

... Publications ...

Perspective: Effects of Local Anthropogenic Changes on Potential Malaria Vector *Anopheles hyrcanus* and West Nile Virus Vector *Culex modestus*, Camargue, France (Open access)

N. Poncon et al.

EID, Volume 13, Number 12–December 2007

These findings suggest that anthropogenic changes should not be underestimated in vectorborne disease recrudescence.

The immunological challenges of malaria vaccine development (Subscription)

Jiraprapa Wipasa, Eleanor M Riley

Expert Opinion on Biological Therapy, December 2007, Vol. 7, No. 12, Pages 1841-1852.

In this article the authors review the biological challenges of malaria vaccine development, summarise some of the recent advances and offer some immunological insights which might facilitate further research.

Prolonged and Perplexing Fevers in Antiquity: Malaria and Typhoid Fever

(Subscription)

Cheston B. Cunha

Infectious Disease Clinics of North America, Volume 21, Issue 4, December 2007, Pages 857-866

The historical import of these diseases should not be overlooked, and it is for this reason that the prolonged fevers of antiquity have profound significance and enduring interest.

Malarial EBA-175 Region VI Crystallographic Structure Reveals a KIX-Like Binding Interface (Subscription)

Christlaine Withers-Martinez, Lesley F. Haire, Fiona Hackett, Philip A. Walker, Steven A. Howell, Stephen J. Smerdon, Guy G. Dodson and Michael J. Blackman

Journal of Molecular Biology, Article in Press, Corrected Proof

Remarkably, rVI possesses structural features related to the KIX-binding domain of the coactivator CREB-binding protein, supporting the binding and trafficking roles that have been ascribed to it and providing a rational basis for further experimental investigation of its function.

Newsdesk: Conflicting priorities in the battle to eliminate malaria (Subscription)

Kathryn Senior

The Lancet Infectious Diseases, Volume 7, Issue 12, December 2007, Page 768

No abstract available

Multiple host-switching of Haemosporidia parasites in bats (Open access)

Linda Duval, Vincent Robert, Gabor Csorba, Alexandre Hassanin, Milijaona

Randrianarivelosia, Joe Walston, Thy Nhim, Steve M Goodman, Frederic Arieu

Malaria Journal 2007, 6:157 (29 November 2007)

Understanding parasites of bats has a broad significance to the study of a potential emergence of infectious disease in humans; in addition, studies of haemosporidia in bats are rare and these are the first molecular data available. The geographical location of the study in Madagascar and Cambodia, two areas of considerable animal biodiversity, is also noteworthy.

Geometric least squares means ratios for the analysis of *Plasmodium falciparum* in vitro susceptibility to antimalarial drugs (Open access)

Michel Vaillant, Piero Olliaro

Malaria Journal 2007, 6:156 (26 November 2007)

A new method of calculation for comparing in vitro antimalarial drugs IC50s and monitor changes in drug susceptibility

Diagnosis of imported malaria in France (Subscription)

J.J. De Pina, E. Garnotel, P. Hance, S. Vedy, C. Rogier and M. Morillon

Médecine et Maladies Infectieuses, Volume 37, Issue 11, November 2007, Pages 710-715

The need for diagnosis of imported malaria is frequent in France. Diagnosis biological tools are different, according methods, sensitivity, interpretation and costs. Strategies for their use could be stratified according locally available methods, and experience of the practitioner.

Induction of experimental cerebral malaria is independent of TLR2/4/9

(Subscription)

Bernd Lepenies, Jakob P. Cramer, Gerd D. Burchard, Hermann Wagner,

Carsten J. Kirschning, Thomas Jacobs

Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Volume 197, Number 1 / March, 2008: 39-44

In conclusion, this study shows that the activation of the innate immune response and the development of CM is not dependent on the engagement of TLR2/4/9.

Letter: Distinct physiological states of Plasmodium falciparum in malaria-infected patients (Subscription)

J. P. Daily et al.

Nature advance online publication 28 November 2007

The results reveal a previously unknown physiological diversity in the in vivo biology of the malaria parasite, in particular evidence for a functional mitochondrion in the asexual-stage parasite, and indicate in vivo and in vitro studies to determine how this variation may affect disease manifestations and treatment.

