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Plasmodium falciparum and Necator americanus in Gabon: observation, intervention, and controlled human infection

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift getiteld *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Necator americanus* in Gabon: observation, intervention, and controlled human infection.

1. “A combined malaria/CRP rapid diagnostic test has excellent sensitivity for malaria diagnosis, but a CRP threshold of 20 mg/L is insufficient for distinguishing bacterial infections from malaria and other non-bacterial infections in Gabon” **(This thesis)**
2. “The radiation attenuated whole-sporozoite PfSPZ vaccine is safe and immunogenic but does not protect against naturally occurring infection with malaria in young Gabonese children.” **(This thesis)**
3. “Controlled human helminth infection, using 50 locally derived hookworm larvae as inoculate, is safe and infective in pre-exposed adults living in Gabon.” **(This thesis)**
4. “For successful elimination of parasitic diseases in endemic areas, the use of innovative tools and platforms, such as controlled human infection, are important but secondary to assuring the buy-in of relevant stakeholders living in endemic areas.” **(This thesis)**
5. “Reduction in infection intensity, rather than prevention of infection per se, should be accepted as a primary efficacy endpoint for hookworm vaccine trials, given the lack of sterilising immunity in high-transmission endemic settings.” **(Adapted from DiRosato et al., Lancet Infect Dis, 2026)**
6. “Controlled human hookworm infection study volunteers should be representative of the target population, and conclusions drawn from hookworm-naïve cohorts validated in hookworm-exposed volunteers.” **(Adapted from Kapulu et al., Biologicals, 2024)**
7. “Vaccine design against complex parasites is not only about presenting to the immune system the right target, but about presenting to the immune system the right target in the right place; considering the spatial choreography of the immune response.” **(Adapted from Xin Gao et al., Science Immunology, 2025)**
8. PfSPZ vaccine efficacy in malaria endemic areas is dependent on presumptive antimalarial treatment before the first vaccine dose. **(Diawara et al., Lancet Infect Dis, 2024)**
9. Sub-Saharan Africa centred biomarker discovery programmes should be designated a global health research priority equivalent to *Plasmodium falciparum* vaccine development programmes.
10. Ibi kan ọṣọ kọ la ti ní ọrun / The sky is not seen from only one single spot **(Yoruba proverb)**- complex realities can only be fully understood from a global perspective.