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Mycobacterial Diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases
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Research expertise

Human African Trypanosomiasis
Visceral Leishmaniasis
Tuberculosis
Leprosy

Qualifications

Doctor
Graduate

Biosketch

Epco Hasker is a medical doctor/ epidemiologist from the Netherlands with 15 years' working experience in lower and middle income countries. While abroad he worked mostly on tuberculosis and leprosy control in Africa (Nigeria), Asia (Afghanistan/Pakistan) and in the former Soviet Union (Ukraine and Central Asia). Since 2008 he has been working in Belgium for the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) at the Department of Public Health. His core responsibilities include technical support to epidemiological studies in Africa and Asia, and lecturing epidemiology and statistics to international MPH students. In his department he is a resource person for technical support on epidemiology and statistics. In 2010 he obtained a PhD based on his research on control of infectious disease in low resource settings. In June 2020 he was appointed professor of common tropical infectious diseases at ITM.

Research outputs

Can cutaneous leishmaniasis provoke a resurgence of kala-azar in the Indian subcontinent?

Bhattarai, NR., Rai, K., Uranw, S., Khadka, DK., Khanal, B., Dahal, G., Pradhan, S., Dhakal, S., Monsieurs, P., de Gooyer, T., Cloots, K., Hasker, E. & van der Auwera, G., 2025, In: BMC Infectious Diseases. 25, 7 p., 281.

Retrospective clinical performance evaluation of the Abbott Bioline HAT 2.0, a rapid diagnostic test for human African trypanosomiasis based on recombinant antigens

Alonso, ST., Biéler, S., da Luz, RI., Verlé, P., Büscher, P. & Hasker, E., 2025, In: Tropical Medicine and International Health. 30, 2, p. 135-142 8 p., 14077.

Effectiveness of ongoing single dose rifampicin post-exposure prophylaxis (SDR-PEP) implementation under routine programme conditions-An observational study in Nepal

Banstola, NL., Hasker, E., Mieras, L., Gurung, D., Baral, B., Mehata, S., Prasai, S., Ghimire, Y., Das, BK., Napit, P. & van Brakel, W., 2024, In: PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 18, 12, 15 p., e0012446.

Feasibility and accuracy of mobile QT interval monitoring strategies in bedaquiline-enhanced prophylactic leprosy treatment

Bergeman, AT., Nourdine, S., Piubello, A., Salim, Z., Braet, SM., Baco, A., Grillone, SH., Snijders, R., Hoof, C., Tsoumanis, A., van Loen, H., Assoumani, Y., Mzembaba, A., Ortuño-Gutiérrez, N., Hasker, E., van der Werf, C. & de Jong, BC., 2024, In: CTS-Clinical and Translational Science. 17, 8, 7 p., e13861.

Monitoring of *Leishmania transmission* in the postelimination phase: the potential of serological surveys

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Post-exposure prophylaxis in leprosy (PEOPLE): a cluster randomised trial

Hasker, E., Assoumani, Y., Randrianantoandro, A., Ramboarina, S., Braet, SM., Cauchoix, B., Baco, A., Mzembaba, A., Salim, Z., Amidy, M., Grillone, S., Attoumani, N., Grillone, SH., Ronse, M., Grietens, KP., Rakoto-Andrianarivelo, M., Harinjatovo, H., Supply, P., Snijders, R., Hoof, C., & 8 others Tsoumanis, A., Suffys, P., Rasamoelina, T., Corstjens, P., Ortuno-Gutierrez, N., Geluk, A., Cambau, E. & de Jong, BC., 2024, In: *Lancet Global Health*. 12, 6, p. e1017-e1026 10 p.

Safety of single-dose bedaquiline combined with rifampicin for leprosy post-exposure prophylaxis: A Phase 2 randomized non-inferiority trial in the Comoros Islands

de Jong, B., Samidine, S. N., Bergeman, A. T., Salim, Z., Grillone, S. H., Braet, S., Wirdane, A., Snijders, R., Ronse, M., Hoof, C., Tsoumanis, A., Ortuno-Gutierrez, N., van der Werf, C., Piubello, A., Mzembaba, A., Younoussa, A. & Hasker, E., 2024, In: *PLoS Medicine*. 21, 10, e1004453.