In the news: Malaria vaccine safe for babies (Open access)

Lucy Bird

Nature Reviews Immunology 7, 918 (December 2007)

A recent trial in Mozambique has proved that the malaria vaccine RTS,S is safe and protective in those most vulnerable to the disease — infants less than 1 year old.

Multiple Origins of Knockdown Resistance Mutations in the Afrotropical Mosquito Vector Anopheles gambiae (Open access)

João Pinto, Amy Lynd, José L. Vicente, Federica Santolamazza, Nadine P. Randle, Gabriele Gentile, Marta Moreno, Frédéric Simard, Jacques Derek Charlwood, Virgílio E. do Rosário, Adalgisa Caccone, Alessandra della Torre, Martin J. Donnelly

PLoS ONE 2(11): e1243

The frequency and distribution of these *kdr* haplotypes varied geographically, being influenced by an interplay between different mutational occurrences, gene flow and local selection. This has important practical implications for the management and sustainability of malaria vector control programs.

Mosaic Genome Architecture of the Anopheles gambiae Species Complex (Open access)

Rui Wang-Sattler, Stephanie Blandin, Ye Ning, Claudia Blass, Guimogo Dolo, Yeya T.

Touré, Alessandra delle Torre, Gregory C. Lanzaro, Lars M. Steinmetz, Fotis C. Kafatos, Liangbiao Zheng

PLoS ONE 2(11): e1249

Although further studies are needed to elucidate the basis of the phylogenetic variation among the different regions of the genome, the preponderance of sympatric admixtures among taxa strongly favor introgression of different genomic regions between species, rather than lineage sorting of ancestral polymorphism, as a possible mechanism.

Malaria: a peek at the var variorum (Subscription)

Thanat Chookajorn, Marna S. Costanzo, Daniel L. Hartl and Kirk W. Deitsch

Trends in Parasitology, Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2007, Pages 563-565
In this article, we discuss these recent results and provide an overview of current understanding of *var* diversity.

Serology: a robust indicator of malaria transmission intensity? (Subscription)

Patrick Corran, Paul Coleman, Eleanor Riley and Chris Drakeley

Trends in Parasitology, Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2007, Pages 575-582

Here we present a suggested methodology, highlight the advantages and shortcomings of serological measurements of malaria transmission and identify areas in which further work is desirable.

TLR-mediated cell signaling by malaria GPIs (Subscription)

D. Channe Gowda

Trends in Parasitology, Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2007, Pages 596-604

Knowledge of the parasite-host factors involved in activating and regulating innate immune responses and of the associated signaling mechanisms is likely to provide insights into the modulation of parasite-specific adaptive immunity and offer targets for the development of novel therapeutics or a vaccine for malaria.

Shared features in the pathobiology of babesiosis and malaria (Subscription)

Peter J. Krause, Johanna Daily, Sam R. Telford, Edouard Vannier, Paul Lantos and Andrew Spielman

Trends in Parasitology, Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2007, Pages 605-610

Continued investigation of similarities and differences in the pathogenesis of babesiosis and malaria should lead to additional fundamental insights for both conditions.

... Report ...

The Right Drug at the Right Time - The Power of the Affordable Medicines Facility - malaria (AMFm) to Save Lives: Report for the All-Party Parliamentary Malaria Group (APPMG)

This report for the All Party Parliamentary Malaria Group focuses on a fundamental gap in delivering effective malaria control to those most in need: effective and high quality treatment that is affordable and available where it is needed. Specifically, it looks at an idea to bring down the price of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) through an Affordable Medicines Facility to ensure widespread use and to discourage use of single drugs which may accelerate development of resistance to artemisinin derivatives.

... Events ...

