

Curriculum vitae



van der Groen Guido

Prof. Emeritus
Head Virology Unit
Director AIDS Reference Laboratory Antwerpen (Beltestn° 194-T)
Department of Microbiology
Institute of Tropical Medicine
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General information

Title	:	Doctor in Science, Chemistry - Biochemistry
Birthplace	:	Kontich (Belgium)
Birthdate	:	11 December 1942
Sex	:	male
Nationality	:	Belgian
Married to	:	Constantia Petridis
Profession of wife	:	Workleader at the University Centre Antwerp - retired
Children	:	Ilse (1 May 1970), Sonja (6 July 1971)
Grandchildren	:	Lore (8 November 1995), Jana (10 October 2002)
Military service	:	Accomplished 1968-1969: health service
Address	:	Nerenaard 20, B-2550 Kontich, Tel. 03 4571062
Bank account nr	:	001-0267857-19
Languages	:	Dutch, English, French

Goal of life

- *Try to create and enjoy as much as possible good moments in life*
- *Avoid to become a "workaholic". Workaholics and alcoholics have one thing in common both are addicts; one is working during his drink, the other one is drinking during his work.*

Education

University of Gent (Belgium), Licentiate, 1964, Chemistry
University of Gent (Belgium), Doctor Sci. 1973, Biochemistry

01.01.2003	:	Emeritus (retired)
2000-31.12.2002	:	Professor, Head Virology Unit Director AIDS Reference Laboratory, Antwerpen (Beltestn° T-194).
1993-1999	:	Professor, Chairman of the Department of Microbiology, Head Virology Unit
1989-1993	:	Leading Scientific personnel category II, Deputy Director of the Microbiology Department, ITM

1983-1989	:	Leading Scientific personnel category III, Head of the Virology Department, ITM
1978-1983	:	Workleader, Head of the High Security Laboratory, ITM
1973-1978	:	Assistant at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Laboratory of Tropical Bacteriology and Virology
1964-1973	:	Assistant at the University of Gent, Belgium, Laboratory of General and Biological Chemistry

Actual major research interests

Virology - Rapid diagnosis - Haemorrhagic fever viruses - HIV/AIDS - emerging and re-emerging viruses

Synopsis of professional life experiences

1964 - 1973 : Full-time research worker at the Laboratory of General and Biological Chemistry. Chief: Prof. Dr. C.K. De Bruyne at the University of Gent. Research was focused on enzymology (enzymekinetiks) and carbohydrate research. Involved in training of first year students medicine, including teaching as well as organisation of practical exercises anorganic chemistry.

September 1973 : Started to work as assistant in the Department of Microbiology (Prof. Dr. S.R. Pattyn) at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp. Initially involved in research on the differentiation of mycobacteria. The best thing I did that year was to stop smoking.

1973 - 1975 : Switch to Virology, focusing on the study of arboviruses in the mouse model. In vitro interaction of arboviruses in organ culture systems, macrophages related to the pathogenicity of arboviruses for mice.

1976 : In our laboratory, Ebola virus was for the first time isolated from blood of a Belgian missionary Sister. After three months expedition in Zaire trying to control the epidemic as well as to find out where Ebola hides in nature, my interest in this fascinating virus as well as other haemorrhagic fever viruses started. Working three months under very primitive field conditions focused my interest on the development of very simple methods for the laboratory diagnosis of viral haemorrhagic fever viruses (VHF), as well as it encouraged me to do the maximum with the minimum of tools available. This trip made me aware of the tremendous public health problems in the developing countries.

1977 - 1982 : Invitation by Dr. K.M. Johnson to work at the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA for a three month period to get acquainted to work with very dangerous pathogens in a high security laboratory. With this experience, I was capable to design a high security laboratory at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, which was unique in that it was the smallest high security laboratory on earth using for the first time flexible film type of isolator to contain class 4 pathogens. This prototype of isolator became commercialised and was used in the United States, Japan, Australia, the USSR and Holland. This experience brought me to visit most of the high security laboratories in the world. I had a chance to continue my training on viral haemorrhagic fevers by working two more times at CDC, Atlanta, as well as in the US Army Medical Research Laboratories, Frederick Maryland, as well as at the Institute of Poliomyelitis in Moscow, USSR. That's the reason I am for sure on the list of the KGB as well as CIA! In the meantime I have participated at two more expeditions, one in Zaire (1979), the other in Cameroon (1981), in order to find Ebola virus. Until now, we don't know where Ebola virus hides in nature, despite extensive research efforts. This work was partially combined with the search for monkeypox viruses. Since 1979, I started to work regularly as consultant for the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the field of viral haemorrhagic fever diagnosis and laboratory safety. Since 1981, our laboratory became acknowledged as a WHO collaborating centre for VHF virus reference and research.