Source Tracing of *Leishmania donovani* in Emerging Foci of Visceral Leishmaniasis, Western Nepal

Monsieurs, P., Cloots, K., Uranw, S., Banjara, MR., Ghimire, P., Burza, S., Hasker, E., Dujardin, JC. & Domagalska, MA., 2024, In: *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 30, 3, p. 611-613 3 p.

The cost of sleeping sickness vector control in Yasa Bonga, a health district in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Snijders, R., Shaw, APM., Selby, R., Tirados, I., Bessell, PR., Fukinsia, A., Miaka, E., Tediosi, F., Hasker, E. & Antillon, M., 2024, In: *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. 18, 11, 18 p., e0011959.

Use of the Lung Flute ECO to assist in sputum collection for tuberculosis testing: a randomised crossover trial

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Visceral leishmaniasis in the hills of western Nepal: A transmission assessment

Uranw, S., Bhattarai, NR., Cloots, K., Roy, L., Rai, K., Kiran, U., Pyakurel, UR., Lal, BK., Burza, S., Rijal, S., Karki, P., Khanal, B. & Hasker, E., 2024, In: *PLoS ONE*. 19, 4, 12 p., e0289578.

***Leishmania Donovanii* and *Wuchereria Bancrofti* co-infection in an asymptomatic population of visceral Leishmaniasis**

Singh, AK., Hasker, E., Singh, OP. & Sundar, S., 2023, In: *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*. 130, suppl_2, p. S23-S23 1 p.

***Wuchereria bancrofti* infection is associated with progression to clinical visceral leishmaniasis in VL- endemic areas in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India**

Kumar Singh, A., de Gooyer, T., Singh, O. P., Pandey, S., Neyaz, A., Cloots, K., Kansal, S., Malaviya, P., Rai, M., Nylen, S., Chakravarty, J., Hasker, E. & Sundar, S., 2023, In: *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. 17, 10, 16 p., e0011729.

Community empowerment through participation in a tsetse control project in the Democratic Republic of Congo

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Field-friendly anti-PGL-I serosurvey in children to monitor *Mycobacterium leprae* transmission in Bihar, India

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Hi-plex deep amplicon sequencing for identification, high-resolution genotyping and multidrug resistance prediction of *Mycobacterium leprae* directly from patient biopsies by using Deeplex Myc-Lep

Jouet, A., Braet, SM., Gaudin, C., Bisch, G., Vasconcellos, S., do Livramento, REEND., Palacios, YYP., Fontes, AB., Lucena, N., Rosa, P., Moraes, M., La, K., Badalato, N., Lenoir, E., Ferré, A., Clément, M., Hasker, E., Grillone, SH., Abdou, W., Said, A., & 7 others Assoumani, Y., Attoumani, N., Laurent, Y., Cambau, E., de Jong, BC., Suffys, PN. & Supply, P., 2023, In: *EBioMedicine*. 93, 14 p., 104649.

Monitoring of *Leishmania* transmission in the peri-elimination phase: the potential of serological surveys

Singh, OP., Cloots, K., Rai, TK., Tiwari, VD., Singh, AK., Hasker, E. & Sundar, S., 2023, In: *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*. 130, S2, p. S22-S22 1 p.

