

# Soil-transmitted helminthiasis in children – any role for veterinary parasitologists?

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## Wat wormen in een overloper vertellen over het leven in Noord-Korea

**vrt** **NWS**

Bij een Noord-Koreaanse soldaat die is overgelopen naar Zuid-Korea zijn tientallen parasitaire wormen gevonden. Er was er zelfs een van 27 centimeter lang bij. Volgens experts zegt dat veel over het dieet en de slechte hygiëne in Noord-Korea.



# Neglected Tropical Diseases - NTDs





# Neglected Tropical Diseases - NTDs

Diseases	DALYs (x 1000)
HIV/AIDS	66 689
Malaria	55 769
Tuberculosis	40 302
NTDs	23 443

Global Health Metrics



Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) for 333 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016



GBD 2016 DALYs and HALE Collaborators\*



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# Neglected Tropical Diseases - NTDs

Diseases	DALYs (x 1000)
Soil-transmitted helminthiasis	3 378
Schistosomiasis	2 613
Lymphatic filariasis	2 075
Dengue	1 892
Onchocerciasis	1 356

Global Health Metrics

 Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) for 333 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016

 GBD 2016 DALYs and HALE Collaborators\*

# Soil-Transmitted Helminths

**STH**



*Ascaris lumbricoides*

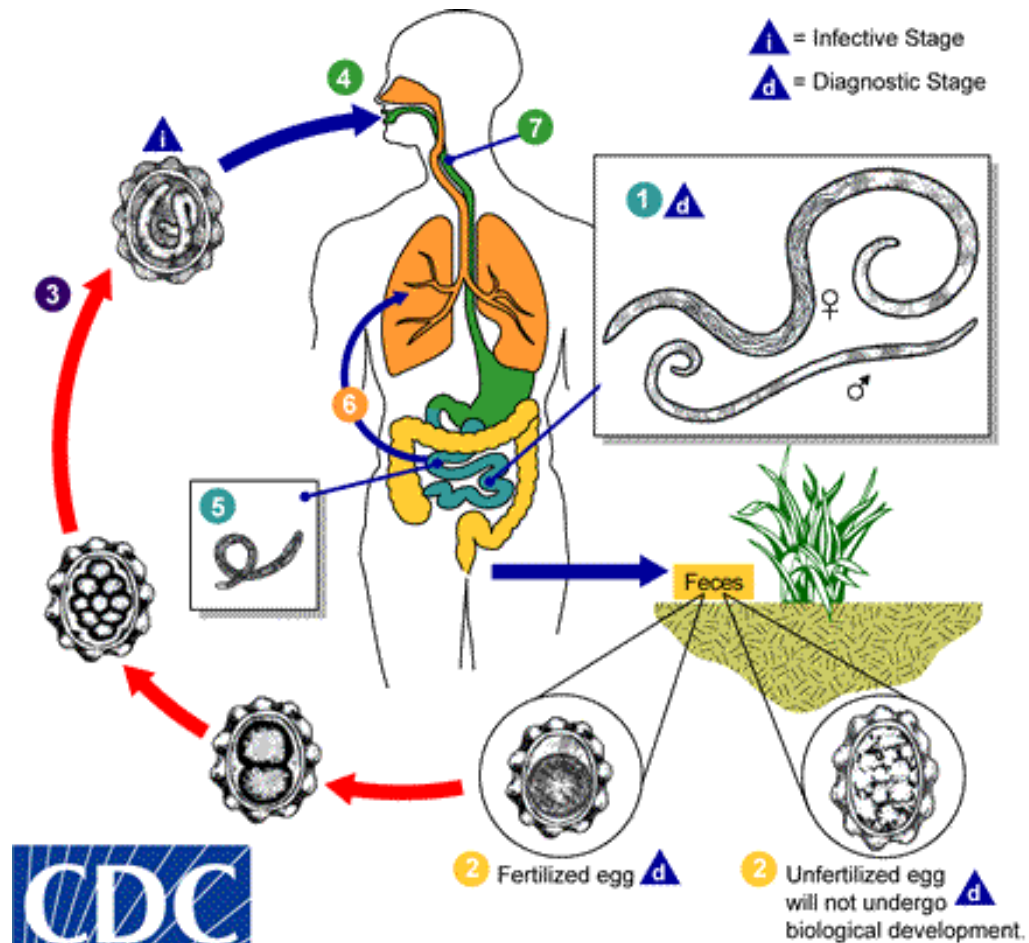


*Trichuris trichiura*



*Ancylostoma duodenale*  
*Necator americanus*

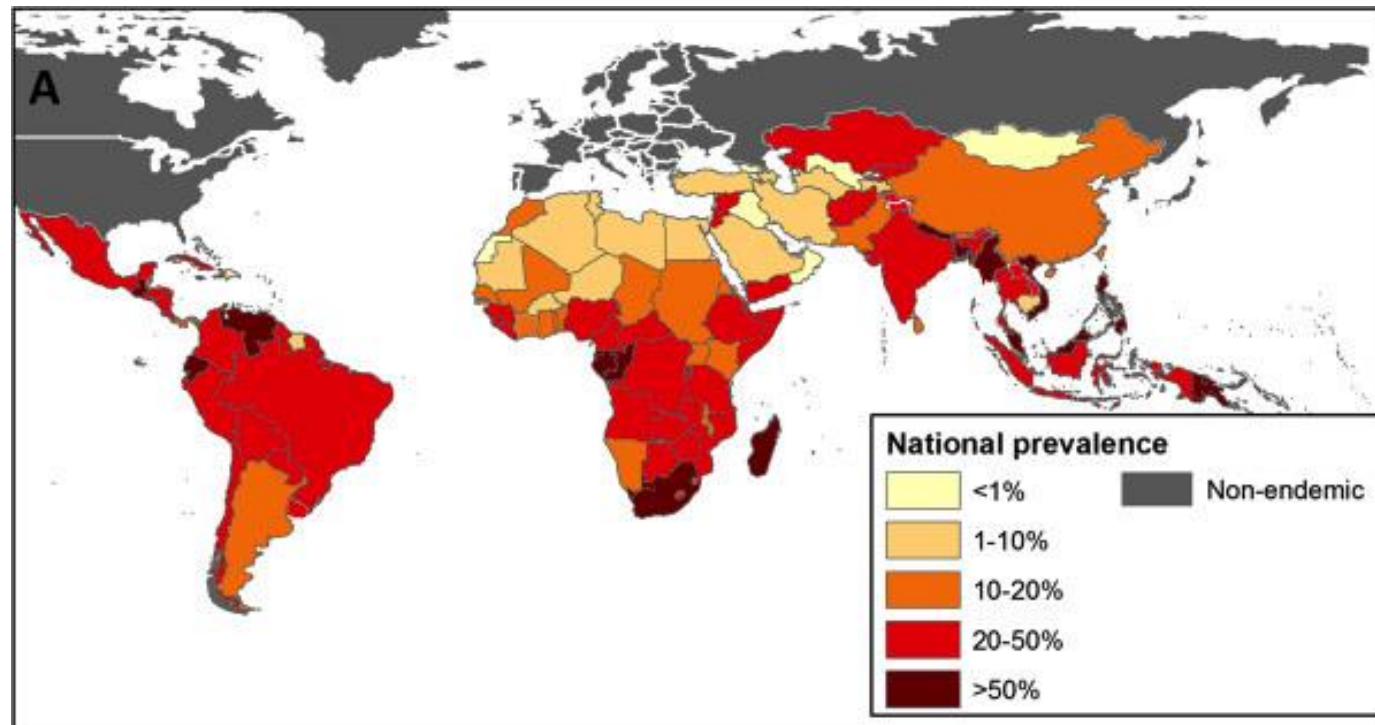
