



Nr. 149 (4 February 2008)

... Publications ...

**Exploring functional genomics for drug target and therapeutics discovery in Plasmodia** (Subscription)

L. Birkholtz, A.C. van Brummelen, K. Clark, J. Niemand, E. Maréchal, M. Llinás and A.I. Louw

*Acta Tropica*, Volume 105, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 113-123

This review presents the *status quo* of functional genomics of the malaria parasite including descriptions of the transcriptome, proteome and interactome. We provide examples for the *in silico* mining of the X-ome data sets and illustrate how X-omic data from drug challenged parasites might be used in elucidating amongst others, the mode-of-action of inhibitory compounds, validate potential targets and discover novel targets/therapeutics.

**Bionomics of malaria vectors and relationship with malaria transmission and epidemiology in three physiographic zones in the Senegal River Basin**

(Subscription)

Ibrahima Dia, Lassana Konate, Badara Samb, Jean-Biram Sarr, Abdoulaye Diop, François Rogerie, Malick Faye, Gilles Riveau, Franck Remoue, Mawlouth Diallo and Didier Fontenille

*Acta Tropica*, Volume 105, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 145-153

Our study demonstrates the influence of ecological changes resulted from dams implementation in the Senegal River on the composition of vectorial system, malaria transmission and epidemiology. Such changes should be thoroughly surveyed in order to prevent any possible malaria outbreak in the Senegal River Basin.

**Wash resistance of PermaNets in comparison to hand-treated nets**

(Subscription)

K. Gunasekaran and K. Vaidyanathan

*Acta Tropica*, Volume 105, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 154-157

The wash resistance of factory produced PermaNets (with deltamethrin bonded to the netting with a resin) was studied by bioassays with *Anopheles stephensi*.

**Interethnic differences in carriage of haemoglobin AS and Fcy receptor IIa (CD32) genotypes in children living in eastern Sudan** (Subscription)

Amre Nasr, Gehad ElGhazali, Hayder Giha, Marita Troye-Blomberg and Klavs Berzins

*Acta Tropica*, Volume 105, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 191-195

We conclude that the H/H131 genotype and H131 allele rather than Hb AS genotype (sickle cell trait patients) appear to associate with the Fulani ethnic group.

**Hyper-reactive Malarial Splenomegaly (HMS) in malaria endemic area in Eastern Sudan** (Subscription)

Mushal M. Allam, Tayseer A.M.Y. Alkadarou, Bashir G. Ahmed, Ikhlas S. Elkhair, Elhassan H. Alansary, Muntasir E. Ibrahim, Ahmed M. Elhassan and Ibrahim M. Elhassan

*Acta Tropica*, Volume 105, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 196-199

The objectives of this study were to determine the incidence of HMS in Eastern Sudan, and to identify basic laboratory and clinical characteristics of this condition in Sudanese patients. Our data indicate that HMS is one of the major causes of tropical splenomegaly in Eastern Sudan.

### **The fight against drug-resistant malaria: novel plasmodial targets and antimalarial drugs** (Subscription)

Choi SR, Mukherjee P, Avery MA  
*Curr Med Chem.* 2008;15(2):161-71

This review provides an overview of the latest developments in terms of drugs, combination therapies and novel plasmodial targets being carried out to counter the menace of drug-resistant malaria.

### **Immunoglobulin superfamily members play an important role in the mosquito immune system** (Subscription)

Lindsey S. Garver, Zhiyong Xi and George Dimopoulos  
*Developmental & Comparative Immunology*, Volume 32, Issue 5, 2008, Pages 519-531

Based on sequence and expression data, six infection-responsive with immunoglobulin domain (IRID 1–6) genes were chosen and functionally characterized with regard to their role in innate immunity. Reverse-genetic gene-silencing assays showed IRID3, IRID5 and IRID6 contribute to viability upon bacterial infection while IRID4 and IRID6 are involved in limiting *Plasmodium falciparum* infection.

### **Dispatch: Plasmodium falciparum Malaria and Atovaquone-Proguanil Treatment Failure** (Open access)

R. Durand et al.  
*EID*, Volume 14, Number 2–February 2008

We noticed overrepresentation of atovaquone-proguanil therapeutic failures among *Plasmodium falciparum*-infected travelers weighing >100 kg. We report here 1 of these cases, which was not due to resistant parasites or impaired drug bioavailability. The follow-up of such patients should be strengthened.

### **Dispatch: Prolonged Plasmodium falciparum Infection in Immigrants, Paris** (Open access)

E. D'Ortenzio et al.  
*EID*, Volume 14, Number 2–February 2008

Results suggest that *P. falciparum* infection should be systematically suspected, even months after travel, especially in pregnant women and first-arrival immigrants.