Protocol, rationale and design of BE-PEOPLE (Bedaquiline enhanced exposure prophylaxis for LEprosy in the Comoros): a cluster randomized trial on effectiveness of rifampicin and bedaquiline as post-exposure prophylaxis of leprosy contacts
Younoussa, A., Samidine, S. N., Bergeman, A. T., Piubello, A., Attoumani, N., Grillone, S. H., Braet, S. M., Tsoumanis, A., Baco, A., Mzembaba, A., Salim, Z., Amidy, M., Grillone, S., Snijders, R., Corstjens, P., Ortuno-Gutierrez, N., Hoof, C., Geluk, A., de Jong, B. C. & Hasker, E., 2023, In: BMC Infectious Diseases. 23, 1, p. 310

The ongoing risk of *Leishmania donovani* transmission in eastern Nepal: an entomological investigation during the elimination era

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Diagnosis of visceral Leishmaniasis in an elimination setting: a validation study of the diagnostic algorithm in India

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Gambiense human African trypanosomiasis: the bumpy road to elimination

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High yield of retrospective active case finding for leprosy in Comoros

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Less is more: developing an approach for assessing clustering at the lower administrative boundaries that increases the yield of active screening for leprosy in Bihar, India

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Two-year follow-up of *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* serology after successful treatment of human African trypanosomiasis: results of four different sero-diagnostic tests

Inocencio da Luz, R., Tablado Alonso, S., Büscher, P., Verlé, P., De Weggheleire, A., Mumba Ngoyi, D., Pyana, P. P. & Hasker, E., 2022, In: Diagnostics (Basel). 12, 2, 13 p., 246.

'Where are the dead flies!': perceptions of local communities towards the deployment of Tiny Targets to control tsetse in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Vander Kelen, C., Mpanya, A., Hasker, E., Miaka, E., Nzuzi, R., Torr, S., Perez, D. & Pulford, J., 2022, In: BMJ Global Health. 7, 1, 11 p., e006879.

Assessing *L. donovani* skin parasite load: a proof of concept study of a microbiopsy device in an Indian setting

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Costs and outcomes of integrated Human African Trypanosomiasis surveillance system using rapid diagnostic tests, Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Exploring clustering of leprosy in the Comoros and Madagascar: a geospatial analysis

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Feasibility of a dried blood spot strategy for serological screening and surveillance to monitor elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Inocencio da Luz, R., Phanzu, D. M., Kiabanzawoko, O. N., Miaka, E., Verlé, P., De Weggheleire, A., Büscher, P., Hasker, E. & Boelaert, M., 2021, In: PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 15, 6, 16 p., e0009407.

Leprosy post-exposure prophylaxis: current experiences and ongoing research

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Minimally invasive sampling to identify leprosy patients with a high bacterial burden in the Union of the Comoros

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Visceral leishmaniasis-HIV coinfection as a predictor of increased *Leishmania* transmission at the village level in Bihar, India

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Community-based survey on helminth infections in Kwilu province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and implications for local control strategies

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Cost of a new method of active screening for human African trypanosomiasis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Impact of the visceral leishmaniasis elimination initiative on *Leishmania donovani* transmission in Nepal: a 10-year repeat survey

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Male predominance in reported Visceral Leishmaniasis cases: nature or nurture? A comparison of population-based with health facility-reported data

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Reduction of diagnostic and treatment delays reduces rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis mortality in Rwanda

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Using a geographic information system as a management tool for tuberculosis control

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Xenodiagnosis to address key questions in visceral leishmaniasis control and elimination

Singh, O. P., Hasker, E., Boelaert, M., Sacks, D. & Sundar, S., 2020, In: PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 14, 8, 18 p., e0008363.

Clustering of leprosy beyond the household level in a highly endemic setting on the Comoros, an observational study

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Costing of an integrated approach for human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) case finding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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High prevalence of leprosy during skin survey in Muzaffarpur HDSS, Bihar, India

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Innovative tools for assessing infectiousness in asymptomatic carriers in *L. donovani*: a proof of concept study of a novel microbiopsy device

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Outcomes of the HAT elimination efforts in DRC

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Bionomics of *Phlebotomus argentipes* in villages in Bihar, India with insights into efficacy of IRS-based control measures

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Do cryptic reservoirs threaten gambiense-sleeping sickness elimination?

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Innovative digital technologies for quality assurance of diagnosis of human African trypanosomiasis

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The quality of medicines used in children and supplied by private pharmaceutical wholesalers in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo: a prospective survey

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1/11/24 → 31/12/27

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