

Abstract

Phage therapy - new life for an old therapy

Seminar Series: Recent Progress in Infection Biology

Thomas Haeusler did his undergraduate studies at the Biozentrum (Biochemistry/„Bio II“) where he had his first contact with phages in the Blockkurs - taking EM images of these beasts and in lectures by Eduard Kellenberger. He did his PhD in biochemistry at the Zentrum für Molekulare Biologie of the Universität Heidelberg. He subsequently attended the Berliner Journalistenschule for a journalistic degree. He worked for about 25 years as a science journalist, first at the news magazine Facts and then for 15 years at Schweizer Radio SRF. His main beats were infectious diseases, climate, environment and development. Since summer 2022 he is working as project leader climate and energy with WWF Switzerland.

In the year 2000, Thomas stumbled upon the topic of phage therapy and got hooked. In the same year he published his first articles on the subject. Three years later a book (Gesund durch Viren) about the the history of phage therapy and its rediscovery in the West after the fall of the Iron Curtain followed. Another 2 years later Thomas published an updated version in English (Viruses vs. Superbugs). His interest in phages never diminished over the years and in 2022 he wrote - together with the heart surgeon Christian Kühn - a phage therapy guide for patients and physicians.