1983 - 1985 : Since 1983 I became head of the Virology section in the Microbiology department at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp. I became extremely interested in the "Hantaviruses", the etiologic agent of a disease in man called "Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS). A disease which is spread world-wide. From persistent infected rodents the hantaviruses are spread by aerogenic route to man. We started a

sero-epidemiologic study on the occurrence of hantaviruses in Belgium as well as in the neighbouring European countries. We set up close collaboration with laboratories in Holland, France, Germany, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, USSR, Great Britain, Yugoslavia, Albania and Poland. In addition, a close collaboration was established with laboratories in the USA, Canada, Japan, Korea and China, Senegal and Tanzania. Many of our studies were focusing on: establishment of laboratory diagnostic methods, prevalence studies of hantavirus antibodies in man and rodents; virus isolations; virus characterisation by epitope mapping using monoclonal antibodies; correlation of the clinical course of HFRS and the serotype of hantaviruses.

1985 -2002 : My new superior, Prof. Dr. P. Piot of the Department of Microbiology, was one of the first in 1983 to focus the epidemiologic investigations of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Central Africa. This resulted in gradual change of the laboratory activities from VHF work to retrovirus work. I got some retrovirus training in 1984 in Prof. Montagnier's as well as in Prof. Schmitz's laboratory in Paris and Hamburg respectively. This was the start of gradual increasing research activities in the field of AIDS focusing on the epidemiology of AIDS in Central Africa, isolation of HIV viruses, cloning and characterisation of HIV viruses, development of HIV antibody and antigens screening assays, second generation confirmatory assays for HIV, study of cellular immunologic phenomena in HIV infected persons, and vaccine development. Our laboratory became a national as well as a WHO Reference Laboratory for the study of AIDS. Since 1985, I fulfilled many WHO consultantships concerning AIDS diagnostics for the WHO Global Programme on AIDS (GPA), as well as consultantship on AIDS research for a company specialised in biotechnology. Unfortunately, I had to leave the active bench work and became gradually more and more involved in management, scientific guidance of collaborators, public relations and trying to find money for research projects. As chairman of the Microbiology Department I was in charge of \pm 70-80 people. Now I am head of the Virology Unit as well as Director of the AIDS Reference Laboratory Antwerpen, which obtained his quality label (Beltestn° T-194).

2003: retired.

01.10.2005 - 30.09.2008: Education Professor. Molecular targets in infected cells, AIDS research, VUB.

Scientific congresses, invited lecturers, research training courses, and WHO-UNAIDS consultantships brought me to all continents, except Antarctica.

In the period 1966 - 2017 editors of 61 different scientific journals were so kind to accept 334 papers of collaborative studies of our group.

Journal impactfactor for Guido van der Groen - 1998-2017

Institute of Tropical Medicine

Journal	Number	Impactfactor	Total
Acta Paediatric	1	1,647	1,647
AIDS	18	4,407	79,326
AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses	14	1,949	27,286
Antiviral therapy	1	2,916	2,916
Arch Virol	3	2,110	6,330
Clin Diagn Lab Immun	1	2,546	2,546
Clin Nephrology	1	1,065	1,065
Emerg Infect Dis	2	6,994	13,988
Eur J Clin Microbiol Inf Dis	2	2,857	5,714
Immunology	1	4,078	4,078
JAIDS	1	3,806	3,806
J Clin Microbiol	2	3,631	7,262
J Gen Virol	1	3,192	3,192
J Infect Dis	3	6,344	19,032
J Med Primatol	3	0,930	2,790
J Med Virol	9	1,998	17,982
J Virol Methods	6	1,508	9,048
J Virol	5	4,606	23,030
Nephrol Dial Transpl	1	4,085	4,085
Trop Med Int Health	1	2,519	2,519
Vaccine	2	3,413	6,826
Virology	5	3,200	16,000
Viruses	1	3,042	3,042
Virus Research	1	2,526	2,526
TOTAL	85,000	75,369	266,036
Median	3,130		

Impactfactors are from the 2015 science edition of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

Ranking of the five most cited publications 1972-present

1.

EBOLA HEMORRHAGIC-FEVER IN ZAIRE, 1976 - REPORT OF AN INTERNATIONAL-COMMISSION

By: Burke, J; Declercq, R; Ghysbrechts, G; et al. BULLETIN OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION Volume: 56 Issue: 2 Pages: 271-293 Published: 1978 **Times cited: 372**

2.

PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS OF GAG GENES FROM 70 INTERNATIONAL HIV-1 ISOLATES PROVIDES

EVIDENCE FOR MULTIPLE GENOTYPES By: LOUWAGIE, J; MCCUTCHAN, FE; PEETERS, M; et al. AIDS Volume: 7 Issue: 6 Pages: 769-780 Published: JUN 1993 **Times cited: 338**

3.

A DUAL INFECTION/COMPETITION ASSAY SHOWS A CORRELATION BETWEEN EX VIVO HUMAN

IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 1 FITNESS AND DISEASE PROGRESSION. By: Quinones-Mateu, ME; Ball, SC; Marozsan, AJ; et al. JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY. Volume: 74 Issue: 19 Pages: 9222-9233 Published: OCT 2000 **Times cited: 177**

4.

GENETIC DIVERSITY OF THE ENVELOPE GLYCOPROTEIN FROM HUMAN-IMMUNODEFICIENCY-VIRUS

TYPE-1 ISOLATES OF AFRICAN ORIGIN By: LOUWAGIE, J; JANSSENS, W; MASCOLA, J; et al. JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY Volume: 69 Issue: 1 Pages: 263-271 Published: JAN 1995 **Times cited: 172**

5.

