RENDEZ-VOUS 2014

Short Biographies of the Speakers

Today's Catalyst For Tomorrow's Vaccines

Alexandre Le Vert
Chief Executive Officer
IMAXIO, France

Alexandre is the chief executive officer (CEO) of IMAXIO since early 2011. He started his career as a research scientist at Harvard University and Institut Pasteur (2001 – 2003). He then became Marketing Manager and Sales Director at BMS France (2003-2008) working in oncology and hepatology, before spending two years in the Paris office of the Boston Consulting Group as a strategic and management consultant (2009-2011). Alexandre is a Board Member of several biotech companies in France and in the US (InnaVirVax, Vitam Fero, Telomere Diagnostics, Hybrigenics). He graduated from Ecole Polytechnique (MS) (Palaiseau, France) and Harvard University (MA, USA).

Project:
BELLEROPHON

Title of talk:
"Combining cellular and humoral immune responses as a vaccine strategy against *Staphylococcus aureus* pathogen"

Paula Marques Alves
Chief Executive Officer
iBET - Instituto de Biologia Experimental e Tecnológica, Portugal

Paula is the chief executive officer (CEO) of iBET (since 2012) and coordinates the Animal Cell Technology Unit of iBET/ITQB-New University of Lisbon (since 2007). She is invited Associate Professor at the FCT-New University of Lisbon (since 2011). She did her PhD in Biochemical Engineering in 2001 at Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica (ITQB).

Since 1995, Paula has focused her research on understanding cell metabolism to improve the efficiency of bioprocesses and at developing new tools and technologies for pre-clinical research. Through her career she has been using Animal Cell Technology for R&D in particular for: (i) production of complex biopharmaceuticals such as viral vectors, vaccines and recombinant proteins, (ii) development of 3D culture systems for toxicity testing - using primary cultures and stem cells - and for expansion and differentiation of stem cells in bioreactors for cell therapy applications and (iii) application of systems biology approaches to organise the complexity of the processes involved in the research described in (i) and (ii).

In addition, Paula is currently vice-president of the European Society for Animal Cell Technology (ESACT) and member of the Horizon 2020 Advisory Group for Societal Challenge 1 - Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing. She serves numerous scientific committees in international conferences and is reviewer for several international committees (Wellcome Trust/India, ANR-France, ETMR-Scotland, EU-FP7 etc.) Paula published over 167 papers in internationally reviewed journals.

Project:
EDUFLUVAC

Title of talk:
"Approach: Antigen selection and production"

Thor Theander
Centre for Medical Parasitology
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Thor is Professor of Parasitology and International Health at University of Copenhagen. He qualified in medicine from University of Copenhagen in 1982, and started his research carrier after a few years of clinical rotations. The research has centred on malaria. With support from primarily Danida, Thor has led research capacity strengthening programmes in The Sudan, Ghana and Tanzania. Currently his main research activities are focused on understanding the pathogenesis of severe paediatric malaria and malaria in pregnancy and this knowledge to develop new interventions. With colleagues at University in Copenhagen he is developing a vaccine against placental malaria which is planned to undergo clinical phase I clinical trials within the next years.

Project:
PAMCPH/PlacMalVac

Title of talk:
"VAR2CSA antigen: production and clinical development"

Hervé Ginisty
Chief Scientific Officer
GTP Technology, France

Hervé spent his education at the University Paul Sabatier in Toulouse with majors on molecular biology and microbiology. His first research experience was dedicated to microorganism/plant interactions and nitrogen fixation at nutrition at the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA). It was followed by Ribosome biogenesis and nucleolus study at the Laboratory for Molecular Biology of Eukaryotes at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France. Hervé continued in this field for his PhD focused on nucleolin and RNA/protein interaction (Institute of Pharmacology and Structural Biology, CNRS). He focussed on nucleolin interaction with the pre-ARNm and trying to understand how this main nucleolar non-ribosomal protein, may act as a chaperone of large RNA/proteins complexes like ribosomes. After his PhD in 2000, Hervé moved from molecular biology and biochemistry to human genetics and spent 2 years as a post-doc at INSERM (U563).
In 2002 Hervé joined GTP as chief scientific officer and from this period he followed GTP technology evolution: from expression of milligrams of target proteins for pharmaceutical companies, to development of processes dedicated to production of biotherapeutics at the level of 10 to 100 grams, passing through development and purification of proteins for structural studies.

