

CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN MALADIES TROPICALES (CRMT), RETHY, DRC



Tony UKETY, MD, MPH

OUTLINES

- Origin
- Location
- Areas of activities
- Achievements
- Challenges
- The Way Forward
- Acknowledgement

ORIGIN

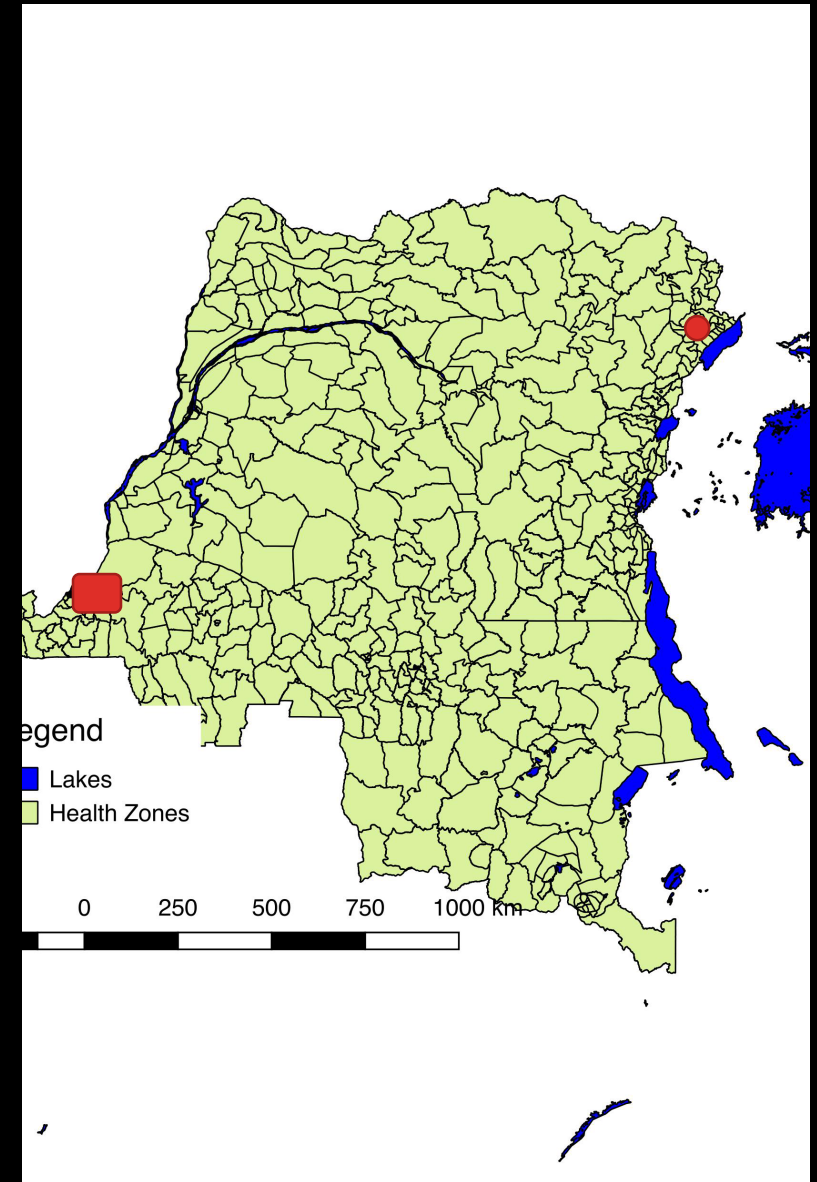
1. Conduct of Phase 3 study for moxidectin:

"A Single Dose, Ivermectin-Controlled, Double-Blinded, Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability Study of Orally Administered Moxidectin in Subjects Infected with *Onchocerca volvulus*" initiated by WHO/TDR (2007-2013)

2. Naming of "CRMT": Dr Didier Bakajika, PI of the above study.

LOCATION

- Rethy is located within Rethy Health Zone in northeastern DRC at approximatively 2,000 Km away from capital Kinshasa by air.
- Savannah area and highlands at about 1,800 meters above the sea level
- Rural area



SOME PHOTOS OF CMRT RETHY





AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

- Onchocerciasis:
 - ✓ Clinical trials on Moxidectin for onchocerciasis
 - ✓ Search for LF endemic foci
 - ✓ Onchocerciasis-Associated Epilepsy
- Plague: Correlation between plague and flea
- Nature conservation: Discovery of chimpanzees in the fragmented forests in the highland of Mounts Blue

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Validation of RAPLOA conducted in 2004 and published in 2012: *Parasites & Vectors* 2012;5:25
- Aperiodicity of hyper-loiasis in 2014: *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 2014 Dec 3; 91(6): 1142–1148
- Role of free fleas in the transmission of plague in rural Africa, especially in remote areas where the flea density in houses is high in 2014: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0003152>
- The US FDA approved moxidectin for onchocerciasis in June 2018 (<http://www.who.int/tdr/news/2018/moxidectin-approved-as-treatment-for-river-blindness/en/>)

CHALLENGES

- Formal recognition of CRMT by the government
- Lack of manpower
- Political instability

THE WAY FORWARD

- Focus on capacity building
 - ✓ Dr Michel Mandro (Antwerp)
 - ✓ Mr Maurice Mutro (Basle)
 - ✓ Mr Ismaël Byaruhanga (Cologne)
- Recognition of CRMT by the Government
- Collaboration with other research and funding organizations

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THANK YOU!