

Webinar: The neglected problem of foodborne Chagas disease - the importance of foodborne transmission of *Trypanosoma cruzi* | 25 June 2024 | Web page

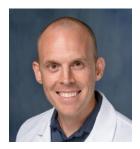
Speaker biographies

Dr Héctor Daniel Coto



Dr Héctor Daniel Coto is currently the regional advisor for Chagas Disease at the Pan American Health Organization, under the Neglected Tropical and Vectorborne Disease Unit of the Department of Prevention, Control and Elimination of Communicable Diseases. He was a former Director of Vector-Transmitted Diseases at the Ministry of Health in Argentina, and has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and master's degree in vector control.

Dr Norman Beatty



Norman L. Beatty is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Florida College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine in Gainesville, Florida. His primary clinical focus is management of tropical infectious diseases, such as Chagas. He is the Director of the Travel Medicine and Tropical Diseases clinic at UF Health. Dr Beatty has been studying triatomines (kissing bugs) the insect vector responsible for transmitting the parasite that causes Chagas disease in humans and other

mammals and Chagas disease since 2015. He is currently researching the prevalence of Chagas disease in Florida as well as throughout the United States. His research also extends into regions of Colombia and Paraguay, looking at transmission dynamics of *T. cruzi* among these regions of Latin America. He is an active member of the U.S. Chagas Research Consortium and U.S. Chagas Diagnostic Working Group.

Dr Lucy Robertson



Lucy Robertson is a Professor of Parasitology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU-VET) where she leads the parasitology team. With a PhD concerned with interactions between parasitology and host nutrition from the University of Glasgow, Lucy has a long-term interest in zoonotic parasites and has been involved in research on food/waterborne parasites for over 30 years; zoonotic parasites remain one of the focus research topics of the parasitology team at NMBU-VET, as well as approaches for mitigating against transmission. Lucy led a COST Action on Foodborne Parasites in Europe,

and has served on the BioHaz committee at the European Food Safety Authority; in addition, she participated in the FAO/WHO risk ranking of foodborne parasites. Lucy is currently a member of the WHO Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG), where she contributes in the Parasitic Diseases Task Force and the Impact Measurement Task Force. One of her major goals in FERG is to ensure that parasites, and the considerable impact on human health and wellbeing caused by these neglected pathogens, are not overlooked.