



Dear Colleague,

We wish to extend a cordial invitation to you to participate in the **2<sup>nd</sup> International Berlin Bat Meeting: Bat Biology and Infectious Diseases** to be held from 19-21 February 2010, in Berlin, Germany.

### AIM

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To foster an exchange of ideas among international specialists working on emerging infectious diseases in bats and/or on bat biology. We are especially keen on crossing disciplinary boundaries and hope that the discussion among scientists from biology, veterinary and human medicine will advance the field substantially. We suggest several exciting topics as sessions or workshops. In addition, we have invited five plenary speakers to review controversial and inspiring developments in the field of bat diseases and their link to bat biology.

### TALKS (TENTATIVE TITLES)

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- **EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN BATS (DR. HUME FIELD, AUSTRALIA)**
- **BATS AND RABIES (PROF. DR. TONY FOOKS, UNITED KINGDOM)**
- **BATS AND MYCOSES: THE WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME (DR. DAVID BLEHERT, U.S.A)**
- **BATS AND PARASITES (DR. CARL DICK, U.S.A.)**
- **BAT DISEASES AND CONSERVATION (PROF. DR. PAUL RACEY, UNITED KINGDOM)**

### TENTATIVE LIST OF SESSIONS

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- **EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN BATS**
- **BATS AND RABIES**
- **BATS AND PARASITES**
- **BAT IMMUNOLOGY/IMMUNOGENETICS**
- **BAT DISEASES AND CONSERVATION**
- **BAT DISEASES AND THE PUBLIC**
- **ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES**

You may submit abstracts for posters or oral presentations. Please note that time slots for oral presentations are limited and therefore oral presentations will be assigned on a competitive basis. Details regarding format and style will be communicated in our next call.

### DEADLINES AND COSTS

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The deadline for registration and abstract submission is 1. November 2009. Expected registration fee is 70€ for regular participants and 50€ for student participants. The deadline for submission of workshop and session titles is 1. August 2009. Please check our next call for more details.

Please let us know whether you would be interested in organizing or convening a workshop/session. This could include either a sequence of oral presentations or a roundtable discussion or a combination of both.

We are expecting a stimulating program with many interesting scientific presentations supplemented by an entertaining, yet informative, evening program. Please feel free to distribute this call to anyone you think might be interested in participating.

We apologize in case you received this letter more than once. If you have any questions, please contact us at [2ndBBM2010@izw-berlin.de](mailto:2ndBBM2010@izw-berlin.de) or check the web page at ([www.izw-berlin.de](http://www.izw-berlin.de) ; click on “English”, click on “Events”, click on “2<sup>nd</sup> Berlin Bat Meeting”).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Berlin next February,

PD Dr. Christian C. Voigt and Dr. Gudrun Wibbelt  
Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin



## 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL BERLIN BAT MEETING: BAT BIOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

BERLIN, 19-21 FEBRUARY 2010

### TENTATIVE PROGRAM

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We invite speakers to present data, results or comprehensive reviews dealing with bat biology and infectious diseases **in any region of the world**. We propose the following sessions covering various topics related to bat diseases.

#### SESSION I: EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN BATS

The past decade highlighted the importance of bats as potential reservoir hosts for a number of infectious agents, some of zoonotic importance such as SARS-like virus, Henipah, Ebola and Marburg viruses. The importance of understanding the influence of bat ecology and sociality to the emergence of diseases will be the main focus of this session. In addition, we will discuss recent developments in the field of bat infectious diseases.

#### SESSION II: BATS AND RABIES

Bats are hosts to the majority of all currently known Lyssaviruses. While some Lyssaviruses seem to be of lesser importance others like the classical rabies virus, EBLV and ABLV present a risk of transmission to humans and other mammals. The aim of this session is to discuss the underlying reasons for the spread of Lyssaviruses among bats, the distribution of Lyssaviruses among bat populations, the effect of the viruses on bats and transmission routes to other species.

### SESSION III: BATS AND PARASITES

A large variety of ecto- and endoparasites parasitize bats. The intensity of parasite loads can markedly vary among different bat species as well as among individual bats within a population/roost. This session will focus on bat-parasite associations, the relationship between ecology/sociality and parasite load and how bats deal physiologically and behaviourally with their parasite burden.

### SESSION IV: BAT IMMUNOLOGY/IMMUNOGENETICS

Newly emerging infectious diseases among bats raise the important question how the bat immune system responds to these challenges. This session will look into the new field of bat immunology and bat immunogenetics to better understand the patterns of disease emergence among Chiroptera.

### SESSION V: BAT DISEASES AND CONSERVATION

Bat diseases can have profound, sometimes even lethal effects on bats leading to decline and possibly even extinction of local bat population. In this session we will discuss the potential role of bat diseases for the survival of threatened and endangered species.

### SESSION VI: BAT DISEASES AND THE PUBLIC

The public awareness of bats and their zoonotic potential has a large impact on bat conservation. Stakeholders, conservationists and politicians should all be involved when strategies against the spread of diseases are planned. This session will focus on how to address the public concern raised by the emergence of infectious diseases in bats and how to develop a balanced strategy in the fight against bat pathogens.

### ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

We encourage participants to take part in a discussion about current challenges for the study of bat migration and for the protection of migratory bats, future perspectives, and what conservational efforts can be achieved at both national and international levels.



## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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- Friday (19.2.2010) 15:00 – 20:00 Registration
- 18:00 – 19:00 Plenary talk “**Bat diseases and conservation**”, Prof. Dr. Paul Racey (Aberdeen, United Kingdom)
- 19:00 Dinner and Warm-up Party

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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- Saturday (20.2.2010) 8:30 Plenary talk “**Emerging Infectious Diseases in Bats**”, Dr. Hume Field (Brisbane, Australia)
- 9:30 – 10:30 Session: “**Emerging infectious diseases in bats I**”
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00– 12:00 Session: “**Emerging infectious diseases in bats II**”
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 – 14:30 Plenary talk “**Bats and rabies**”, Prof. Anthony Fooks (Cambridge, United Kingdom)
- 14:30 – 15:30 Session: “**Bats and rabies**”
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break/Poster
- 16:00 – 17:30 Session: “**Bat immunology and immunogenetics**”
- 17:30 – 18:30 Coffee break + Poster session
- 19:00 – 23:00 Banquet
- Sunday (21.2.2010) 8:30 Plenary talk “**Bats and fungal diseases: The white-nose syndrome**” Dr. David Blehert (Madison, USA)
- 9:30 – 10:30 Session: “**Bat diseases and conservation**”
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Session “**Bat diseases and the public**”
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 Plenary talk “**Bats and parasites**” Dr. Carl Dick (Chicago, U.S.A)
- 14:30 – 15:30 Session “**Bats and parasites**”
- 15:30 Round-table discussion: “**Current Challenges and Future Perspectives**”
- 16:00 End of conference

