



Prof. Dr. med. Achim Hörauf

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Research Expertise

For more than twenty years as a parasitologist, my research has focused on neglected diseases, in particular filariases caused by filarial nematodes. My team and I are dedicated to the better understanding of filarial diseases through studying parasite induced immune response, genomics, drug discovery, development of diagnostic tools, clinical trials and translational research. Translation of results into policies and products like drugs and diagnostic tools are an important part of our research outcome, and a direct benefit to the population in need. That is why my team and I are committed to results driven policy guidance, development of easy to administer anti filarial medications, identification of biomarkers for non-invasive diagnostic tools and understanding filarial disease pathogenesis. We closely collaborate with our partners in 7 African countries, namely Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda, conducting research on neglected diseases and co-infections with HIV and/or Tuberculosis, or comorbidity with diabetes.

Positions Held:

2003-Present: Director, Institute of Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology, University Hospital Bonn, University of Bonn

2003-Present: Full Professor (C4), Medical Parasitology, University of Bonn

2001-2003: Director of Helminthology, Bernard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg

1995-2001: Independent Laboratory Head, Bernard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine

1990-1994: Fellow, Institute for Clinical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene, University of Erlangen

Advisory Board Memberships:

2017- Present: Chairman, German Network against Neglected Tropical Diseases (DNTDs, www.dntds.de).

2013- Present: Chairman, German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) Bonn – Cologne site (www.dzif.de)

2016- Present: Member of the DFG Review Board (Fachkollegium), 204-06 Parasitology and Biology of Tropical Infectious Disease Pathogens.

2007- Present: Member of various WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Parasitic Diseases and Filarial Infections

Awards and Prizes:

2015: The Innovation Prize by BioRegionen

2015: Memento Prize for Neglected Diseases

2002: German Society for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Award

2001: Martini-Award for excellent clinical research at the University Hospital Eppendorf, Hamburg

1999: German Society for Tropical Medicine Main Award

Educational Profile:

1998: Habilitation in Medical Microbiology and Infection Epidemiology, University of Hamburg

1995: Fellow of Medical Microbiology and Infection Epidemiology, University of Erlangen

1989: Doctor of Medicine (Dr. med): University of Erlangen

Current Funding:

Federal Ministry of education and Research (BMBF):

- Preclinical development of Corallopyronin A, an antibiotic active against filarial nematodes, sexually transmitted infections and Staphylococci ([Corals](#))
- Tackling the Obstacles to Fight Filariasis and Podoconiosis ([TAKeOFF](#))
- Epidemiology of Sars-CoV-2 influenced by helminth co-infection Ghana

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Deep Learning (AI) for Histology of Onchocerciasis. [Artificial Intelligence to speed the development of onchocerciasis treatment](#)

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft:

- [ExStra](#): Excellence Cluster - [ImmunoSensation²](#) - the immune sensory system, Grant EXC 2151.
- [MAP-TB](#): German-African Cooperation Project in Infectology: Helminth effects on BCG vaccine-induced protection against childhood tuberculosis (TB) as well as TB disease severity and recovery in Ghana and Cameroon
- [RHINO](#): Dissecting the effects of filarial-associated immune system modulation on HIV susceptibility
- [HO 2009/13-1 DFG project](#) Determination of the molecular mechanisms supporting the anti-inflammatory properties of IgG4 antibodies in filarial infections
- [FIMMIP](#): German-African Cooperation Project in Infectology: Impact of human filarial infections on the metabolic and immunological profile

Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi): In vivo and in vitro testing of potential macrofilaricidal drug candidates.

German Center for Infection Research (DZIF):

- Pre-clinical development of [Corallopyronin A](#) for filariasis and STI
- Filariasis biomarker discovery and development of diagnostic assays for antifilarial clinical trials and MDA

European Commission Horizon 2020: Collaboration for Innovation: Establishment of a pan-nematode drug development platform "[HELP Consortium](#)"

Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia: Lymphatic filariasis morbidity management in Ghana