuelle Trends und Entwicklungen in unseren Fachgebieten zu informieren.



Die Programmschwerpunkte der diesjährigen Tagung entsprechen den neu gegründeten **Arbeitsgruppen der ÖGTPM**, die das fachliche Grundgerüst der Gesellschaft bilden.

- One Health
- Klinische Tropenmedizin/ Clinical Tropical Medicine
- Prävention/ Prevention
- Parasitologie/ Parasitology
- Internationale Zusammenarbeit/ International Cooperation

Angesichts der fortschreitenden Globalisierung und der zunehmenden Mobilität der Menschen haben Tropenkrankheiten, Parasiteninfektionen und migrationsbedingte Gesundheitsfragen in den letzten Jahren an Bedeutung gewonnen und der internationale Austausch von Wissen und Erfahrungen ist wichtiger denn je.

Wir freuen uns über die Teilnahme renommierter Expertinnen und Experten aus dem In- und Ausland, die uns in den Keynotes Einblicke in ihre aktuellen Forschungsprojekte geben werden. Die Vielfalt der Themen und Referate verspricht eine spannende und vielseitige Tagung, die sowohl für erfahrene Fachleute als auch für Nachwuchskräfte interessante Impulse bieten wird. Nützen wir die Möglichkeit, neue Kooperationen zu knüpfen und bestehende Partnerschaften zu vertiefen.

Besonderer Dank gilt dem diesjährigen Kongresspräsidenten **Priv.Doz. Mag. Dr. Hans-Peter Fuehrer**, den Organisatorinnen und Organisatoren im Vorstand sowie den Vortragenden.

Wir freuen uns auf einen spannenden und wissenschaftlich bereichernden Austausch.

Bernhard Haas, Präsident der ÖGTPM, für den Vorstand der ÖGTPM



## Rahmenprogramm

Wir freuen uns, folgende **Keynote Speaker** ankündigen zu dürfen/ *We are pleased to announce the following keynote speakers:*

### **Prof. Dr. Michael RAMHARTER**

Leitung der AG Klinische Tropenmedizin der ÖGTPM  
Leiter der Abteilung für Klinische Forschung am Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin,  
Leiter der Sektion Tropenmedizin am Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Deutschland

„Clinical research in tropical medicine: Perspectives from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg”

### **Dr. Sophie DURAFFOUR (PhD)**

Head of Outbreak Preparedness and Response group  
Department of Virology, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany

“Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg: Current Status and the Central Role of Laboratories”

### **Programmschwerpunkte/ *subject areas***

- One Health
- Klinische Tropenmedizin/ *Clinical Tropical Medicine*
- Prävention/ *Prevention*
- Parasitologie/ *Parasitology*
- Internationale Zusammenarbeit/ *International Cooperation*



## SPONSOREN



# Boehringer Ingelheim

## WISSENSCHAFTLICHES PROGRAMM/ *SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM*

**Monday, 02 December 2024**

08:00 – 09:00, Registrierung/*Registration*

**09:00 – 09:15, Welcome and Introduction – Chair: Bernhard Haas**

**09:15 – 10:15, Michael Ramharter (Plenar) – Clinical research in tropical medicine: perspectives from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg**

10:15 – 11:00, Kaffeepause/*Coffee break*

**11:00 – 12:00, Session 1: Klinische Tropenmedizin/*Clinical Tropical Medicine (I)* – Chair: Michael Ramharter and Heimo Lagler**

**\*11:00 – 11:15, Sandra Regensburger – A systematic review of eumycetoma: The clinical study landscape and insights into causative pathogen species of a neglected tropical disease**

**11:15 – 11:30, Astrid Erber – Evaluation of an electricity-independent method for loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) diagnosis of Buruli ulcer in resource-limited settings**

**11:30 – 11:45, Javeria Pervaiz – Immunosuppressive macrolides inhibit transcription factors and epithelial-mesenchymal transition**

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(EMT) related parameters induced by *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection in conjunctival epithelial cells