# Soil-Transmitted Helminths





# Prevalence

- 20% of the world is infected



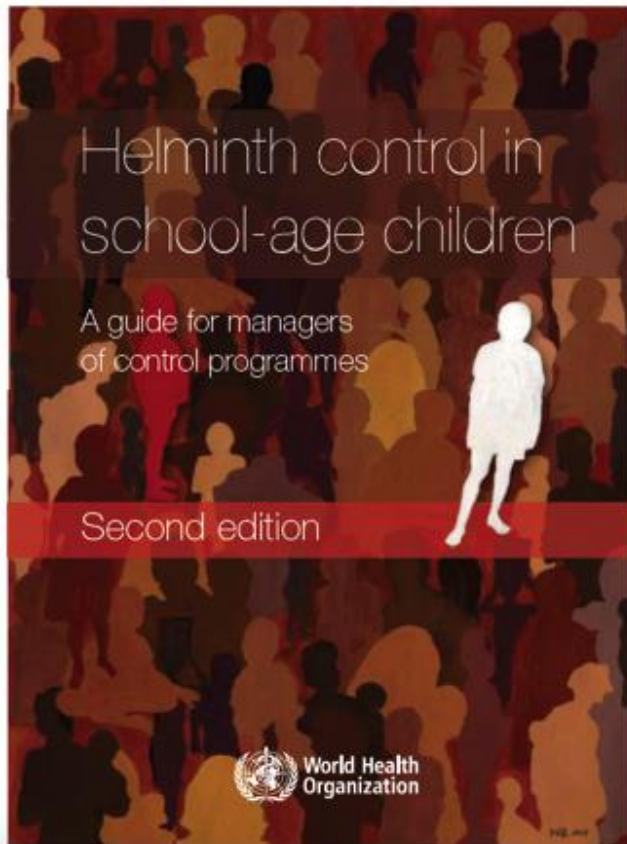
Pullan et al. *Parasites & Vectors* 2014, 7:37  
<http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/7/1/37>

# Burden of disease

- 45% of the infected subjects have significant morbidity
  - Growth
  - Anemia
  - Cognitive development
  - (Death)
- Children and women of childbearing age

# Control Strategy

- School-based MDA = cornerstone



## Commonly used drugs

Albendazole (400 mg)



Mebendazole (500 mg)

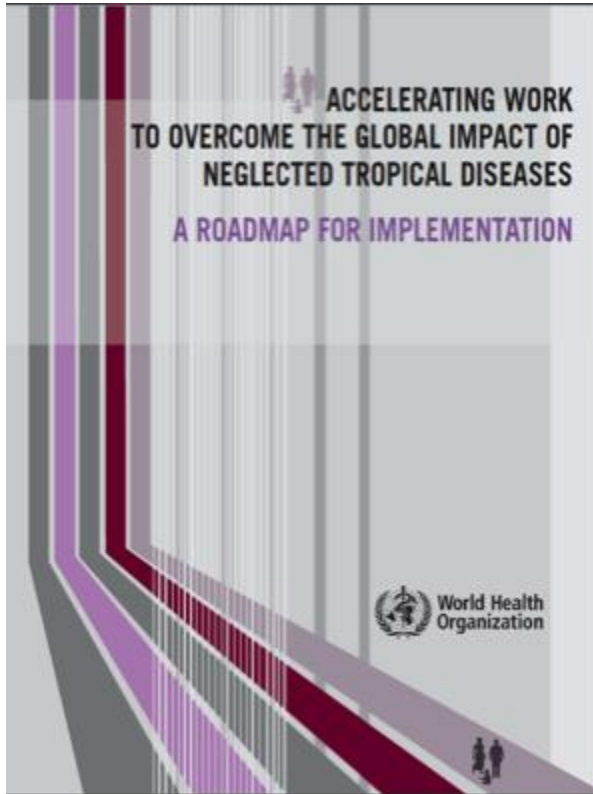


## Frequency

Prevalence	Frequency
$\geq 50\%$	2x year
$\geq 20\% \text{ \& } < 50\%$	1x year
$< 20\%$	Not recommended