HEMORRHAGIC-FEVER WITH RENAL SYNDROME By: LEE, HW; VANDERGROEN, G PROGRESS IN MEDICAL

VIROLOGY Volume: 36 Pages: 62-102 Published: 1989 **Times cited: 167**

Awards

Honourable mention for the Prize of the 4th Division, period 1985-1987, organised by the Royal Academy for Medicine of Belgium, for our work on Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome.

16.04.2004 Award offered by the "Maatschappelijke Jongeren Actie" (Social Youth Action) for our contribution in the fight against HIV/AIDS and sexual transmitted infections in Belgium and developing countries.

2007 Focus Award Laboratory medicine

Teaching experience

1964-1973 : Involved in training of first year students medicine, including teaching as well as organisation of practical exercises anorganic chemistry, at the University of Gent.

1990-present : Teaching HIV virology during the course of Master in Tropical Biomedical Sciences, organised at ITM.

2000-2003 : Appointed as a guest professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) to teach on a part-time base, 15hrs "Infectious Diseases, AIDS Research" at the 2nd year medical and pharmaceutical research, for the period 01.10.2000 up to 30.09.2003.
Renewed for the period 01.10.2003 - 30.09.2004.

01.10.05 - 30.09.08 Education Professor. Molecular targets in infected cells, AIDS research, VUB.

Fund raising (review of only the last five years)

1997-2000 : Study of HIV variability. Implications for vaccine and antiviral intervention.
FWO G.0134.97 (Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek)
30 775 000,- Bfr. (766 080.83088 €)

1997-2001 : Study of the HIV variability. Implications for vaccine development.
Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (Flemish Institute for Biotechnology)
51 000 000,- Bfr. (1 269 540.93826 €)

1997-1999 : Study of HIV-1 variability in Cameroon and Gabon. Implications for vaccine and antiviral intervention strategies.
EC ERB 3514 PL 632123 (European Commission)
12 600 000,- Bfr. (313 651.29063 €)

1996-1998 : Study of HIV-1 variability in Cameroon and Gabon. Implications for vaccine and antiviral intervention strategies.
IC 18-CT96-0110 (European Commission)
11 590 000,- Bfr. (297 470.86691 €)

1993-1996 : Study of the virulence of HIV from Africa and Belgium.
FWO 3.0132.93 (Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek)
5 000 000,- Bfr. (124 464.79787 €)

1995-2000 : AIDS Reference Laboratory
RIZIV
168 087 000 (4 186 705.614 €)

1998-2001	:	Study of a HIV-1 like virus (SIVcpz-ant) in a naturally and an experimentally infected chimpanzee. FWO 3.0364.98 (Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek) 6 500 000,- Bfr. (161 804.23723 €)
1998-2000	:	Vaccine to induce neutralisation of primary HIV strains National Institutes of Health (NIH) 10 470 000,- Bfr. (260 629.28674 €)
1999-2003	:	Quantitative monitoring of neutralising antibodies in sera of HIV vaccinated and/or HIV infected individuals: development and evaluation of a high throughput assay as a support for clinical anti-HIV vaccine trials” IWT (Vlaams Instituut voor de bevordering van het Wetenschappelijk Technologisch onderzoek in de industrie) 40 000 000,- Bfr. (995 718 €)
1995-	:	Several Technical Agreements related to evaluation of simple/rapid HIV tests UNAIDS/WHO 6 000 000,- Bfr. (149 357.75744 €)
01.01.2001 – 31.12.2003		Study of the <i>in vitro</i> neutralisation of primary HIV-1 isolates by antibodies induced by vaccination and natural infection FWO A year: 1 913 333,- Bfr. (47 628.52102 €)
01.01.2001 – 31.12.2003		Characterisation and serological identification of broad cross-neutralising antibodies against gp120 and gp41 envelop glycoproteins of HIV FWO A year: 2 500 000,- Bfr. (62 232.39893 €)

Memberships

- Koninklijke Chemische Vlaamse Vereniging.
- Koninklijke Nederlandse Chemische Vereniging.
- Steering Committee on diagnostics of the World Health Organisation (1991-1994).
- International Committee on the evaluation of research sponsored by NUTEK in Sweden.
- Member of the "Steering Committee on Diagnostics", World Health Organisation (WHO), Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) since 1991.
- Board of Belgian AIDS Reference Laboratories.
- Board of the AIDS Team.
- Scientific Advisory Board of UBCA (Universitair Bedrijvencentrum Antwerpen/University Business Centre Antwerp).
- Working Group 3. Capacity review and strengthening advising the EU-US Task Force for the Global Surveillance of Communicable Disease.
- Project Management group of the Inventory of Communicable Diseases.
- European network for imported emerging and re-emerging viral diseases.
- Editorial board of Natuur & Techniek.

