



2nd Symposium for Emerging Viral Diseases

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

Rudi Pauwels: A Mobile Laboratory for Outbreak Situations



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Dr. Rudi Pauwels is a scientist and serial bio-tech entrepreneur (pharmaceuticals & diagnostics). He started at the Rega Institute (Belgium) where he described in the mid-eighties the first methods to search for anti-HIV drugs. His work led to several new anti-HIV compounds including the discovery in 1988 of the nucleotide class of HIV RT inhibitors (e.g. adefovir, tenofovir) and in 1990 the first description of the NNRTI-class of compounds. He (co)-founded several companies in the field of anti-HIV treatment (Tibotec) and diagnostics (Virco, drug resistance testing). The R&D efforts at Tibotec would lead to three next generation anti-HIV drugs: the protease inhibitor darunavir (PREZISTA™), the NNRTI's etravirine (INTELENCE™) and rilpivirine (EDURANT™). In 1999, he was the driving force behind the creation of Tibotec-Crucell joint-spin off Galapagos Genomics. He headed for a few years the anti-infective (HIV, HCV, TB) drug discovery efforts of Johnson & Johnson. In 2004 Dr. Pauwels went on a 3-year sabbatical at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology EPFL to deepen his knowledge in micro- and nanotechnology. Driven by the increasing need for more rapid and easy-to-use diagnostics to enable personalized medicine in closer proximity of the patients, he founded Biocartis in 2007. After leading the company for nearly a decade, he decided in 2017 to focus again on infectious diseases and technology innovation. Inspired by his experiences in West Africa during the Ebola outbreak, he created the Praesens Foundation that is developing, providing and implementing easy to train and use solutions that contribute to better epidemic preparedness, early warning and rapid response for existing and emerging infectious diseases and medicine in general.