# Milestones by 2020

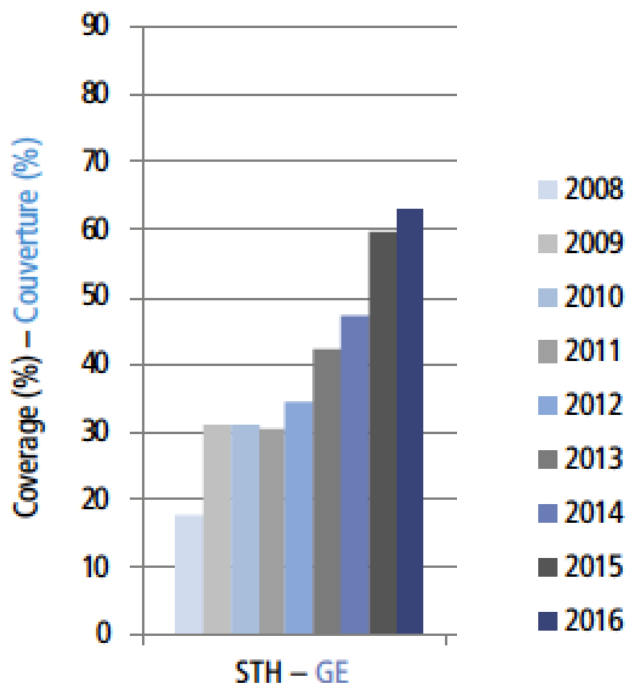


- 100% of countries in need of MDA achieved 75% coverage
- 75-100% of children in need of MDA worldwide have been treated



Elimination as a public health problem  
( $<1\%$  moderate or high intensity infections)

# Progress made



- Coverage increased with  $\geq 300\%$  between 2008 – 2016
- $\geq 30\%$  of countries in need of MDA achieved 75% coverage
- $\geq 60\%$  of children in need of MDA worldwide have been treated



# Threats



Combat STH



Anthelmintic  
Resistance



# Role of veterinary parasitologists



# Role of veterinary parasitologists

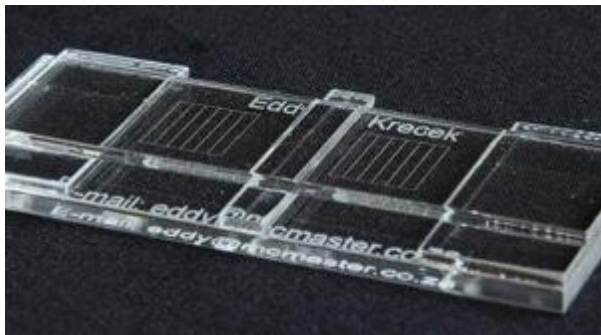
- We have years of experience (good & bad)

	Veterinary STH	Human STH
No. of STH	>100	4
Importance	Temperate & tropical regions	Tropical regions
Market of anthelmintics	>18% of all drugs Multiple compounds	<1% of all drugs 2 compounds (ALB & MEB)
Drug resistance	Major problem	No (?) to limited problem
New drugs in pipeline	Yes	No (?)

# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Diagnosis
  - Application/evaluation of veterinary methods

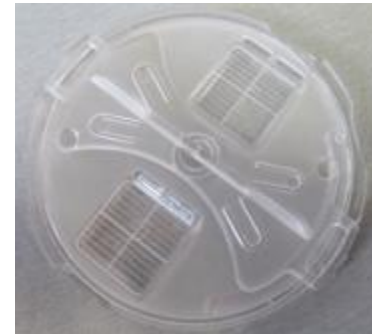
McMaster



FLOTAC



Mini-FLOTAC



FECPAK<sup>G2</sup>



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## A Comparison of the Sensitivity and Fecal Egg Counts of the McMaster Egg Counting and Kato-Katz Thick Smear Methods for Soil-Transmitted Helminths

Bruno Levecke<sup>1\*</sup>, Jerzy M. Behnke<sup>2</sup>, Sitara S. R. Ajjampur<sup>3</sup>, Marco Albonico<sup>4</sup>, Shaali M. Ame<sup>5</sup>, Johannes Charlier<sup>6</sup>, Stefan M. Geiger<sup>7</sup>, Nguyen T. V. Hoa<sup>8</sup>, Romuald I. Kamwa Ngassam<sup>9</sup>, Andrew C. Kotze<sup>10</sup>, James S. McCarthy<sup>11</sup>, Antonio Montresor<sup>12</sup>, Maria V. Periago<sup>13</sup>, Sheela Roy<sup>14</sup>, Louis-Albert Tchuem Tchuenté<sup>15</sup>, D. T. C. Thach<sup>16</sup>, Jozef Vercruyse<sup>1</sup>

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## Field Validity and Feasibility of Four Techniques for the Detection of *Trichuris* in Simians: A Model for Monitoring Drug Efficacy in Public Health?

