

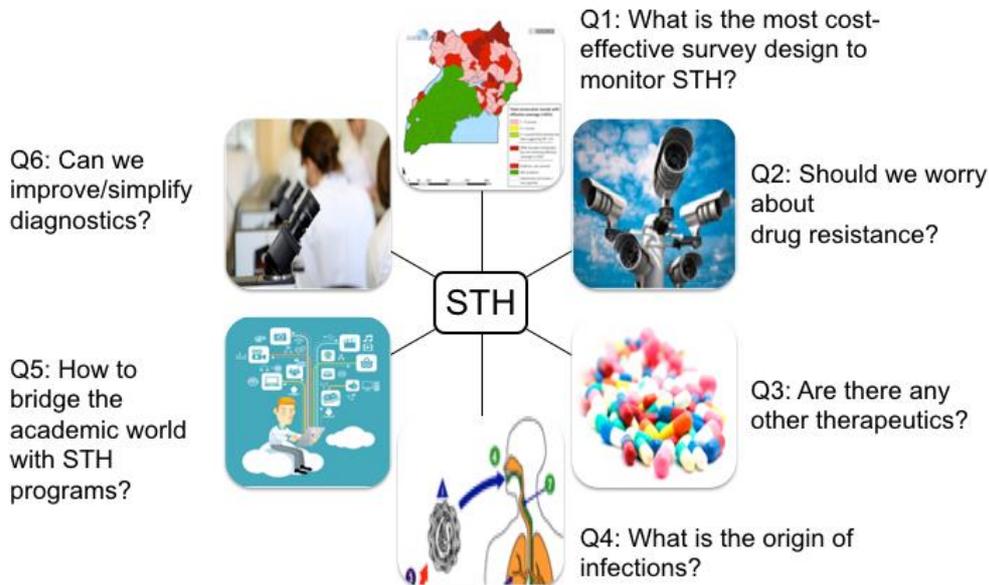
Short Biography Bruno Levecke

Bruno Levecke is a veterinarian (2006) and holds both a PhD degree in Veterinary Sciences (2010) and an additional MSc degree in Statistical Data Analysis (2012) of Ghent University. For the last 10 years, he has been focusing on intestinal worm infections in children, so-called soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH). His is researching a variety of aspects of STHs with the ultimate aim to improve the control of these worms. For this he clustered his research in six research lines, addressing an equal number of questions that are important for the long-term success of large scale STH deworming programs (see [Figure](#)). For his research he can rely on a unique multidisciplinary network of international both researchers and health care decision makers from various STH endemic countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Laos PDR, Vietnam), Africa (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Tanzania) and Latin-America (Brazil and Argentina). Through his role as head of the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Collaborating Centre for the Monitoring of Anthelmintic Drug Efficacy for STH](#) (2017 onwards) he can translate his research findings into policy. For example, his collaborative work has formed a basis for revising the WHO guidelines on how to best assess the efficacy of drugs against STHs

Currently, he is coordinating [Starworms](#). Starworms (STop Anthelmintic Resistant WORMS) is a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded project that unites three WHO Collaborating Centers. Its objective is to strengthen the monitoring and surveillance of drug efficacy and anthelmintic resistance in programs aimed at eliminating and controlling STHs in humans. Through a [University Collaboration for Better Health in Ethiopia Network](#) he is working towards [interventions that reduces rates of re-infection of soil-transmitted helminths](#). With the support of [Ghent University](#) and [Research Foundation Flanders](#) he is also involved in the development and evaluation of serology-based assays for assessing exposure to STH after multiple rounds deworming.

Capacity building receives due attention throughout each of his projects. This can be through developing and strengthening the skills of local research staff or to provide technical support to STH programs. For example, within an [Interuniversity Cooperation Programme with Jimma University](#) he supported PhD-students, laboratory technicians and Master students to develop a fully [equipped molecular and diagnostic laboratory](#). While living in Ethiopia (2013-2014), he trained the field teams, which were recruited for national survey to map STH, on how to best diagnosis STH. Finally, he developed a variety of [open access E-tools](#) that further support STH program managers. These tools include visual tutorials of operational procedures, the documents (standard operating procedures, data record forms and data entry forms) used throughout the projects, and software that supports program managers in identifying the most cost-effective survey design and analysing data without the need of any prior knowledge on any statistical software.

Figure



World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for the Monitoring of Anthelmintic Drug Efficacy for STH:
http://apps.who.int/whocc/Detail.aspx?cc_ref=BEL-42&cc_ref=bel-42

Starworms: www.starworms.org

University Collaboration for Better Health in Ethiopia Network: link naar Network – zie ook CV Luc

interventions that reduces rates of re-infection of soil-transmitted helminths: zie document

Ghent University: zie document
Research Foundation – Flanders: zie document

Interuniversity Cooperation Programme with Jimma University: link IUC Jimma zie ook CV luc

equipped molecular and diagnostic laboratory: <https://www.ju.edu.et/background-molecular-biology-rc>

Open access E-tools: <https://www.starworms.org/tools>