- Member of the Program Management Group in support of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Italy, contractor of EC Directorate-General V, project "Analysis of means of controlling transmissible diseases".
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Study, archive and documentation centre Karel Cuypers v.z.w.
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the ANRS/European AIDS Vaccine Research Workshop.
- 6 December 1999: invited to be member of the Advisory Committee for providing scientific support to the HIV genotyping and phenotyping proficiency testing program of VIRCO.
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, AIDS Foundation of The Netherlands.
- Member of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) neutralising antibody Task Force. April 27, 2000.
- Membership of the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten. 2 August 2000.
- Membership of the American Society for Microbiology (2000-12.31.2001)
- Appointed as expert for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (19.12.2005)

Professional service

Consultantships

- Adviser to the National AIDS Reference Centres in Belgium on P3/HIV laboratory safety (1992).
- Consultant for "Family Health International". Technical advice to the Cameroonian government on quality control of HIV screening in blood transfusion centres in Cameroon (1989).
- In the period 1979 to 2000, 40 consultantships for the WHO* in 20 different countries, as an expert on orthopox, viral haemorrhagic fever viruses, high security laboratory safety, first assessment and mid term programmes on AIDS, laboratory diagnosis of HIV, emerging & re-emerging viral diseases.
- Consulting as HIV/AIDS expert to the Wellcome Trust Advisory Panel for awarding research grants

* List of consultantships for the WHO

1. 1979 June - July: Consultant WHO, Zaire Ebola/Monkeypox virus project
2. 1980 October 21-24: Part time adviser at the WHO meeting on the development of guidelines for laboratory classification and patient isolation facilities. C.A.M.R. Porton Down, Great Britain.
3. 1981 Department of Virology, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium, accepted as WHO collaborating Centre for Virus Reference and Research (Special Pathogens).
4. 1981 October 25-28: Short term consultant, Meeting on Orthopox antibody testing, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA
5. 1983 September 28-30: Temporary adviser at the "Ad hoc" meeting on surveillance of viral haemorrhagic fevers, Antwerp, Belgium.
6. 1983 October 3-5: Temporary adviser at the "Working group on tick borne encephalitis and haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome in Europe", Baden, Austria.
7. 1984 March 19-24: Temporary adviser at the "Expert committee on viral haemorrhagic fevers", Geneva, Switzerland.
8. 1984 August 28-31: Temporary adviser at the "Working group on development of vaccines for Arthropod and Rodent-borne viruses", Sendai, Japan.
9. 1985 October 9-12: Temporary adviser at the Ad Hoc meeting on laboratory diagnosis and surveillance of viral Haemorrhagic fevers, Moscow, USSR.
10. 1987 January 28 - February 7: Organisation of a workshop on HIV serology in Accra, Ghana as WHO temporary adviser.
11. 1987 February 11-12: Observer at the meeting on newly identified HIV related retroviruses. Geneva, WHO headquarters.
12. 1987 August 31 - September 7: WHO consultant, First assessment of AIDS in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.
13. 1988 August 31 - September 2 : Temporary adviser for WHO. Meeting on Strategies for the Evaluation