Bruno Levecke<sup>1</sup>, Nathalie De Wilde, Els Vandenhoute, Jozef Vercruyse

PROTOCOL EXTENSION

## The Mini-FLOTAC technique for the diagnosis of helminth and protozoan infections in humans and animals

Georgey Colquhoun<sup>1</sup>, Maria P. Maurelli<sup>2</sup>, Bruno Levecke<sup>3</sup>, Antonio Bencos<sup>4</sup>, Jozef Vercruyse<sup>5</sup>, Jürg Utzinger<sup>1,6</sup> & Laura Rinaldi<sup>1</sup>



Optimizing FECPAK<sup>G2</sup> for the quantification of soil-transmitted helminth eggs in human stool.



# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Diagnosis
  - Pooling of stool samples

The use of age-clustered pooled faecal samples for monitoring worm control in **horses**

M. Eysker<sup>\*</sup>, J. Bakker, M. van den Berg, D.C.K. van Doorn, H.W. Ploeger

Effects of aggregation and sample size on composite faecal egg counts in **sheep**

E.R. Morgan<sup>a,\*</sup>, L. Cavill<sup>a</sup>, G.E. Curry<sup>a</sup>, R.M. Wood<sup>b</sup>, E.S.E. Mitchell<sup>c</sup>

Evaluation of a composite method for counting helminth eggs in **cattle faeces**

M.P. Ward<sup>\*</sup>, M. Lyndal-Murphy, F.C. Baldock

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PLOS | NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

**Comparison of Individual and Pooled Stool Samples for the Assessment of Soil-Transmitted Helminth Intensity and Drug Efficacy**

Zelege Mekonnen<sup>1,2</sup>, Selima Meka<sup>1</sup>, Mio Ayana<sup>1</sup>, Johannes Bogers<sup>3</sup>, Jozef Vercruysse<sup>2</sup>, Bruno Levecke<sup>2\*</sup>



Kure et al. *Parasites & Vectors* (2015) 8:593  
DOI: 10.1186/s13071-015-1101-1



RESEARCH

Open Access

Comparison of individual and pooled stool samples for the assessment of intensity of *Schistosoma mansoni* and soil-transmitted helminth infections using the Kato-Katz technique

Ashenafi Kure<sup>1</sup>, Zelege Mekonnen<sup>2</sup>, Daniel Dana<sup>2</sup>, Mitiku Bajiro<sup>2</sup>, Mio Ayana<sup>2</sup>, Jozef Vercruysse<sup>3</sup> and Bruno Levecke<sup>2\*</sup>



Degarege et al. *Parasites & Vectors* (2015) 8:593  
DOI: 10.1186/s13071-015-1205-7



RESEARCH

Open Access

Comparison of individual and pooled urine samples for estimating the presence and intensity of *Schistosoma haematobium* infections at the population level

Abraham Degarege<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Berhanu Erko<sup>1</sup>, Zelege Mekonnen<sup>3</sup>, Mengistu Legesse<sup>1</sup>, Yohannes Negash<sup>1</sup>, Jozef Vercruysse<sup>3</sup> and Bruno Levecke<sup>3</sup>

Comparison of an individual and pooled diagnostic examination strategy during the national mapping of soil-transmitted helminths and *Schistosoma mansoni* in Ethiopia



Gemechu Tadesse<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Michael French<sup>3</sup>, Jozef Vercruysse<sup>2</sup>, Bruno Levecke<sup>1</sup>

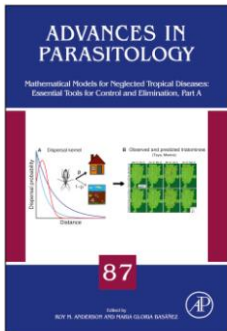
<sup>1</sup> Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Ethiopia; <sup>2</sup> Ghent University, Belgium; <sup>3</sup> RTI International, USA

\*gemechut\_2006@yahoo.com



# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Diagnosis
  - When to use which diagnostic tool?