### **Extensive microsatellite diversity in the human malaria parasite Plasmodium vivax** (Subscription)

Karunaweera ND, Ferreira MU, Munasinghe A, Barnwell JW, Collins WE, King CL, Kawamoto F, Hartl DL, Wirth DF  
*Gene*, In Press, Corrected Proof, Available online 16 December 2007

Here we investigate the microsatellite diversity and geographic structure in *P. vivax*, at both local and global levels, using 14 new markers consisting of tri- or tetranucleotide repeats.

### **Ovipositional periodicity of caged Anopheles gambiae individuals** (Open access)

Megan L Fritz, Juan Huang, Edward D Walker, M NABIE Bayoh, John Vulule, James R Miller

*Journal of Circadian Rhythms* 2008, 6:2 (25 January 2008)

Confined individual *A. gambiae* oviposit in a single ca. 2-4 h continuous bout per 24 h. Oviposition is most probable in early scotophase, mid scotophase, or early photophase. However, some oviposition can occur at any hour during 24 h, especially if females were previously deprived of ovipositional substrate.

### **Herbal medicines used in the treatment of malaria in Budiope county, Uganda** (Subscription)

John R.S. Tabuti

*Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, Volume 116, Issue 1, 28 February 2008, Pages 33-42

This study was conducted to document herbal medicines (HMs) used in the treatment of malaria as well as the existing knowledge, attitudes and practices related to malaria recognition, control and treatment in Budiope county, Uganda.

### **Evaluation of Senegalese plants used in malaria treatment: Focus on *Chrozophora senegalensis*** (Subscription)

F. Benoit-Vical, P. Njomnang Soh, M. Saléry, L. Harguem, C. Poupat and R. Nongonierma

*Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, Volume 116, Issue 1, 28 February 2008, Pages 43-48

The *in vivo* antiplasmodial activity of *Chrozophora* extracts was determined by both the oral and the intraperitoneal ways. The stages of *Plasmodium* cycle targeted by *Chrozophora* were then studied *in vitro*. These results could justify the traditional use of this plant in malaria treatment.

### **Antimalarial activity of crude extracts from nine African medicinal plants** (Subscription)

Ali Mohamed Kaou, Valérie Mahiou-Leddé, Sébastien Hutter, Sidi Ainouddine, Said Hassani, Ibrahim Yahaya, Nadine Azas and Evelyne Oll

*Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, Volume 116, Issue 1, 28 February 2008, Pages 74-83

An ethnobotanical study was conducted in Comores (Ngazidja) about plant species used traditionally for the treatment of various diseases, including malaria.

### **Malaria-Infected Mice Are Cured by Oral Administration of New Artemisinin Derivatives** (Subscription)

Gary H. Posner, Wonsuk Chang, Lindsey Hess, Lauren Woodard, Sandra Sinishtaj, Aimee R. Usera, William Maio, Andrew S. Rosenthal, Alvin S. Kalinda, John G. D'Angelo, Kimberly S. Petersen, Remo Stohler, Jacques Chollet, Josefina Santo-Tomas, Christopher Snyder, Matthias Rottmann, Sergio Wittlin, Reto Brun, and Theresa A. Shapiro

*J. Med. Chem.*, ASAP Article

In four or five chemical steps from the 1,2,4-trioxane artemisinin, a new series of 23 trioxane dimers has been prepared. Eleven of these new trioxane dimers cure malaria-infected mice via oral dosing at 3 × 30 mg/kg

### **Malaria in Central Vietnam: analysis of risk factors by multivariate analysis and classification tree models** (Open access)

Thang Ngo Duc, Annette Erhart, Niko Speybroeck, Hung Le Xuan, Thuan Le Khanh, Hung Trinh Cong, Ky Pham Van, Marc Coosemans, Umberto D'Alessandro

*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:28 (30 January 2008)

A combination of two complementary statistical approaches (logistic regression and CART) to classify the malaria risk factors.

### **Clinical malaria in African pregnant women** ([Open access](#))

Azucena Bardaji, Betuel Sigauque, Cleofe Romagosa, Laia Bruni, Sergi Sanz, Samuel Mabunda, Inacio Mandomando, John Aponte, Esperanca Sevene, Pedro L Alonso, Clara Menendez

*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:27 (30 January 2008)

It is often considered that pregnant women with a malaria infection are asymptomatic. According to the data reported, this is not the case and several symptoms have a positive predictive value are indicative of malaria in areas of stable transmission.