- and Implementation of Laboratory Diagnosis of HIV infection. Geneva, Switzerland.
14. 1988 November 21 - 24. Temporary adviser. Informal consultation on the development of biosafety, "Guidelines for HIV diagnostic and Research Laboratories, and Biosafety Guidelines for Production of vaccines and biologicals". Geneva - Switzerland.
 15. 1988 December 1-21. WHO Consultant. Mid Term Program AIDS. India, New Delhi, Bombay, Pune.
 16. 1989 February 13-17. Temporary adviser at the meeting on HIV-2 diagnostics and priority areas for HIV-2 epidemiological research. Geneva - Switzerland.
 17. 1989 March 13 - 16. Temporary adviser on the meeting of directors of WHO collaborating centres on biosafety and SMM and GPA advisory group, Geneva, Switzerland.
 18. 1989 April 11 - 14. Temporary adviser to participate in Workshop on the Field Evaluation of Simple/Rapid assays. Brazzaville, Congo.
 19. 1989 May 1 - 3. Temporary adviser at the "Scientific group on Development of vaccine for haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome". Seoul, Republic of Korea
 20. 1989 July 24 - Aug 9. WHO consultant - Mid Term program AIDS. Indonesia, Jakarta.
 21. 1989 Nov. 14 - 20. New Technologies for HIV diagnosis. Santo Domingo.
 22. 1989 Dec. 11 - 12. Temporary adviser for the Technical Working Group on "Criteria for the laboratory characterisation of HIV isolates", Geneva, WHO, HQ.
 23. 1990 Jan. 23 - 25. Temporary adviser. "Alternative confirmatory strategies for HIV. Colindale, London.
 24. 1990 March 14 - 16. "HIV-2 Collaborating Group Meeting", Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
 25. 1990 October 8 - 9. Temporary adviser at the meeting of the HIV-2 collaborating group Kinshasa, Zaire.
 26. 1990 November 19 - 21. Temporary adviser at the WHO Technical Working group on the WHO Global Network for HIV isolation and characterisation. National Institute for biological standards and control. Hertfordshire, England.
 27. 1991 February 9 - 17. Temporary Adviser, to assist in preparation and participate in National Laboratory Workshop on HIV testing and quality control, Moscow.
 28. 1991 May 22 - 23. First meeting of the steering committee on Diagnostics, Geneva, Switzerland.
 29. 1991 Nov 06 - 08. Second meeting of the Steering Committee on Diagnostics, Geneva, Switzerland.
 30. 1992 February 24 - 28. WHO Interregional laboratory workshop on alternative strategies for HIV testing and quality control. Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.
 31. 1992 May 21 - 22. Temporary Adviser to participate in "Consultation on the differentiation of HIV-1 from HIV-2 infection, Geneva, WHO/HQ.
 32. 1992 May 25 - 27. Third meeting of the Steering Committee on Diagnostics, Geneva, WHO/HQ.
 33. 1992 October 21 - 27. Temporary adviser to assist in the organisation of a Intercountry Workshop for the promotion of cost-effective approaches in HIV infection. Jakarta (Java), Mataram (Lombok), Indonesia.
 34. 1993 February 8-10. Fourth meeting of the Steering Committee on Diagnostics, Geneva, Switzerland.
 35. 1993 September 1. Temporary Adviser. Informal meeting on the evaluation of HIV test kits using seroconversion panels. WHO/HQ, Geneva.
 36. 1994 April 7-9. Assisted as invited observer at the Meeting of the principal investigators of the WHO network for HIV isolation and characterisation, Florence, Italy.
 37. 1994 June 9-10. Temporary adviser at the Technical Advisory Meeting on Implications of the newly Identified HIV-1 subtype "O" viruses for HIV diagnosis. Geneva, Switzerland.
 38. 1994 September 20-21. Temporary Adviser. Informal meeting to discuss the establishment of a surveillance network for HIV-1 group O viruses. Geneva, Switzerland.
 39. 1995 May 17-19. Technical Adviser. Joint meeting of principal investigators of the WHO network for HIV isolation and characterisation and WHO-sponsored cohort studies on HIV-1 incidence. Geneva, Switzerland.
 40. 2000 February 21-22. Scientific Expert Group meeting on "Approaches to the development of broadly protective HIV/AIDS vaccines: HIV subtypes and cross-reactive anti-HIV immune responses", Geneva, Switzerland.
 41. 2000 October 10-11. International Consultation on global monitoring of antiretroviral resistance. Rome, Italy.
 42. 2001 December 17-18. Technical Adviser. Meeting of the WHO-UNAIDS Network for HIV isolation and characterization, Geneva, Switzerland.

*** List of consultantships for the UNAIDS**

- 1997 22-24 October. Meeting of the UNAIDS virus network, Geneva. Characterisation of globally prevalent HIV strains in relation to HIV vaccine development.
- 1998 27-28 June, 1998. Technical working group on: "*Progress and implementation of the UNAIDS-sponsored study on characterisation of globally prevalent HIV-1 strains in relation to HIV vaccines*". UNAIDS Virus Network. UNAIDS (room M405), Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2001 December 17-18. Technical Adviser. Meeting of the WHO-UNAIDS Network for HIV isolation and characterization, Geneva, Switzerland.

List of consultantships

- 1999 17 June, 1999. Technical adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium, Unit P41 on "Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention", Brussels, Belgium.
- 1999 30 November - 5 December, 1999. Consultant of the Royal Embassy of The Netherlands to evaluate the Ethiopian-The Netherlands AIDS Research Project (ENARP).
- 2000 9-14 July, 2000. Invited as co-rapporteur to cover Track A - Basic Sciences of the 13th International Conference on AIDS, Durban, South Africa.
- 2001 25-26 April. Invited as participant by IAVI at a small advisory group to cover "Vaccine design for induction of effective neutralising antibody against HIV", Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 2001 30 May. Invited as adviser for the Belgian delegation at the Meeting on European Clinical Trials Platform to support the development of new interventions against HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB for use in developing countries. Brussels, Belgium.
- 2002 18 June. Invited as external advisor to the Meeting of the Research Institutes on GAVI, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France.
- 2003 21-25 January. International Workshop on HIV-1 Mother-to-Child Transmission. Kasane, Botswana
- 2003 5 May. Invited as consultant by the Antwerp Innovation Centre NV (AIC) to advise, select and evaluate bio-technology related projects.
- 2003 8 July. Active member of the Ad Hoc workgroup "SARS and Biosafety". WIV Brussels Belgium.
- 2003 3 October. Invited as a consultant to evaluate the precautions taken by TIBOTEC to work with the infectious SARS virus.
- 2005 8 September. Invited consultant to advise her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde of Belgium on the impact of HIV/AIDS on children.