## Mathematical Inference on Helminth Egg Counts in Stool and Its Applications in Mass Drug Administration Programmes to Control Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis in Public Health

Bruno Levecke<sup>1,2</sup>, Roy M. Anderson<sup>1</sup>, Dirk Berkvens<sup>3</sup>, Johannes Charlier<sup>4</sup>, Brecht Devleeschauwer<sup>5,6</sup>, Niko Speybroeck<sup>1</sup>, Jozef Vercrusse<sup>7</sup>, Stefan Van Aelst<sup>8,9,10</sup>



**Study goal**

Presence of infection

**Probability of detecting worm infections:**

90% 95% 99%

**Worm species:**

Roundworm

**Distribution of infections across schools:**

Mean FEC between schools:

0.5 EPG 5 EPG 10 EPG

**Aggregation of infections between schools (k):**

0.01 0.5 1.5

**Proportion of extra schools free of worms (p):**

0% 99%

**Introduction** Required information Identify the distribution of infection Select study design

**Background**

Roundworms (*Ascaris lumbricoides*), whipworms (*Trichuris trichiura*) and hookworms (*Ancylostoma duodenale* and *Necator americanus*) infect millions of children in sub-tropical and tropical countries, resulting in malnutrition, growth stunting, intellectual retardation, and cognitive deficits. To fight against these worms, large-scale deworming programs are implemented in which anthelmintic drugs are administered (see also website WHO). These pledges of drug donations are at place, but this world wide upscale of deworming programmes also creates the need for a monitoring system that allows programme managers, policy-makers and donors of the drugs to assess whether the objectives are being met and, if necessary, to adjust the implemented strategy. Thus, it will be imperative to periodically assess worm infections by means of prevalence and infection intensity to determine whether the deworming programme progresses as anticipated.

**Goal of ParaDesign 2.0**

We developed a mathematical framework based on worm egg counts in stool that allows health-care decision makers to identify a study design that best fits the local worm epidemiology and resources (Levecke et al., 2015). To bridge the gap between this mathematical framework and the end-users we developed ParaDesign. ParaDesign guides in identify the most-cost-effective study design without the need of prior knowledge on the mathematical framework or any statistical software.

**Work with ParaDesign 2.0**

**Step 1:** choose your study goal in the top left corner of the side panel

**Step 2:** indicate which worm species you will target

**Step 3:** match the distribution of infections between school with those in the district / province of interest. Also consult the required information tab.

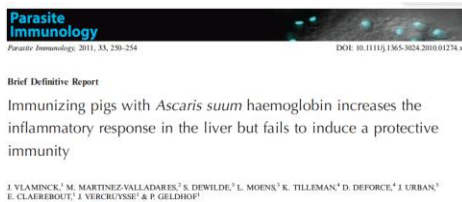
**Step 4:** complete the information about the schools

**Step 5:** customize the costs linked to both field and laboratory procedures if wanted

**Step 6:** select the most cost-effective study design at the select study design-tab. The default costs estimates are discussed in more detail in the required information-tab

# Role of veterinary parasitologists

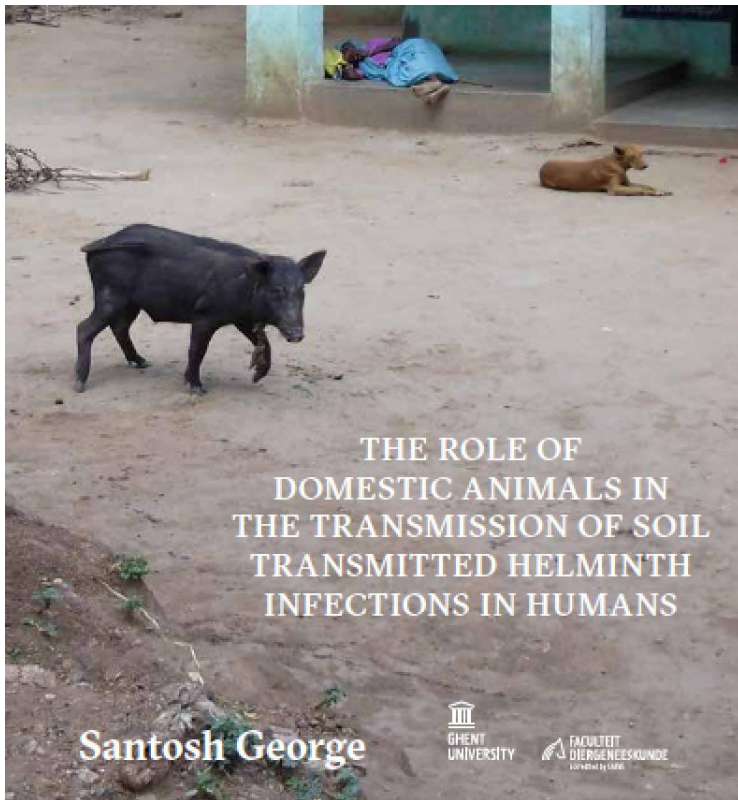
- Diagnosis
  - Serological based assays