Seminar: The use of Medicinal Plants in the Tropics, Action for Natural Medicine (anamed)

Barnes Close Conference Centre, Near Bromsgrove, Worcester, UK

25-27 January 2008

This will be a practical interactive experience including the following: The scientific and cultural basis for using medicinal plants; Self reliance in health using plants for nutrition and medicine; Treatment of common health problems e.g. malaria, diarrhoea, wounds, burns and HIV/AIDS; Preparation of teas, tinctures, oils and ointments; Storage of seeds, dried products and food; Use of specific plants including *Artemisia annua*, Neem, Moringa, Garlic, Pawpaw. [More information](#)

Seminar: Natural Medicine in the Tropics, Action for Natural Medicine (anamed)

SMF Study Centr, Korntal near Stuttgart, Germany

8-10 February 2008. February 2008

[More information](#) (in German)

Week-long seminars in Natural Medicine in Tanzania, Ghana, Togo, Angola and Zimbabwe in 2008, Action for Natural Medicine (anamed)

After the seminar, participants will be able to recognise at least 20 medicinal plants, to use and construct a solar oven, to produce different soaps, different medicinal oils and ointments, black stones for snake-bites....and, most important of all, will be able to treat Malaria effectively with medicinal plants like Artemisia annua. Each participant will be given seeds and be taught how to grow this delicate plant. [More information](#)

... Research opportunities ...

Call for Applications: Malaria Advocacy Innovation Grants 2007 Round Two – Africa, Cominit and CCAM

Deadline: 10 December 2007

The Innovation Grants for Malaria Advocacy is an initiative of the Malaria Consortium's Mobilising for Malaria (M4M) programme which is supported by GlaxoSmithKline's African Malaria Partnership. The aim of the Innovation Grants for Malaria Advocacy is to promote and support new and original initiatives from civil society organisations (non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academic institutions, media) and community leaders. [More information](#)

... Jobs ...

PhD Studentship, Faculty of Life Sciences – The University of Manchester

Project to start September 2008: Studies on pterin and folate metabolism of the human malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum. This studentship is available to UK and other EU nationals and provides fees and stipend (subject to eligibility). Applicants will need an upper second class or first class honours degree in a related subject.

[More information](#)

Senior Research Technician (Part Time), Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience – University of Cambridge

Closing Date: 7 January 2008

We are seeking a highly motivated individual to join a team investigating the homeostasis of malaria-infected red blood cells. You will be involved in assisting in the conduct of experimental procedures including maintenance of malaria cultures.

[More information](#)

Research Technician, Institute of Infection and Immunology Research, University of Edinburgh

Closing Date: 17 December 2007

We are seeking a half-time research technician, to be funded by the BBSRC. Our research focuses on immune responses to malaria-helminth co-infection, including the extent to which simultaneous immune responses to different parasite species are antigen-specific.

[More information](#)

Technical Manager, Multiuser Microscopy Facility, Institute of Immunology and Infection Research, University of Edinburgh

Part time 17.5 hours per week

Closing Date: 3 January 2008

The Institute of Immunology and Infection Research at the University of Edinburgh invites applications for the post of a technical manager for a new multi-user Confocal Laser Microscopy facility. [More information](#)

--- News ---

29 November 2007, SciDev.Net

Research sheds new light on malaria parasite

Researchers have provided the first evidence that malaria parasite development in the always-changing environment of a human host is strikingly different to how it develops in the more consistent surroundings of a laboratory.

29 November 2007, AFP

Malaria: Parasite yields clue about disease variability

Researchers in the United States believe they have gained an important insight as to why malaria causes only mild, flu-like symptoms in some individuals but in others causes coma and death.

29 November 2007, Kaiser GlobalHealthReporting.org

Global Health Officials Meet for 13th Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board Meeting

Health ministers, advocates and representatives from leading international health organizations gathered on Wednesday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to open the 13th Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board Meeting

28 November 2007, Kaiser GlobalHealthReporting.org

Number of ITNs Distributed by Global Fund-Supported Programs Increases by 155%, Executive Director Says

The number of insecticide-treated nets distributed by programs supported by the Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has increased to 46 million so far this year - a 155% increase from the 18 million families that received ITNs in 2006.

28 November 2007, Africa News

Ghana Miss Malaika in anti-malaria efforts During a three-day summit of Health

Development Partners recently held in Accra, Ghana's Minister of Health, Major Courage Quashigah estimated that it would cost US\$772.4 million per annum to completely wipe out malaria from Ghana.

