

Dr. Axel Vater, VP Drug Discovery and Preclinical Development, **NOXXON Pharma**

Axel received his training as an Engineer in Biotechnology at the Technische Universität Berlin, Germany, including a research semester at Brigham and Women's Hospital of Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA. He received his PhD from the Technische Universität Berlin for his work on the identification of short aptamers by primerless selection (tailored SELEX) that was accomplished in the premises of NOXXON Pharma. He later joined the *in vivo* imaging division of Schering/later Bayer to discover targeted probes for optical imaging of rheumatoid arthritis and bring them to preclinical proof of concept. After three years in Big Pharma he returned to NOXXON Pharma to lead the development of the anti SDF-1 Spiegelmer *NOX-A12* through PK/PD, GLP-tox and safety pharmacology studies into the First in Human trial.

Since 2009 Axel has led the Drug Discovery Department at NOXXON Pharma, overseeing target evaluation, *in vitro* evolution and optimization of mirror-image aptamers (Spiegelmers), characterization of Spiegelmer leads in biophysical and cell-based assays as well as early PK and proof of efficacy studies in preclinical models of human diseases.