



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parasitologie

Third Announcement

Joint meeting of the 26th

**Drug Design & Development Seminar (DDDS) 2026 of the
German Society for Parasitology (DGP)**

&

The European Cost Action – CA21111 – “OneHealthDrugs”

**“Human and Animal Parasitic Diseases
– Bridging the Innovation Gap – “**

Date: March 17th – 20th, 2026



**Venue: Biomedical Research Center Seltersberg (BFS),
Justus Liebig University Gießen, Germany**

**For registration and abstract submission:
visit the [conference homepage](#)**

On the occasion of the **Joint 26th DDDS** conference you are cordially invited to participate and to present your research in **an oral presentation (15 minutes) or as poster**. An abstract is requested for both talks and posters (**abstract guidelines below**). The scientific board will select the topics for oral presentations or posters depending on the abstracts. Renowned international keynote speakers will provide a high-quality scientific framework. The seminar will be opened with a welcome reception on Tuesday evening and conclude Friday at noon.

Extended deadline for registration is December 15th, 2025

Extended deadline for abstract submission is January 15th, 2026

Scientific Board

PD Dr. Simone Häberlein
Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

Prof. Dr. Christoph G. Grevelding
Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

Prof. Dr. Franco Falcone
Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

Prof. Maria Paola Costi, PhD
Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy

Prof. Dr. Paul M. Selzer
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health
Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany

Dr. Sandra Noack
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health
Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany

Organizer and Venue:

Justus Liebig University Giessen,
Biomedical Research Center Seltersberg (BFS)
Schubertstr. 81 (Entrance Aulweg)
35392 Giessen, Germany

Keynote speakers:

- Prof. Makedonka Mitreva, PhD: [WashU Medicine - Division of Infectious Diseases](#)
- Prof. Mostafa Zamanian, PhD: [University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine](#)
- Prof. Guy Caljon, PhD: [University of Antwerp](#)
- Prof. Britta Lundström-Stadelmann, PhD: [University of Bern, Institut für Parasitologie](#)
- Prof. Ard Nijhof, PhD: [Parasitologie und Tropenveterinärmedizin • Fachbereich Veterinärmedizin](#)
- Natacha Gaillard, PhD & Ashwani Verma, PhD: [Home | ASTRA Therapeutics](#)
- Prof. Lilach Sheiner, PhD [University of Glasgow - Schools - School of Infection & Immunity](#)
- Prof. Dr. Arnold Grünweller [Institut für Pharmazeutische Chemie - Philipps-Universität Marburg](#)

About the Drug Design & Development Seminar (DDDS)

The Drug Design & Development Seminar (DDDS) was founded in 1999 as an active working group of the German Society for Parasitology, by Prof. Dr. Peter Köhler (Univ. of Zürich, CH), Prof. Dr. Rolf Walter (BNI, Hamburg, DE), and Prof. Dr. Heiner Schirmer (Univ. of Heidelberg, DE). Since 2004 Prof. Dr. Paul M. Selzer (Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, Ingelheim, DE) is the coordinator of the DDDS transferring the meeting into an international well recognized scientific forum. Exchange of scientific information about anti-parasitic chemotherapy between universities, industry, and other research organizations continues to be important to accelerate anti-parasitic drug development. The DDDS is open to all scientists and professionals interested in the field of anti-parasitic research. The DDDS aims at connecting human and veterinary health by complementary approaches in medical and veterinary parasitology and medicinal chemistry to aim and stimulate One-Health approaches to combat parasitic diseases. The main topics include but are not limited to:

- Target identification, characterization, and validation
- Identification of compounds
- Synthesis and optimization of lead compounds towards marketable drugs
- Testing active compounds in animal models

About the Cost Action CA21111 / OneHealthdrugs

OneHealthdrugs aims to coordinate the discovery of drugs that stop vector-borne infections in both human and veterinary settings according to the principles of the optimal profile for both organisms, increasing quality and reducing environmental impact. The COST Action is a platform aiming at the integration and generation of synergies among drug R&D experts from the chemical / biological / human / veterinary and earth science within academies, SMEs, industries, governments. The platform encompasses pre-clinical drug discovery, animal studies, and drug delivery. Strategies such as bioinformatics, PROTACs, nanotechnology will be enhanced. OneHealthdrugs impacts in Europe and in disease-endemic countries. The action provides a compound database and a white chart about the discovery of new drugs for human and animal infections.

Abstract guidelines:

To facilitate preparation of the abstract book, please provide the abstract as follows:

- Title, authors, affiliations, E-mail address of corresponding author, abstract text, selected literature citations
- .docx format, Arial font size 11 points, 1.5-fold line spacing
- Maximum: 1 page (A4 size)
- Maximum: 220 words
- References, if appropriate/needed
- Text format example below

In case these guidelines are disregarded, the Scientific Committee reserves the right to return inadequate abstracts to the sender for correction. Keep deadlines in mind, as the selection of topics for presentation will be based on correct abstracts only.

Abstract example:

Development and *in vivo* efficacy of biocompatible drug-loaded microspheres against *C. parvum*

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Human cryptosporidiosis is one of the most commonly diagnosed protozoan-associated intestinal diseases worldwide. It is one of the main causes of diarrhoe in immunocompromised hosts [1]. There is no completely efficient treatment. Based on previous work [2], an alternative therapy against *Cryptosporidium parvum* using bioadhesive Paromomycin and Diloxanide Furoate (DF)-loaded microspheres was developed. Microspheres (MS) were prepared using chitosan (CHI) and poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA) and two types of cyclodextrins (β -CD and DM- β -CD) for potential use. Microparticle formulations were characterized in terms of size, surface charge, drug release and morphology. *In vivo* bioadhesion properties of CHI/PVA microspheres were also evaluated. In addition, the *in vivo* efficacy of CHI/PVA microspheres against *C. parvum* was tested in neonatal mouse model of cryptosporidiosis.

Microspheres prepared by spray-drying showed spherical shape, diameters between 6.67 ± 0.11 and 18.78 ± 0.07 μm and positively surface charge. The bioadhesion studies demonstrated that MS remained attached at +16h (post-infection) to the intestinal cells. The efficacy of treatment determined in mice receiving orally administered microspheres with and without drug showed significantly lower parasite loads compared with the control.

Our results suggest that microspheres are safe and simple systems for anticryptosporidial treatment. This work demonstrated the high potential of using bioadhesive chitosan/PVA microspheres for antiparasitic drug delivery by oral route in the treatment or prevention of *C. parvum* infections.

[1] Bouzid, M. et al., 2013. Clin Microbiol Rev. 26, 115–34.

[2] Luzardo-Álvarez, A. et. 2012. Eur. J. Pharm. Sci. 47, 215-227.