Invited guest lectures since 1985

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1. 1985 May 20 - 23. Department of Medical Microbiology. Prof. Dr. RG Marusyk, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. "Recent developments in the study of Hantavirus-disease".
 2. 1986 Nov 10 - 11. Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka, Japan. "AIDS in Africa".
 3. 1986 Nov 13. Hilton Hotel Tokyo, Japan. "AIDS in Africa, Europe. Problems concerning HIV antibody testing".
 4. 1986 Nov 17-22. Institute of Virology, Beijing, China.
 5. 1986 Nov 24-29. Health and Anti-Epidemic Center of Sichuan Province, Chengdu, China. "AIDS in Africa, Europe. Problems concerning HIV antibody testing". "HFRS in Europe".
 6. 1986 Dec 1- 5. Hotel Shilla, Seoul, S. Korea. "AIDS in Africa, Europe. Problems concerning HIV antibody testing".
 7. 1987 June 22-27. II Symposium Internacional sobre el sindrome de inmunodeficiencia adquirido. Mexico City. - El SIDA en Africa, su origen probable en este continente - La inmunofluorescencia indirecta en la deteccion del VIH. September 1
 8. 1987 Invited speaker at the Wessex Applied Microbiologists - WAM: "Hantaviruses in Europe".
 9. 1987 October 7. XVIII Congresso Brasileiro de Hematologia Hemoterapia. Salvador, Brazil (HIV testing). Invited by Organon Teknika.
 10. 1987 October 9. Academia Nacional de Medicine. Buenos Aires, Argentina (Actualizacion en Diagnostico de SIDA). Invited by Organon Teknika.
 11. 1987 October 13. La Sociedad Chilena de Infectiologia. Sheraton Hotel, Santiago, Chile (Los virus HIV: aspectos moleculares y biologicos; Actualizacion en tecnicas de diagnostico de infeccion por virus HIV). Invited by Organon Teknika.

12. 1987 December 15-17. Seminar on AIDS prevention and control jointly organised by the World Health Organisation and Médecins sans Frontières - Belgium. "Laboratory methods for testing HIV antibodies".
13. 1988 February 8 - 10. Invited speaker at Kuwait International Conference on AIDS - Kuwait.
14. 1988 June 4 - 8. Invited speaker : AIDS Conference. Rijadh - Saudi Arabië
15. 1988 June 11. Invited speaker at the Stockholm Meeting. van der Groen G, Vercauteren G, Lauwereys G, M. Mangelschots. Advantages and disadvantages of "Simple" HIV assays as compared to traditional ELISA's under African conditions. The Challenges in the identification of HIV infection. Stockholm - Sweden.
16. 1988 July 19 - 20. Invited Speaker: HIV variant from Cameroon. "Conference on genetic variation of immunodeficiency viruses" National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA.
17. 1988 October 1 - 3. Invited Speaker. AIDS Conference, Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
18. 1989 February 26 - 03 March. Invited speaker at the 1st National AIDS Symposium. Tel Aviv, Israel.
19. 1989 May 4 - 6. Seoul, Republic of Korea: "The 1st International Conference on Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome.
20. 1990 February 8. National Organon Symposium, Oss, The Netherlands. Evaluation of fast anti-HIV antibody assays.
21. 1990 November 13. Ghent, Dodonea. "HIV, a virus to respect"
22. 1991 March 8. Rockville, USA, Henry Jackson Foundation. "Alternative confirmatory strategies".
23. 1991 December 5 - 7. Simposia Internacional sobre SIDA en LA CIUDAD de Buenos Aires, Argentina. "Diagnostico de HIV: pasado, presente y futuro"
24. 1991 December 9 - 10. 1e congreso federal de prevencion diagnostico y asistencia del SIDA, Mendoza, Republica de Argentina.
25. 1992 December 3 - 5. Genetic, antigenic characterisation of SIVcpzant and SIVcpzgab. Potential hazards of viral haemorrhagic fevers. Berlin, Germany.
26. 1993 October 7 - 10. Invited speaker to give a plenary session talk entitled: "Diagnostico Molecular de la Infecciones" at the IX Congreso Argentino de Bioquimica, 57° Triduo Bioquimico Cientifico Anual XIX Jornadas del Ejercicio y de la ensenanza de la Bioquimica Organiza: Asociacion Bioquimica Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
27. 1994 June 1. 7th meeting of the Academic Club of the University Antwerpen: "Why is it so difficult to beat HIV?". Promotion Hall.
28. 1994 September 27. Belgian Symposium at The Institute of Molecular Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK "Interface between industry and university in the field of biomedical sciences. Possibilities for industrial partnership in the UK and in Belgium. "A multidisciplinary approach remains necessary to combat AIDS".
29. 1995 March 3. First HIV-O Symposium München, Germany. "Subtyping of HIV-O and HIV-1 isolates by anti-V3-loop reactivity and PCR".
30. 1995 March 6-9. Tenth Annual Conference on Human Retrovirus Testing, Harrah's Hotel, Reno, Nevada. "Influence of HIV variability on the strategies for HIV diagnosis and vaccine development". Plenary Session Speaker.
31. 1995 June 14. Emerging viruses and viral infections. Unpredicted circumstances. Academic Hospital Leiden, The Netherlands.
32. 1995 November 17. Study of HIV variability in Africa. AKZO NOBEL, Boxtel, The Netherlands.
33. 1995 November 19. AIDS Onderzoek. De Winterschool Scheikunde. Borzée (La Roche).
34. 1995 November 22. "Correlates of protective immunity to HIV infection and disease". Biomedical Primate Research Centre, Rijswijk, Nederland ("SIVcpz infected chimpanzee: role of neutralising antibodies")
35. 1995 December 15. WHO informal working group on EBOLA virus infection. Geneva, Switzerland.
36. 1996 March 1-7. "If we call EBOLA a killer, how should we call HIV?"; "A multidisciplinary approach to combat AIDS remains necessary" Fairfield Hospital, Melbourne and the Veterinary Institute at Geelong, Australia.
37. 1996 April 19. "African hemorrhagic fevers". PAOG Course Emerging Virus Infections. Erasmus University Medical School, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
38. 1996 May 16-17. Meeting EU-US Task Force, Rome, Italy.
39. 1996 July 7-12. Invited guest speaker. XI International Conference on AIDS, Vancouver, Canada.
40. 1996 June 14-15. Invited guest speaker. "HIV en vaccinatie" Seminar Farmacologie. Dr. Paul Janssen Stichting, Beerse en Corsendonk
41. 1996 September 16-20. Invited guest speaker. Lanzhou, P.R. China. September 24. Shanghai Hygiene

