



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DIPARTIMENTO  
DI FARMACIA  
E BIOTECNOLOGIE

## **AVVISO DI SEMINARIO**

Il giorno **17 settembre 2024**  
alle ore **11.00**

### **Prof Steven Van Cruchten**

Full professor, Department of Veterinary Sciences, University of Antwerp  
(ospite della Dott.ssa Elisa Uliassi)

terrà un seminario in lingua inglese dal titolo:

## **Zebrafish embryos as a new approach methodology in drug discovery toxicology**

Area tematica:  
Drug discovery and development

*in presenza:*  
**Aula 2, via Belmeloro 6, Bologna BO**

Collegli e studenti sono cordialmente invitati

## **ABSTRACT**

Zebrafish embryos have emerged as a powerful tool in drug discovery toxicology as they exhibit a diverse repertoire of biological processes and possess fully integrated vertebrate organ systems. As such, a much broader range of phenotypes can be assayed in zebrafish embryos than in cultured cells. In addition, emerging automated technologies allow relatively unbiased capture of a substantial proportion of the complete phenotypic repertoire in a medium to high throughput manner. This presentation will focus on the advantages but also limitations of the zebrafish embryo in drug discovery toxicology, using some concrete examples.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Steven Van Cruchten is veterinarian, reproductive toxicologist and professor in the Department of Veterinary Sciences within the Faculty of Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences of the University of Antwerp. He obtained the degree of DVM at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Ghent University) in 1999 and his PhD in reproductive morphology at the same university. In 2004, he was recruited as a reproductive toxicologist by Janssen Pharmaceutica (Beerse, Belgium) and then in 2008, as a Toxicology Project Leader by AstraZeneca (Sweden). In 2011, he moved at the University of Antwerp and he is currently as full-time tenured professor. His research is focused on predicting exposure and potential safety issues of medication in pregnant women and the pediatric population by investigating, developing and validating translational models (i.e. animal models (i.c. the Göttingen minipig) and alternatives to animal testing). He is currently President of the Belgian Society of Toxicology and Ecotoxicology.