Diagnosis of *Ascaris lumbricoides* infections in Ethiopian children and adults by three coprological techniques and two novel in-house serological tests

# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Optimizing STH control
  - Role of animals as a reservoir for STH



*Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg* 2016; **110**: 657–663  
doi:10.1093/trstmh/trw078 Advance Access publication 18 January 2017



## The molecular speciation of soil-transmitted helminth eggs collected from school children across six endemic countries

Santosh George<sup>a,b</sup>, Peter Geldhof<sup>a</sup>, Marco Albonico<sup>c,d</sup>, Shaali M. Ame<sup>e</sup>, Jeffrey M. Bethony<sup>f</sup>, Dirk Engels<sup>g</sup>, Zeleke Mekonnen<sup>h</sup>, Antonio Montresor<sup>g</sup>, Sopheak Hem<sup>i</sup>, Louis-Albert Tchuem-Tchuente<sup>j</sup>, Nguyen Thu Huong<sup>k</sup>, Gagandeep Kang<sup>b</sup>, Jozef Vercruysse<sup>g</sup> and Bruno Levecke<sup>a,\*</sup>

# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Optimizing STH control
  - Sources of contamination

## BMC Veterinary Research



Research article

Open Access

### Canine faecal contamination and parasitic risk in the city of Naples (southern Italy)

Laura Rinaldi<sup>+1</sup>, Annibale Biggeri<sup>+2</sup>, Sabrina Carbone<sup>+1</sup>, Vincenzo Musella<sup>+1</sup>, Dolores Catelan<sup>+2</sup>, Vincenzo Veneziano<sup>+1</sup> and Giuseppe Cringoli<sup>\*1</sup>

VECTOR-BORNE AND ZOO NOTIC DISEASES  
Volume 11, Number 2, 2011  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/vbz.2009.0244

### The Relationship of Public Park Accessibility to Dogs to the Presence of *Toxocara* Species Ova in the Soil

Hamza Avcioglu and Ibrahim Balkaya

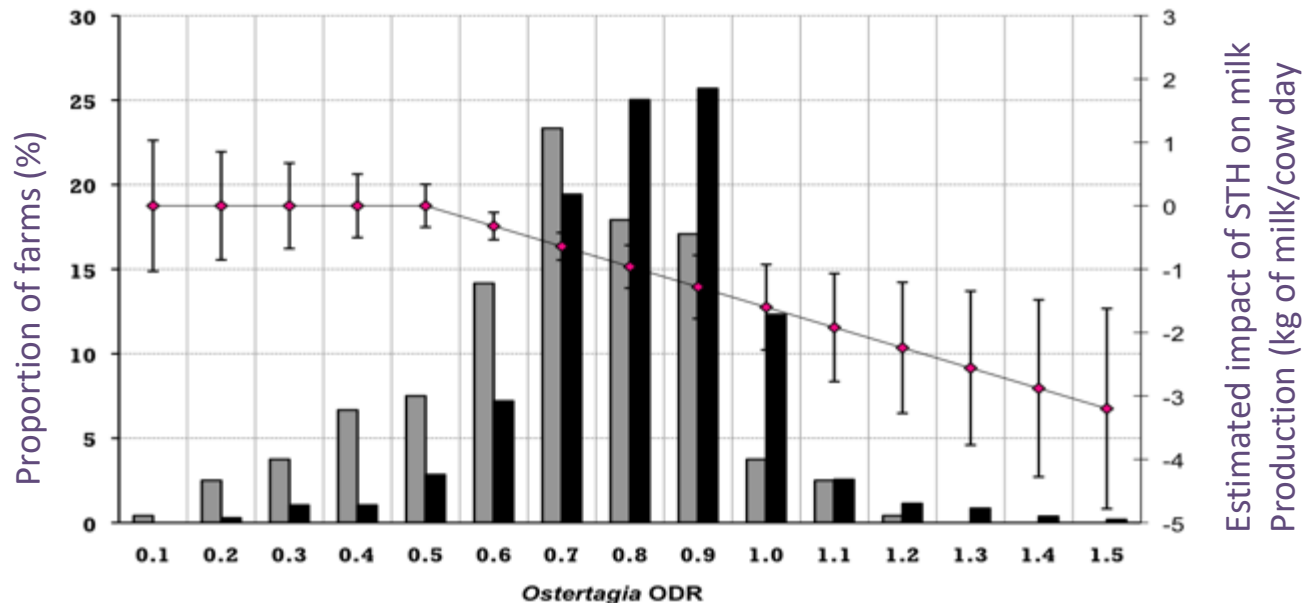
What about infection in the classroom?





# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Optimizing STH control
  - Impact of STH on milk
    - Antibody STH are –ive correlated with milk production
    - Treatment recovers milk losses



# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Optimizing STH control
  - Impact of STH on milk
    - What is the impact of treatment at delivery?
    - Postpartum deworming: a novel war to improve breastfeeding and optimize infant growth

BILL &  
MELINDA  
GATES  
*foundation*



McGill

# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Monitoring drug efficacy
  - WHO Collaborating Centre since 2009



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PLOS NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

## Assessment of Anthelmintic Efficacy of Mebendazole in School Children in Six Countries Where Soil-Transmitted Helminths Are Endemic

Bruno Levecke<sup>1\*</sup>, Antonio Montresor<sup>2</sup>, Marco Albonico<sup>3</sup>, Shaali M. Ame<sup>4</sup>, Jerzy M. Behnke<sup>5</sup>, Jeffrey M. Bethony<sup>6</sup>, Calvine D. Noumedem<sup>7</sup>, Dirk Engels<sup>8</sup>, Bertrand Guillard<sup>9</sup>, Andrew C. Kotze<sup>9</sup>, Alejandro J. Krolewiecki<sup>10</sup>, James S. McCarthy<sup>11</sup>, Zeleke Mekonnen<sup>12</sup>, Maria V. Periago<sup>13</sup>, Hem Sopheak<sup>8</sup>, Louis-Albert Tchuem-Tchuente<sup>7</sup>, Tran Thanh Duong<sup>14</sup>, Nguyen Thu Huong<sup>14</sup>, Ahmed Zeynudin<sup>12</sup>, Jozef Vercruyse<sup>1</sup>

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PLOS NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

## Assessment of the Anthelmintic Efficacy of Albendazole in School Children in Seven Countries Where Soil-Transmitted Helminths Are Endemic

Jozef Vercruyse<sup>1\*</sup>, Jerzy M. Behnke<sup>2</sup>, Marco Albonico<sup>3</sup>, Shaali Makame Ame<sup>4</sup>, Cécile Angebault<sup>4</sup>, Jeffrey M. Bethony<sup>5</sup>, Dirk Engels<sup>6</sup>, Bertrand Guillard<sup>7</sup>, Nguyen Thi Viet Hoa<sup>8</sup>, Gagandeep Kang<sup>9</sup>, Deepthi Kattula<sup>9</sup>, Andrew C. Kotze<sup>9</sup>, James S. McCarthy<sup>10</sup>, Zeleke Mekonnen<sup>11</sup>, Antonio Montresor<sup>8</sup>, Maria Victoria Periago<sup>5</sup>, Laurentine Sumo<sup>12</sup>, Louis-Albert Tchuem Tchuente<sup>12</sup>, Dang Thi Cam Thach<sup>7</sup>, Ahmed Zeynudin<sup>11</sup>, Bruno Levecke<sup>1</sup>



ASSESSING THE EFFICACY OF ANTHELMINTIC  
DRUGS AGAINST SCHISTOSOMIASIS  
AND SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHIASES



# Role of veterinary parasitologists

- Monitoring drug efficacy
  - Strengthening monitoring and surveillance of drug efficacy and drug resistance in STH programs



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MELINDA  
GATES  
*foundation*



# Conclusion

- Veterinary parasitologists have a complementary role
  - Good & bad experience
  - R&D for a variety of diagnostic tools
  - Pragmatic approach
  - Animal - parasite models
    - worm biology
    - bio-markers
    - drug compounds
    - markers for drug resistance



Thank you

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Laboratory of Parasitology

[www.starworms.org](http://www.starworms.org)