28 November 2007, New Vision

Uganda: LC's Approve Use of DDT to Fight Malaria

District councilors have endorsed the use of DDT in the fight against malaria.

27 November 2007, Science Daily

For Treating Malaria, Less Drugs May Be Best Drugs

The current dosage of drugs used in treating malaria may be helping the parasites become resistant to the drugs faster, without improving the long-term outcome in patients.

27 November 2007, Earth Times

Malaria, snakebites threaten border forces in Tripura

Malaria and snakebites pose a bigger threat than insurgents and smugglers to the Border Security Force (BSF) troopers posted along Tripura's border with Bangladesh.

27 November 2007, Bloomberg.com

Global Warming Increases Malaria, Dengue Fever Threat, UN Says

Global warming will put millions more people at risk of malaria and dengue fever, according to a United Nations report that calls for an urgent review of the health dangers posed by climate change.

27 November 2007, Daily Trust

Nigeria: NAFDAC Registers Made-in-Zaria Malaria Cure

A locally made anti-malarial drug being produced by a lecturer at the department of Pharmacognosy and Drug Development of the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, has been registered by the National Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC).

27 November 2007, This Day

Nigeria: Fighting the Malaria Scourge (editorial)

Again, a fresh alarm has been raised that malaria remains the Number One killer disease in Nigeria.

26 November 2007, PRWeb

Acclaimed Producer Firdaus Kharas Fighting Malaria With Animation Campaign Initial production funding from the Canadian Red Cross

Firdaus Kharas, a multi-award winning animation producer and director, is pleased to announce the creation of animated Public Service Announcements to provide an educational tool for those trying to reduce malaria infections in Africa. Initial funding of \$25,000 is being provided by the Canadian Red Cross to support the project.

26 November 2007, Id21HealthNews 123

Widening the net: supplying insecticide-treated bed nets in Kenya

There is a need for effective long-term mechanisms for providing nets and insecticides to the people who need them.

26 November 2007, Id21HealthNews 123

Miscommunication and adherence to treatment for malaria in Gambia

It is assumed that one of the biggest obstacles to successful treatment is people not correctly following their treatment regimens. Why does this happen?

26 November 2007, Daily Nation

Health workers are suffering

The worst has been the malaria control programme, where the last payment made was in August, after three months without pay.

25 November 2007, The International News

Pakistan: Around 27,000 people suffering from malaria

Around 26,000 to 27,000 people suffer from malaria every year in Sindh, said the Director Malaria Control Programme (MCP), Sindh, Dr Nawaz Ali Kallar.

23 November 2007. IRIN Plus News

Mozambique: Rains, pregnancy and AIDS - a recipe for malaria

A person with malaria may be hospitalised for an average of three days; for a patient who is also HIV-positive this increases to a week. "The weak immunological system takes longer to react against malaria," the physician explained.

23 November 2007, Medical News Today

Mosquito Net Usage By Children Reaches 85% In Tombouctou, Mali

The Ministry of Health (MOH) in Mali mobilized communities and partners in June/July 2007 to deliver nearly 200,000 LLINs free of charge to children aged between 6 and 59 months, via an integrated health campaign.

23 November 2007, Malawi's Daily Times

New malaria drug rolls out Dec 1

The new malaria drug, Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) would be distributed starting December 1, 2007, a day after the Minister of Health and Population Marjorie Ngaunje launches it in Ntchisi.

22 November 2007, Savannah Morning News

Healthier mosquitoes offer promise of less malaria

Instead of trying to repel these insects or kill them outright, a Georgia Southern University professor is developing a product that doses mosquitoes with medicine to rid them of their parasites and pathogens.

21 November 2007, NatureNews

Trip into the unknown

On the outskirts of Kampala, and rather at odds with the dusty, low-rise buildings around it, stands a state-of-the-art, glass-fronted pharmaceutical plant. Opened with great fanfare last month by Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda, the factory will manufacture drugs to treat HIV/AIDS and malaria for markedly less than the cost of imported drugs.

K&S Consulting, an independent consultancy firm concerned with medical information provision and training activities, provides this free service.