

INVITED SPEAKER PRESENTATION

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A common protein export pathway in malaria parasites

Brendan Crabb^{1*}, Hayley Bullen¹, Sarah Charnaud¹, Silvia Haase², Justin Boddey³, Alan Cowman³, Tania de Koning-Ward², Paul Gilson¹

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Protozoan parasites that cause malaria export hundreds of proteins into their host red blood cell cytosol, and some even beyond that to the extracellular environment. These proteins have a wide range of functions that are crucial to parasite virulence and/or parasite survival in the human host. It has been thought for some time that a common link to all these proteins is the mechanism by which they are exported. Recently, we have revealed much of how this export occurs, including the discovery of a novel translocon through which exported proteins must pass. As a common portal for many essential proteins this translocon becomes a strongly validated drug target.

Author details

¹Burnet Institute, Melbourne 3004, Australia. ²School of Medicine, Deakin University Waurn Ponds campus, Geelong 3217, Australia. ³Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, Parkville 3052, Australia.

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¹Burnet Institute, Melbourne 3004, Australia
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article