Project:
PRIMALVAC

Title of talk:
"Process development"

Simon Draper
The Jenner Institute, University of Oxford, UK

Simon is a UK Medical Research Council (MRC) Research Fellow, Lister Institute Research Prize Fellow and University Research Lecturer at the Jenner Institute, University of Oxford, where he leads the Blood-Stage Malaria Vaccine Group.

His research interests include studies of vaccine-induced malaria immunity as well as the optimisation of antibody and B cell induction by subunit vaccines against blood-stage malaria infection. His group has pioneered the use of vectored vaccine delivery platforms for antibody induction, and has since applied this approach and other subunit vaccine delivery strategies to preclinical antigen discovery. In recent years, his group has developed new vaccines targeting blood-stage antigens from the human malaria parasites *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax*, and these have been translated into phase I/IIa clinical trials. Most recently his group has focussed on the development of vaccines targeting the conserved, but antibody-susceptible, blood-stage malaria antigen PfRH5. On-going work is seeking to identify combinations of antigens that are even more susceptible to antibodies, and which could prove to be most successful in inducing protective efficacy against malaria by subunit vaccination in humans.

Project:
InnoMalVac

Title of talk:
"Rh5: an update"

Alfred Tiono
Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme,
Burkina Faso

Alfred is an MD with a PhD degree in Epidemiology. He was a former fellow of the World Health Organization (WHO)/GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Biologicals for one year training on the clinical development of malaria vaccines and Senior Fellow of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnerships (EDCTP).
He has been working in the field of malaria for over ten years, and has been a frequent contributor to the National Malaria Control Program implementation.
Alfred is currently the head of the public health Department of Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme (CNRFP). His current research interest involves clinical trials of malaria vaccine candidates and antimalarial drugs, development of innovative Community based interventions against malaria.

Project:
MVVC

Title of talk:
"Preliminary results of a phase I/IIb clinical trial with ChAd63 ME-TRAP and MVA ME-TRAP"

Muhammed Afolab
Medical Research Council Unit, The Gambia

Muhammed obtained a medical degree from the University of Ibadan and a master degree in Public Health from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. He also holds the postgraduate fellowships of the West African College of Physicians and National Postgraduate Medical College in Family Medicine. Muhammed joined the service of the Medical Research Council, The Gambia in June 2009 as a Research Clinician and coordinated the clinical and field aspects of an EDCTP-funded infant HIV-1 vaccine trial. Upon successful completion of this trial, he joined Malaria Vectored Vaccines Consortium (MVVC) as the clinician coordinating the clinical and field aspects of malaria vectored vaccine trials in adults, children and infants. Through the capacity building activities of MVVC, he also obtained a postgraduate diploma in Clinical Research from the Vienna School of Clinical Research, Austria. He is currently leading a team of scientists from MRC, The Gambia and UCAD, Senegal on a collaborative trial aimed at evaluating the interference of candidate malaria vaccines when co-administered with Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) vaccines in Gambian infants aged 16, 8 and 1 weeks.

During his PhD study Muhammed developed locally appropriate strategy to deliver study information to the clinical trial subject. In recognition of his remarkable contributions to the ethical conduct of clinical trials, Muhammed was awarded the MRC Director's Award in November 2013. Also in October 2014, he was recognised with a commendation award for driving positive change in the conduct of clinical trials by the MRC Chief Executive Officer, Sir John Savill.

