



Foundation for the Promotion of Health Systems Improvement

مؤسسة تعزيز التطور في النظم الصحية

SEMINAR INVITATION

**“Bridging the Innovation Gap in the Development of
Breakthrough Medicines”**

Herman Van Cauteren and Robert Woestenborghs (*Neglected
Diseases Foundation*)

Thursday, 5 November 2009

13:00 to 15:00 (with light lunch)

Venue: Health Authority – Abu Dhabi (HAAD)

The world faces an unacceptable burden of neglected diseases (including cryptosporidiosis, dengue, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis and leprosy) and therapies move slowly, if at all, from discovery to the patient.

This seminar, hosted by the Health Authority – Abu Dhabi, will focus on the challenge of the “innovation gap” between discovery and proof-of-concept for breakthrough therapies against neglected infectious diseases. The speakers will draw on their extensive experience in the field of pharmaceutical research and development (including mycology, pain, malaria and HIV therapies) and will also highlight some recent promising developments in biotechnology that are relevant to the development of new medicines for neglected infectious diseases. The discussion will extend into the opportunities, benefits and challenges of building up appropriate biomedical R&D capacity in the region.

The seminar will be led by Dr. Herman Van Cauteren and Mr. Robert Woestenborghs. The speakers are recognized international specialists with long experience in preclinical drug development. They have recently established a foundation to support the early development of medicines against neglected diseases.

RSVP and further information: leonard.lerer@fphsi.org or 0505725704. Driving directions to HAAD: <http://www.haad.ae/haad/tabid/350/Default.aspx>



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Speaker Biographies



Herman Van Cauteren, D.V.M.

Founder, Neglected Diseases Foundation

Herman Van Cauteren is the former global head of Preclinical Development at Johnson & Johnson Pharma in Raritan (New Jersey, USA) and Beerse (Belgium). He started his 30-year R&D career at Janssen Pharmaceutica (Beerse, Belgium) where he became the Vice President of Preclinical Safety. Thereafter, he moved to Novartis (Basel, Switzerland) and Tibotec (Mechelen, Beerse) where he held similar senior positions. During this period, Herman contributed to the development of about 50 new pharmaceuticals. His major drug development expertise is in preclinical safety, pharmacokinetics and proof-of-concept testing of new molecular entities.



Robert Woestenborghs, M.S. Chem. Eng.

Co-founder, Neglected Diseases Foundation

Robert Woestenborghs is the former global head of Preclinical Operations and Project Management at Johnson & Johnson. Pharma He has over 30 years of experience in pharmaceutical drug development and a broad knowledge of the different scientific disciplines in the preclinical field (including bioanalysis, drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics). Robert has contributed to the successful development of more than 40 new molecular entities. He has extensive experience in international process, project and resource management.