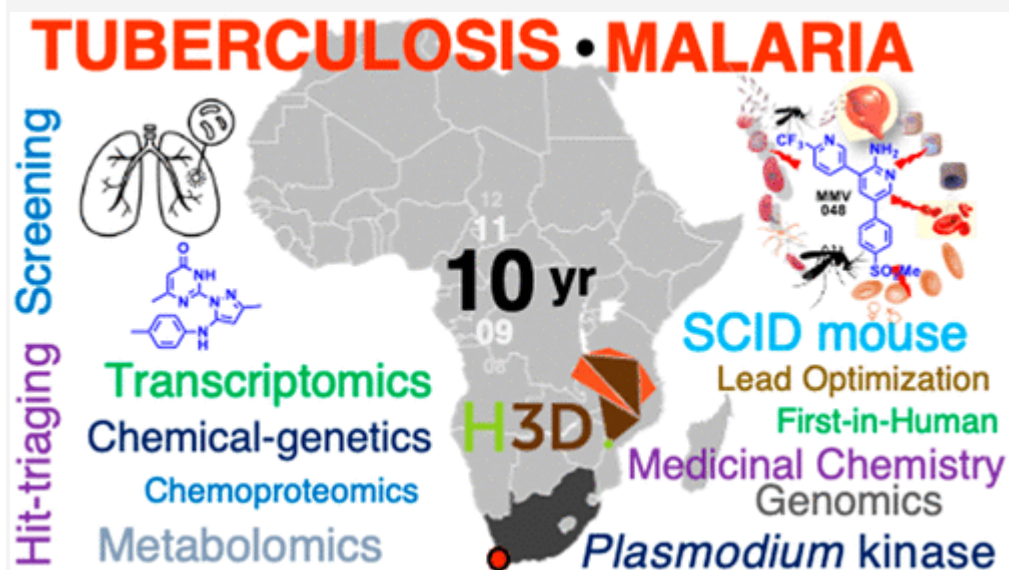


Abstract



As the so-called “next frontier” in global economic terms, Africa’s disease burden continues to choke and cripple economic growth across the continent. The highest burden is attributable to malaria and tuberculosis (TB), which also remain among the deadliest infectious diseases affecting mankind the world over (Malaria, 627,000 deaths; TB, 1.5 million deaths, in 2020). In achieving self-determination with respect to the health needs of all who live on the continent, Africa must align with global north efforts and be a source of health innovation. This will in part require the creation of an ecosystem of innovative pharmaceutical R&D and expanding it across the continent by scaling up through sustained performance and excellence. To this end, the Holistic Drug Discovery and Development (H3D) Centre at University of Cape Town in South Africa has risen to this challenge. Here, we highlight the innovation experiences gained at H3D, covering the advances made in our quest to contribute to a global pipeline of therapeutic interventions against malaria and TB. We discuss selected chemical series starting from their identification, structure–activity relationships, mode of action, safety, proof-of-concept studies, and lessons learned.