**11:45 – 12:00, Johannes Mischlinger** – Clinical and parasitological characteristics of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria in malaria-naïve patients: A review of malariotherapy in patients with schizophrenia and neurosyphilis during the 1950s and 1960s in Vienna, Austria

12:00 – 13:00, Mittagspause/*Lunch break*

**13:00 – 15:00, Poster session – Chair: Angelika Wagner and Aline Lamien-Meda**

**15:00 – 16:30, Session 2: Klinische Tropenmedizin/*Clinical Tropical Medicine* (II)/One Health/Vector Biology – Chair: Peter Kremsner and Michael Ramharter**

**15:00 – 15:15, Heimo Lagler** – Treatment of amoebic liver abscesses with once-daily parenteral high-dose of metronidazole: A retrospective cohort study

**15:15 – 15:30, Veronika Kirchlechner** – Toxocarosis in a patient with autism spectrum disorder presenting with severe hypereosinophilia and acute respiratory distress: a case report

**\*15:30 – 15:45, Zoë Tess Lara Lindhorst** – Detection of zoonotic protozoa in raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) from aquaculture zones in Saxony (Germany): One Health perspective

**15:45 – 16:00, Aline Lamien-Meda** – ATIV BIODAT: Biodiversity of Vectors and Vector-Borne Diseases of Austria

**16:00 – 16:15, Sargis A. Aghayan** – Ticks and Tick-Borne Pathogens in Armenia: An Overview of Our Recent Years' Research

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**16:15 – 16:30, Anna-Margarita Schötta** – National Tick Surveillance Programme in Austria – One Health SURVector

16:30 – 17:15, Kaffeepause/*Coffee break*

**17:15 – 18:30, Session 3: One-Health/Vector Biology – Chair: Hans-Peter Fuehrer and Edwin Kniha**

**\*17:15 – 17:30, Julia Reichl** – An insight into the Austrian mosquito species inventory – Austrian Barcode of Life

**17:30 – 17:45, Edwin Kniha** – First detection of West Nile virus (WNV) in mosquitoes in the Republic of Kosovo: a recent confirmation of an old threat

**\*17:45 – 18:00, Tanto Situmorang** – Screening for trypanosomatid and haemosporidian parasites in field-caught Mosquitoes of Kosovo

**\*18:00 – 18:15, Ina Hoxha** – Sand flies (Diptera: Psychodidae) in the Republic of Kosovo: Distribution Mapping, Ecology and Pathogen Circulation Hotspots

**\*18:15 – 18:30, Katharina Platzgummer** – *Leishmania* Seroprevalence in Dogs: How our pet may become of One Health concern

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**Ab 19:00, gemütliches Get-together mit Fingerfood und Getränkeauswahl/*get together with finger food and drinks***

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**Tuesday, 03 December 2024**

08:30 – 09:00, Registrierung/*Registration*

**09:00 – 10:00, Sophie Duraffour (Plenar) – Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg: Current Status and the Central Role of Laboratories**

**10:00 – 10:30, Session 4: Internationale Zusammenarbeit – Chair: Mirjam Groger and Felix Lötsch**

**10:00 – 10:15, Julia Walochnik – Friend or foe – *Blastocystis* prevalence in Austria**

**\*10:15 – 10:30, Michal Prikryl – What orangutans (*Pongo* spp.) can teach us: plants used for self-medication as a potential source of bioactive substances with amebicidal and anti-giardial effects**

10:30-11:00, Kaffeepause/*Coffee break*

**11:00 – 12:00, Session 5: Parasitology (I) – Chair: Vyacheslav Yurchenko and Maria Unterköfler**

**\*11:00 – 11:15, Maximilian Egg – Mite be a problem? Resistance to scabicides in *Sarcoptes scabiei* variatio hominis mites**

**11:15 – 11:30, Barbara Hinney – Dynamics of *Fasciola hepatica* infection in alpine pastured cattle in Tyrol**

**\*11:30 – 11:45, Severin Schuler – *Fasciola hepatica* on dairy farms in Tyrol - increasing prevalence and risk factor for *S. dublin* infections**

**11:45 – 12:00, Sandra Wiedermann – Comparison of OvaCyte™ and Mini-FLOTAC in the quantification of trichostrongylid eggs from bovine faecal samples**

