

MVI Key Staff Biographies



Christian Loucq, MD
Director

Dr. Christian Loucq directs the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), which seeks to accelerate the development of promising malaria vaccines and ensure their availability and use in developing countries. Dr. Loucq has more than 30 years of experience in medicine, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and global health.

He joined MVI in February 2007, serving first as Director of Strategy and Operations and then as Interim Director until his appointment as MVI Director three months later.

His professional experience spans the globe: Born and educated in France, he has lived and worked in Algeria, Belgium, Chad, China, India, the Netherlands, Niger, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. Dr. Loucq has managed vaccine businesses in China, India, and Thailand and has been involved in most stages of vaccine development. He has worked with large vaccine companies, such as GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi Pasteur, and biotech companies including Rhein Biotech and Acambis. He has extensive experience partnering with local governments, building public-private partnerships, and setting up local private collaborations.

Dr. Loucq earned his State Doctorate of Human Medicine at the University of Paris X and a Diploma of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from the University of Aix-Marseilles.

Ashley Birkett, PhD
*Director,
Preclinical
Research and
Development*

Ashley Birkett directs MVI's early-stage vaccine development-efforts, including the assessment of vaccine technologies for inclusion in its portfolio and scientific and technical assessment of its ongoing projects. He also oversees relationships with external partners who are engaged in MVI-supported preclinical research and development (R&D) projects.

Dr. Birkett has more than ten years of experience in the vaccine industry, directing research and preclinical development. Prior to joining MVI he served as Senior Director of Preclinical Research at Acambis, where he oversaw the company's global preclinical vaccine research portfolio. He also served as Project Leader for Acambis' Universal Influenza Vaccine candidate, transitioning it from research, through the development phase and into early stage clinical trials. He previously held the title of Vice President of Preclinical Research at Apovia, where he also served as Project Leader for their influenza and malaria vaccine programs. He successfully transitioned the malaria