



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium for Emerging Viral Diseases

Campus Biotech, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-12 April 2019

<https://www.unige.ch/emerging-virus-symposium/>

### Stephan Günther: Novel Diagnostics for Lassa Fever in the Field



**Main affiliation:** Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine

**Actual Position:** Head Department of Virology

Dr. Günther (MD) is the Head of Department of Virology, the Biosafety level 4 laboratory, and WHO Collaborating Centre for Arboviruses and Haemorrhagic Fever Reference and Research at the Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany, and adjunct professor at the University of Hamburg. He studied medicine and specialised in virology, microbiology, and infection epidemiology. Dr. Günther's research is dedicated to viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF), including Ebola virus disease, Lassa fever, and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. The group established experimental systems for studying Lassa virus replication as well as small animal models to study pathogenesis and immunology of VHF. Clinical research programs are focused on pathophysiology of VHF and the development of diagnostic tools. The Department of Virology is running several collaborative projects with West African countries, including Nigeria, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Ghana on VHF in humans and the animal reservoirs. The department is also in charge for diagnostic service for tropical viruses. Dr Günther has been Coordinator of the European Mobile Laboratory (EMLab) consortium. During the Ebola virus disease outbreak, EMLab operated diagnostic units under the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and supported operational research projects, including clinical trials.