Project:
MVVC 2

Title of talk:
"Phase I/IIb safety and immunogenicity of ChAd63/MVA ME-TRAP vaccine candidates co-administered with EPI vaccines in infantts"

Adrian Hill
Professor of Human Genetics & Director of the Jenner Institute
University of Oxford, UK

Adrian trained at Trinity College Dublin and Oxford is now Professor of Human Genetics and Director of the Jenner Institute at University of Oxford. He leads research programmes in both the genetics of susceptibility to tropical infectious diseases and in vaccine development. His group identified heterologous prime-boost immunisation using non-replicating vectors as an exceptionally potent approach for inducing protective T cell responses in murine malaria and undertook the first clinical trials of this approach. The Jenner Institute has a major interest in filling the gap between pre-clinical vaccine design and large-scale field efficacy trials. Over fifty clinical trials have been undertaken in recent years by Jenner Investigators who are developing new vaccines against malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, meningitis, pandemic influenza and hepatitis C. He is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator. He has published over 400 research papers.

Project:
MultiMalVax

Title of talk:
"Development of a multi-component multistage malaria vaccine – here we are"

Odile Launay
Chief Executive officer
Centre Investigation Clinique (CIC) Cochin-Pasteur, France

Odile, MD, PhD, is an infectious diseases specialist and senior lecturer at the Université Paris Descartes. She has extensive experience in the field of clinical research. Odile has been principal investigator of many international clinical trials, especially concerning vaccines, HIV and Influenza.
She is the coordinator of the French vaccinology research network (I-REIVAC).
Odile is the coordinator and investigator of Stopenterics project (Phase I clinical trial on *Shigella sonnei* vaccine, FP7 program) and of AMA1- DiCo clinical trial.
She is involved in many courses in vaccinology and infectious diseases (Université Paris Descartes, Institut Pasteur). She is the vice president of the French Technical Committee of Immunisation.

Project:
AMA1-DiCo

Title of duet with Adama Gansane:
"AMA1-DiCO clinical trial phase Ia/Ib: an update"

Adama Gansane
Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme,
Burkina Faso

Adama is a biomedical scientist working since more than ten years on malaria research, particularly on antimalarial drugs and vaccine development (clinical trials). He is currently the clinical coordinator of the ongoing AMA1- DiCo Phase Ib vaccine trial at Centre National de Recherche et de Formation sur le Paludisme (CNRFP). He is also the Head of clinical laboratory in the institution and deputy of the department of biomedical laboratories.

Previously Adama was the head of the unit in charge of clinical trials at CNRFP and deputy of the department of public health.

As consultant, Adama also provides assistance to sponsors and study teams in GCP (Good Clinical Practice) monitoring of clinical trials conducted in Africa.

Project:
AMA1-DiCo

Title of duet with Odile Launay:
"AMA1-DiCo clinical trial phase Ia/Ib: an update"

François Spertini
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV), Switzerland

François is currently Associate Professor of Medicine at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of the University of Lausanne and chief-physician at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois in Lausanne. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and in Allergology and Clinical Immunology. He studied medicine at the University of Lausanne and developed strong background in basic and clinical immunology during successive trainings at the University of Geneva and at Harvard Medical School, Boston, before establishing his group in Lausanne. His research focuses on immune responses to malaria and tuberculosis, as well as on the down regulation of the allergic response, taking advantage of early phase I and II clinical trials. He has led several early phase clinical trials on novel vaccine candidates in the field of malaria and tuberculosis. He was President of the Swiss Society of Immunology and Allergy and is involved in several immunological scientific associations.

Project:
P27A

Title of duet with Seif Shekalaghe:
"P27A clinical trial phase Ia/Ib: an update"

Seif Shekalaghe
Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania

Seif is clinical epidemiologist with over seven years of experience in conducting clinical trials for malaria diagnostic devices, drugs and vaccines in order to improve diagnosis and care, as well as prevention and interrupting malaria transmission.

Seif has been principal investigator (PI) and co-PI of several clinical trials (Phase I-III). He is currently a PI and a co-PI of two phase I malaria vaccine candidate trials and PI of Primaquine drug study.

Seif has recently been promoted as a head of Intervention Thematic Group within the institute and is a head of phase I clinical trial unit of Ifakara Health Institute in Bagamoyo. Seif was trained as Medical Doctor way back 2002 and later attained his MSc in Public Health majoring in Clinical Epidemiology at University of Nottingham in the UK in 2004. In 2010 he was awarded PhD at the University of Radboud Nijmegen in The Netherland and main focus of PhD was on "Interrupting malaria transmission through intervention studies".