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12:00 – 13:00, Mittagspause/*Lunch break*

**13:00 – 14:00, Generalversammlung der ÖGTPM und Stimmenabgabe Junior Awards/*General assembly and junior award voting***

**14:00 – 15:00, Session 6: Parasitology (II) – Chair: Julia Walochnik and Barbara Hinney**

**14:00 – 14:15, Vyacheslav Yurchenko** – Catalase is detrimental for *Leishmania* virulence (with notes on evolution of catalases in Trypanosomatidae)

**14:15 – 14:30, Alexei Yu. Kostygov** – The first virus in *Leishmania* (Viannia) other than LRV1

**14:30 – 14:45, David Leitsch** – Comparative proteomic analysis of metronidazole-sensitive and -resistant *Trichomonas vaginalis* suggests a novel mode of metronidazole action and resistance

**14:45 – 15:00, Miguel Peña-Espinoza** – Effects of dietary protein supplementation on the periparturient relaxation of immunity in goats naturally infected with gastrointestinal nematodes: preliminary results

15:00-15:45, Kaffeepause/*Coffee break*

**15:45 – 17:00, Session 7: Parasitology (III) – Chair: Julia Walochnik and David Leitsch**

**15:45 – 16:00, Maria Unterköfler** – Histology and  $\mu$ CT morphology of *Phortica variegata*

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**16:00 – 16:15, David Ebmer** – Unraveling the potential vector role of the seal louse (*Echinophthirius horridus*) within the life cycle of the seal heartworm (*Acanthocheilonema spirocauda*)

**16:15 – 16:30, Martina Köhler** – *Entamoeba gingivalis* – harmless commensal or active driver of periodontitis?

**16:30 – 16:45, Iwona Lesiak-Markowicz** – *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Mycoplasma hominis* in Austria – an epidemiological and molecular overview

**16:45 – 17:00, Heimo Lagler** – Pulmonary mass of unknown cause

**17:00 – 18:00, Preisverleihung Junior-Award und Posterpreis/Junior award and poster award ceremony, Abschluss der Tagung/closing of the conference**

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## Poster Presentations (presenting authors)

**P1 – Lena Ederer** - Comparison of antibodies against vaccine-preventable diseases in pregnant women from Austria and Gabon.

**P2 – Mirjam Groger** - Treatment and prophylaxis research on leprosy in Africa: A systematic review

**P3 – Seda Adamyan** - *Leishmania* spp. and *Dirofilaria* spp. in dogs in Armenia

**P4 – Mirjam Groger** - Retrospective registry-based analysis of 2017–2019 surveillance data from the National Leprosy Programme in Ghana and evaluation of Ghana's performance towards the targets of the WHO Global Leprosy Strategy 2016–2020

**P5 – Felix Lötsch** - Prevalence of hrp2 and hrp3 gene deletions in clinical cases of *P. falciparum* malaria in Lambaréné, Gabon, and sensitivity of antigens used in rapid diagnostic tests

**P6 - Johannes Mischlinger** - Oro-facial filariasis – A systematic review of the literature

**P7 – Hans-Peter Fuehrer** - The Asian tiger mosquito - Current situation and surveillance programs in Austria

**\*P8 – Margarida Ruivo** - Updated distribution of *Dermacentor* ticks in Austria

**P9 - Somayeh Maghsoomi** - Aptamer-Modified Electrochemical Sensors for Rapid Detection of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Using Methylene Blue

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**\*P10 – Moh Mirza Nuryady** - Breeding site preferences and resistance status analysis of *Aedes aegypti* against 0.8% malathion and 0.05% cypermethrin insecticides post-covid-19 in Malang, Indonesia

**P11 - Alvie Loufouma-Mbouaka** - Molecular characterization of proteases involved in *Acanthamoeba* cytopathogenicity

**P12 – Ana Paunkov** - Efflux pump inhibitors and the role of nitroreductases in metronidazole-resistant *Trichomonas vaginalis*

