Clinical pharmacology in leishmaniasis: treatment optimization of a neglected disease
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About the Author

Thomas Dorlo was born December 1st 1983 in Maastricht and grew up in Eijsden, a village in the most southern tip of the Netherlands. He received his ‘gymnasium’ diploma from the Jeanne d’Arc College in Maastricht, where he read Herodotus in ancient Greek. In 2001, he started studying Pharmacy at Utrecht University for which he received his BSc in 2004 - concurrently he studied Philosophy at the same university. In 2004, he was admitted to the master studies Drug Innovation (Pharmaceutical Sciences) for which he received his MSc in 2007. In 2006 a major research elective was performed at the Unit of Tropical Medicine of the Academic Medical Center (AMC, University of Amsterdam), on the use of miltefosine in a cohort of Dutch soldiers who contracted leishmaniasis during deployment in Afghanistan and the development of simple colour tests to detect artemisinin-compounds in counterfeit antimalarials. His MSc thesis was about DB289, the first new compound in decades to treat human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), under supervision of prof. dr. Piet Kager. Immediately after graduating, Thomas initiated a PhD project in a joint collaboration between the department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology of the Slotervaart Hospital – the Netherlands Cancer Institute and the AMC, for which he was granted a personal AMC PhD Scholarship.

The PhD project, of which this thesis is the result, concerned the application of clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics to optimize and rationalize the treatment of the neglected tropical disease leishmaniasis - with a focus on the oral drug miltefosine and the impact of poor-quality medicines, under supervision of dr. Peter de Vries, dr. Alwin Huitema and prof. dr. Jos Beijnen. The studies described in this thesis were performed in collaboration with many partners abroad, such as the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), the Royal Tropical Institute, the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Médecins Sans Frontières, Kenya Medical Research Institute, the University of Khartoum, and BPKIHS in Nepal. Training to become a board-certified clinical pharmacologist was received under supervision of prof. dr. Jan Schellens. In the same period (2010-2012) he was also appointed as a Fellow of the Poverty-Related Diseases College (coordinated by the University of Yaoundé I, Cameroun), which enabled him to extensively travel and experience the African continent and reality – and in the meanwhile allowed him to expand his ornithological knowledge on East African birdlife.

Thomas is currently Board Member of the Dutch Society against Quackery and a consultant in clinical pharmacology for DNDi for their clinical trials on leishmaniasis in East Africa. Very recently, he returned to his alma mater and accepted a position at the division of Pharmacoepidemiology & Clinical Pharmacology at Utrecht University to further study quantitative clinical pharmacology.