Seif is a visiting lecturer at Tumaini University, Tanzania where he teaches research methodology, epidemiology and basic biostatistics. He has published in number of outstanding journals and has supervised three MSc students and co-supervised one PhD student.

Project:
P27A

Title of duet with François Spertini:
"P27A clinical trial phase Ia/Ib: an update"

Ayola Akim Adegnika
Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné, Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Gabon

Akim obtained his MD degree at the University of Libreville, Gabon and a PhD at the University of Tübingen, Germany. After a postgraduate education in epidemiology at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK, Akim obtained an academic grade of assistant professor in Immunology, Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES), Burkina Faso.
Akim is a co-director and group leader in immuno-epidemiology of parasitic infections. He has a long experience in the field work activities, in basic research and epidemiology of helminthiasis in relationship with allergy diseases and malaria infection. Furthermore, he has conducted as PI and/or investigator several clinical trials testing new anti-malarial agents and evaluating efficacy of the existing anti-malarial drugs. In addition, he has an excellent international cooperation with European universities as the University of Tübingen, Germany and the Leiden Medical University Center, The Netherlands. He is author and co-author of a number of publications in the area of clinical trials, immunology and epidemiology of infectious diseases including malaria, helminthiasis, tuberculosis and influenza. He is lecturer at Medical School of Libreville and the Ecole Doctorale Regionale, Gabon as well as at the University of Tübingen in Germany.

Project:
IDEA

Title of talk:
"Helminths and malaria"

Emanuele Montomoli
Professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine
University of Siena, Italy

Emanuele is Professor on Public Health at University of Siena in Italy. He received his BSc and MSc in Life Sciences from University of Siena in Italy in 1995 and he earned his MBiochem in 2001. He is also Chief of Scientific Office of VisMederi srl, a private enterprise involved in management and serology for clinical trials and focussed studies with human viruses for pharmaceutical companies.

His research interest is primarily in the field of influenza vaccines, and in particular in the study of correlates of protection. He is expert in development, standardisation and validation of assays for antibody detection. He has conducted many clinical and laboratory research studies to evaluate immunogenicity and efficacy of traditional and new influenza vaccines. He has also undertaken in planning and execution of European seroepidemiological studies for emerging infectious disease in collaboration with WHO Regional Office and eCDC.

Since 2012 he sits on a Board of ISIRV Society. Over the years, he has published almost 50 scientific papers and reviews, and written several chapters in textbooks.

Project:
FLUCOP

Title of talk:
"Standardisation and development of assays for assessment of influenza vaccine correlate of protection"

Iain Milligan
Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford, UK

Iain is currently an adult clinical research fellow at the Oxford Vaccine Group. His clinical background is as an infectious diseases and virology registrar having most recently worked at St Thomas's Hospital, London. Iain undertook his undergraduate training at Brighton & Sussex Medical School where he first developed his interests in infectious diseases, vaccinology and global health. His current primary research interest is in the ongoing development of human challenge models of typhoid and paratyphoid infection and their application to vaccine trials. Iain is also actively involved in phase I clinical trials to assess the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of vaccines against RSV and Ebola using replicatively-incompetent viral vectors.

Project:
PIM

Title of duet with Malick Gibani:
"Development of a paratyphoid human infection model to accelerate vaccine development"

Malick Gibani

Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom (MRCP), UK

Malick studied medicine at the University of Oxford before continuing his training in internal medicine at a variety of London teaching hospitals. He joined the Oxford Vaccine Group in August 2014 as a clinical research fellow, to work with Professor Andrew Pollard and pursue his interest in infection and immunity. Malick is the lead clinician of an upcoming clinical study that utilises a controlled human infection model to investigate the mechanisms and determinants of systemic and mucosal immunity following prior exposure to *Salmonella typhi* and *Salmonella paratyphi*. This project aims to contribute to the understanding of the complex immune response to infection with typhoidal Salmonellae and, by relating responses in a controlled human infection model to natural protection, aims to facilitate the design and evaluation of novel vaccines.

Project:

PIM

Title of duet with Iain Milligan:

"Development of a paratyphoid human infection model to accelerate vaccine development"

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