**P13 - Gohar G. Grigoryan** - Detection of bacterial and protozoan pathogens in bats' ectoparasites in Armenia using high-throughput microfluidic real-time PCR

**\*P14 – Hanna Hubmann** - Laboratory breeding of *Phortica variegata* (Diptera: Drosophilidae), the vector of *Thelazia callipaeda*

**P15 - Kateryna Starynets** - The culture of *Giardia lamblia* under microaerobic conditions can impact susceptibility to metronidazole

**\*P16 – Lou Knobloch** - Molecular analysis of vector-borne pathogens in wild ungulates from Burgenland, Austria

**P17 - Manan Asikyan** - A Pilot PCR screening of *Toxoplasma gondii* in birds of Armenia

**P18 - Ruzanna Gevorgyan** - Seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* among livestock in northern provinces of Armenia

**P19 - Theodor Palfy** - Phylogenetic analyses of *Ascaris* isolates from humans in Austria

**P20 - Teresa Cruz-Bustos** - Insights into *Toxoplasma gondii* Extracellular Vesicles

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# ABSTRACT BOOK/ORAL PRESENTATIONS

## **Plenar 1 - Clinical research in tropical medicine: Perspectives from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg**

Michael Ramharter<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centre of Tropical Medicine, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine and I. Department of Internal Medicine I University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany.

## **\*Session 3-4 - Sand flies (Diptera: Psychodidae) in the Republic of Kosovo: Distribution Mapping, Ecology and Pathogen Circulation Hotspots**

Ina Hoxha<sup>1\*</sup>, Betim Xhekaj<sup>2</sup>, Katharina Platzgummer<sup>1</sup>, Vit Dvořák<sup>3</sup>, Nazli Ayhan<sup>4</sup>, Remi Charrel<sup>4</sup>, Elif Kürüm<sup>4</sup>, Nesade Muja Bajraktari<sup>5</sup>, Markus Milchram<sup>6</sup>, Adelheid G. Obwaller<sup>7</sup>, Wolfgang Poepl<sup>8</sup>, Jovana Stefanovska<sup>9</sup>, Aleksandar Cvetkovikj<sup>9</sup>, Julia Walochnik<sup>1</sup>, Attila J. Trájer<sup>10</sup>, Kurtesh Sherifi<sup>2</sup>, Edwin Kniha<sup>1</sup>

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During military deployments, soldiers are at risk of contracting diseases transmitted by medically relevant vectors (ticks, mosquitoes and sand flies) in endemic regions. Previous studies have detected antibodies against *Leishmania* and phleboviruses, in Austrian soldiers returning from Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina; demonstrating a clear exposure to these pathogens. Phlebotomine sand flies (Diptera: Psychodidae) are small, hematophagous insects and the principal vectors of *Leishmania* spp. and phleboviruses. Both are endemic in the Balkans, but have long been understudied. This study aimed to assess and update the sand fly distribution in Kosovo, evaluate factors influencing their presence, and assess local pathogen circulation. Two sand fly surveys using CDC light traps were conducted in understudied regions of Kosovo in 2022 and 2023. Morphological identification was confirmed by barcoding, and host-feeding preferences were assessed by blood meal analyses. PCR-based methods and sequencing were used to screen for *Leishmania* spp. and phleboviruses. Additional occurrence data from two previous surveys were incorporated to generate distribution maps and evaluate environmental data. More than 3500 sand flies were trapped in seven regions of Kosovo with *Ph. neglectus* and *Ph. perfilliewi* being the most prevalent. Barcodes of eight endemic species were generated and environmental analyses identified two geographical groups with notable differences between species. Blood meals of five sand fly species, identifying seven different host species. *Leishmania* DNA was amplified from two sand fly species, in both cases *L. infantum*, whereas RNA from three phlebovirus species was detected. This study provides the most comprehensive sand fly survey for the Kosovo to date, identifying factors influencing sand fly occurrence and potential hotspots of pathogen circulation, thus highlighting

the need for targeted measures to mitigate the risk of vector-borne diseases in the region.

This study has been funded by the Austrian defence research programme FORTE of the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) (grant number 886318) and also supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.