

News from the Center of Global Health and the Institute for Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene at TUM:

A joint seminar was held at the Albert-Schweizer-Hospital and the CERMEL (**Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné**) in Lambaréné in **Gabon** from **7th-9th January 2019** to kick-off the consortial project „**HELMVIT**“ (Full title: “Impact of maternal helminth infection on Vitamin D regulation and on the immune system of the infant”) which is coordinated by Prof. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa, Kodirector of the Center for Global Health, Institute for Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene of TUM. Collaboration partners are Prof. Akim Adegnika (CERMEL) and Dr. Meral Esen (Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen). The consortium is funded for three years by the **DFG** within the call “**German-African Cooperation Projects in Infectiology**”.



Presentation of Prof. C. Prazeres da Costa

This seminar had three aims. The first one was to discuss results of a successful pilot study, which took place in Munich and Lambaréné and was performed by students of the Technical University Munich and which will pave the way for the upcoming



HELMVIT group and members of CERMEL

study. The second aim was to discuss the details of the **new DFG study** on the influence of maternal helminth infection on Vitamin D regulation and the immune system of the children. Amongst many other staff members, **two Gabonese PhD students** will be part of this collaborative research



River Ogooué in Lambaréné

project which will cover basic science aspects as well as general women health topics. In this line, a joint **German-Gabonese workshop** will take place in January 2020 with new partners from **other TUM departments** as well as representatives from the **Ministry of Health in Gabon** and other international researchers. Thirdly, new avenues in terms of capacity building (joint teaching, student exchange, knowledge transfer) and timely **Global Health-related research topics** were explored with the overall intention to **intensify and sustain this collaboration**.