



**Dr. Robert Moon**

Professor

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After a PhD studying cell signalling in rodent malaria parasites at Imperial College London, Rob Moon undertook his postdoc at the National Institute for Medical Research (Francis Crick Institute). After initial work on *Plasmodium falciparum*, Rob moved on to working on *P. knowlesi*, a malaria parasite of macaques causing a significant number of cases of severe malaria in humans in SE Asia. Rob was able to establish the first *P. knowlesi* line that could be cultured in human red blood cells (RBCs), which was also highly amenable to genetic manipulation. In 2016 Rob received an MRC Career Development award to establish a lab at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to use these new tools to study RBC invasion in *P. knowlesi*. His team now focus on the development and use of genome editing techniques in *P. knowlesi* to understand the basic biology of red blood cell invasion, as well as to support *P. vivax* vaccine development.