- and Anti-Epidemic Center, P.R. China
42. 1996 October 11. 25 years virology in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
 43. 1996 November 17-23. Invited guest speaker. First International Virology and Microbiology Conference. Yaounde, Cameroon. "Surveillance and control of viral diseases in the developing world".
 44. 1996 December 3. Pasteur Mérieux. Lyon-France. "Neutralising antibodies (NA) patterns in sera of individuals infected with HIV-1, HIV-2 and SIVcpz to their homologous and heterologous isolates".
 45. 1997 January 6-8. Invited guest speaker at the Joint meeting of the European Group for Rapid Viral Diagnosis and SGM Clinical Virology Group, London, Barnes Hall, Royal Society of Medicine. "Hantaviruses".
 46. 1997 May 5, 1997. Invited member of the 4th meeting of the European Network for "imported" viral diseases, Thessaloniki, Greece.
 47. 1997 June 17, 1997. Invited speaker at closed meeting organised by NIH, Rockville, US. "Rational choice of HIV strain(s) for AIDS vaccines".
 48. 1997 June 25-27, 1997. Invited speaker at Workshop on HIV-1 subtypes: implications for epidemiology, pathogenicity, vaccines and diagnostics. Dar-es-Salaam. "Subtype cross-neutralisation".
 49. 1997 November 20, 1997. Invited speaker at Microsymposium on the occasion of the completion of the travelling exhibition "Rainforests for Health, the Health Consequences of Rainforest Degradation" van Steenisgebouw, Leiden, Nederland "Ebola and the Tropical Rainforest"
 50. 1997 January 27, 1998. Meeting Applied Molecular Epidemiology in the Tropics. "HIV diversity". ITM, Antwerp, Belgium.
 51. 1998 April 26-29, 1998. Convention Life Science '98 Applications. "HIV vaccination". Flanders Expo, Gent, Belgium.
 52. 1999 February 1-3, 1999. Invited member of the advisory board of "European Conference. Perspectives on Infectious Disease Branch". Dresden, Germany.s
 53. 1999 April 28-30, 1999. Participant at the annual meeting of the UNAIDS Network for HIV isolation and characterisation. Georg-Speyer-Haus Institute for Biomedical Research in Frankfurt, Germany.
 54. 1999 August 9-13, 1999. Invited speaker at the XI ICV, XIth International congress of virology. IUMS. Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia.
 55. 1999 September 9-11, 1999. Invited as chairman to chair a session at the conference "Research network for control of viral haemorrhagic fevers", Lyon, France, organised and supported by Fondation Mérieux and European Commission DG Science and Research (INCO Programme).
 56. 1999 November 18 - 20, 1999. Guestspeaker at the International AIDS Vaccine Workshop, Beijing, China. "Genetic and phenotypic variation of HIV-1: relevance to vaccine development".
 57. 1999 November 25 - 28, 1999. Invited speaker at the IV Congreso Argentino de SIDA, Centro de Convenciones "Patio de la Madera", Rosario, Argentina. "Genetic and phenotypic variation of HIV-1: relevance to vaccine development", "Suggestions to facilitate future research to overcome the genetic variability barrier in HIV vaccine design and evaluation".
 58. 2000 March 29. Invited by the European Commission to attend the EU Task Force on Communicable Diseases: EU Coordination Meeting, Jean Monnet Building, Luxembourg.
 59. 2000 May 19, 20. Invited by the University of Antwerp (UA). Symposium "Pathology of infectious disease". Lecture: "Pathogenesis of HIV infection: an update.
 60. 2000 September 10-15. Invited speaker . 2000 International Meeting of the Institute of Human Virology. Baltimore, USA. "To neutralise or not to neutralise: that's the question.
 61. 2000 November 10. Invited speaker. ConVir 2000. 1. Kongress für Viruskrankheiten. 10.-12. November 2000, München, Germany. "Epidemiology of viral infections".
 62. 2001 December 5-8. Invited speaker. Congresso Nacional de Microbiologia. Pova de Varzim, Portugal. "Why, after 20 years, is it still so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?"
 63. 2001 December 21. Invited speaker at the Farewell Symposium for Dr. W. Dolmans. UMC & St Radboud Nijmegen – Nederland. "Why, after 20 years, it is still so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?"
 64. 2002 February 23. "Ebola en Marburg: dodelijk, maar weinig gevaarlijk". 12° Medisch Interfacultair Congres "Uit de kunst" welvaartsproblematiek in de geneeskunst. Aula Congressentrum TU Delft, Nederland
 65. 2002 Thursday 15. "Ebola: origins, disease manifestations, containment". The Amsterdam International Medical Summer School "Outbreaks". Amsterdam, Nederland.
 66. 2004 March 6. "Viral zoonoses" Course in Virology. New York Hotel Rotterdam. Organised by G.

