



## Fusco Group at the conference for Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine in Leipzig



**Aaron Remkes presenting**

From the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, a delegation from the Fusco Group embarked on a journey to Leipzig, where they participated at the Conference for Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine (KIT) at the Leipzig Zoo. This conference, jointly organised by the German Society for Infectiology, the German Society for Paediatric Infectiology and the German Society for Tropical Medicine, Travel Medicine, and Global Health (<https://kit-kongresse.de/>), served as a platform to showcase the group's latest contributions to the field.

During the event, the members of the group delivered five oral presentations on the team's projects in Madagascar and Germany.

On Wednesday, Dr. Daniela Fusco took the stage to present a capacity building project centered on the management of hepatosplenic schistosomiasis in Fianarantsoa (Madagascar) in the Global Health session, emphasising the importance of sustainable and effective capacity building in countries with limited resources for health services and education.

On Friday, it was the turn of Aaron Remkes to present first results of the project RESAMP. The preliminary findings showing a high prevalence of schistosomiasis in the Vatomandry District, with lower positivity rates for the disease in larger villages and those near urban areas.

Next, Pia Rausche presented the outcomes of the FIRM-UP study on female genital schistosomiasis and HPV on behalf of Jean-Marc Kutz. The research unveiled positivity rates exceeding 60 per cent for FGS and over 40 per cent for HPV in the Boeny region in Northern Madagascar.

Moreover, Daniela Fusco shared the preliminary results of the PREPRAMA project. Lastly, Pia Rausche gave an enticing glimpse of an upcoming booklet, aimed to inform researchers, decision-makers, and the curious public about the research activities on neglected tropical diseases in Germany.

The delegation was delighted to reunite with Dr. Phillip Klein and Dr. Kirstin Schmidt-Hellerau, two alumnis of the group who supported the projects in Madagascar, together with several other professionals working in the field of Global Health and Tropical Medicine.

Overall, the KIT was a great opportunity to present our activities, to network and to gain fruitful insights. We are looking forward to meet everyone at the next conference again!



**Pia Rausche presenting**