- Rimmelzwaan & A. Osterhaus. Erasmus Medical Center, University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
67. 2004 April 20. "Life expectancy of 6.3 billion people" as guestspeaker in the Kekulé lecturing cyclus on the theme: "Tomorrow, will we live to the age of 150?"
 68. 2004 July 9. Life expectancy of 6.3 billion people as invited guestspeaker at the proclamation of the faculty of sciences at the University of Antwerp, Aula Major, Wilrijk, Antwerpen.
 69. 2004 November 16. Waarom is HIV/AIDS zo moeilijk te bestrijden? St. Norbertusschool Amerikalei, Antwerpen
 70. 2004 December 3. Invited speaker at the Scientific Off-Site Meeting, Erasmushuis, Mortsel, Belgium "Past, present and future of virus fighters'.
 71. 2004 December 9. Focus Technologies – Cypress California "Life expectancy of 6.3 billion people".
 72. 2006 June 28. Invited speaker at Expats for UNICEF roundtable in the theme AIDS and the children. UNICEF offices, Brussels, Belgium.
 73. 2007 May 30. Focus Conference, Brussels, Belgium " Past, present and future of virus fighters "
 74. 2007 June 12. Winnipeg Canada " Past, present and future of virus fighters : a personal account "
 75. 2008 October 31. "Why is it so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?", VUB, Brussels, Belgium.
 76. 2009 March 30. "Why is it so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?", "Studium Generale", Bio Medical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium.
 77. 2010 March 29. "Why is it so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?", "Studium Generale", Bio Medical Sciences, University of Antwerpen, Belgium.
 78. 2010 April 18-21. "How two virus fighters became Ebola freaks", 5th International Symposium on Filoviruses, Sheraton Miyako Hotel Tokyo.
 79. 2010 November 25. "Critical thoughts of a Belgian Filovirus hunter", "Seniorclub Probus" Schilde, Belgium.
 80. 2010 December 7. "Closing remarks: What have we achieved after 29 years fight against HIV/AIDS and what will bring us the future?", "Music for Life" Studio Brussel, University Antwerpen, Belgium.
 81. 2011 February 28. "Why is it so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?", "Studium Generale", Bio Medical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium.
 82. 2011 December 1. "Welcome and introduction to 30 years of AIDS at ITM and in the world", World AIDS Day Seminar, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerpen, Belgium
 83. 2012 February 13. "Why is it so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?", "Studium Generale", Bio Medical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium.
 84. 2012 April 11-16. "How a virus hunter became an Ebola freak (I) and (II)", Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Hamilton, Montana, United States.
 85. 2012 May 4. "At the edge of the pen 40 years of drawing in support of Science", Inauguration of the exhibition of the artist Herman Vanvinckenroye. Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerpen, Belgium.
 86. 2013 March 25. "Why is it so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS?", "Studium Generale", Bio Medical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium.
 87. 2013 September 26 "Why is it so difficult to fight HIV/AIDS, after all these years?". Symposium in honour of Em. Prof. Dr. J. Plum, UG, Belgium.

Reviewer

Reviewer for the J Inf Dis; European J Clin Microbiol; AIDS; J Virol Methods; Acta Tropica; Vaccine; Eur J Clin Microbiol Inf Dis.; AIDS, AIDS Res and Human Retroviruses.

- 1997 18 juli. UNAIDS document entitled: "Best practice collection technical update: HIV-testing methods".
- 1997 28 juli Medical Research Council Programme on AIDS at the Uganda Virus Research Institute.

Media

Participation at numerous radio and television programmes related to HIV & AIDS; viral haemorrhagic fevers;

emerging & re-emerging diseases in Belgium as well as in The Netherlands, Mexico, Argentina.

21.03.2004 "Was it only sex?". Belgian VRT - Canvas "Overleven".

Organisation of meetings

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| 4-7 September 1996 | : | International Colloquium on Ebola Virus Infection, Antwerpen, Institute of Tropical Medicine. |
| 5-10 September 1994 | : | WHO workshop on the application of the heteroduplex mobility assay (HMA) for molecular epidemiology studies in preparation for HIV vaccine efficacy trials. Antwerpen, Institute of Tropical Medicine. |
| 10-11 December 1987 | : | 29th International Colloquium: Hantavirus. Antwerpen. Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium. |
| 6-8 December 1977 | : | International Colloquium on Ebola Virus Infection and other Haemorrhagic Fevers. Antwerpen, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium. |