### **Maternal peripheral blood level of IL-10 as a marker for inflammatory placental malaria** ([Open access](#))

Edward R Kabyemela, Atis Muehlenbachs, Michal Fried, Jonathan D Kurtis, Theonest K Mutabingwa, Patrick E Duffy

*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:26 (29 January 2008)

A study looking at a variety of immunological biomarkers which may be useful in the management of placental malaria.

### **From chloroquine to artemether-lumefantrine: the process of drug policy change in Zambia** ([Open access](#))

Naawa Sipilanyambe, Jonathan L Simon, Pascalina Chanda, Peter Olumese, Robert W Snow, Davidson H Hamer

*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:25 (29 January 2008)

This paper describes the historical process and experience of Zambia as it made a major policy change with regard to malaria treatment. It has implications for all malarious countries that sooner or later must change their policies. A drug policy change must be seen as a full health system issue, not just a drug issue. A number of painful experiences are emerging in sub-Saharan Africa, as countries change their policies, and well-documented and successful experiences such as this provide important lessons for others.

### **Assessment of a treatment guideline to improve home management of malaria in children in rural south-west Nigeria** ([Open access](#))

Ikeoluwapo O Ajayi, Catherine O Falade, Afolabi E Bamgboye, Ayo M Oduola, Oladele O Kale

*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:24 (29 January 2008)

The use of the guideline with adequate training significantly improved correctness of malaria treatment with chloroquine at home. Adoption of this mode of intervention is recommended to improve compliance with drug use at home. The applicability for deploying artemisinin-based combination therapy at the community level need to be investigated.

### **In vitro atovaquone/proguanil susceptibility and characterization of the cytochrome b gene of Plasmodium falciparum from different endemic regions of Thailand** ([Open access](#))

Rommanee Khositnithikul, Peerapan Tan-ariya, Mathirut Mungthin

*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:23 (28 January 2008)

The absence of cross-resistance between atovaquone and most available drugs in 83 isolates suggests that AP could be used as an alternative antimalarial drug in Thailand.

### **Pilot assessment of the sensitivity of the malaria thin film** ([Open access](#))

Colin Ohrt, Wendy Prudhomme O'Meara, Shon Remich, Peter McEvoy, Bernhards Ogutu, Ramadan Mtalib, James Sande Odera  
*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:22 (28 January 2008)

Malaria microscopy remains the reference standard for malaria diagnosis in clinical trials, but microscopy only a good gold standard when performed in optimal conditions. Although new methods are now available, including malaria rapid diagnostic tests and PCR, neither is as yet validated in the clinical trial setting and both have limitations. Thin films are not commonly used in the developing world and, surprisingly, their sensitivity is not well established.

### **An interactive model for the assessment of the economic costs and benefits of different rapid diagnostic tests for malaria** ([Open access](#))

Yoel Lubell, Heidi Hopkins, Christopher JM Whitty, Sarah G Staedke, Anne Mills  
*Malaria Journal* 2008, 7:21 (28 January 2008)

Model output demonstrates that which test is preferable varies by location, depending on factors such as malaria transmission intensity and the costs and accuracies of the RDTs under consideration. Despite the uncertainties and complexities involved, adaptable models such as the one presented here can serve as a practical tool to assist policy makers in efficient deployment of new technologies.

### **Characterization of a PRL protein tyrosine phosphatase from *Plasmodium falciparum*** (Subscription)

Prakash Rao Pendyala, Lawrence Ayong, Jennifer Eatrides, Melissa Schreiber, Connie Pham, Ratna Chakrabarti, David A. Fidock, Charles M. Allen and Debopam Chakrabarti

*Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, Volume 158, Issue 1, March 2008, Pages 1-10

This study provides the first evidence for expression of enzymatically active PRL-related protein tyrosine phosphatases in malarial parasites, and demonstrates the potential of peptides derived from *Plasmodium* prenylated proteins as malarial farnesyltransferase inhibitors.

### **Diversity and evolution of the *roph1/clag* multigene family of *Plasmodium falciparum*** (Subscription)

Hideyuki Iriko, Osamu Kaneko, Hitoshi Otsuki, Takafumi Tsuboi, Xin-zhuan Su, Kazuyuki Tanabe and Motomi Torii

*Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, Volume 158, Issue 1, March 2008, Pages 11-21

Our results indicate that a high diversity of the *PfRhopH1/Clag* multigene family is maintained by diversifying selection forces over a considerably long period.

### **A Presenilin-like protease associated with *Plasmodium falciparum* micronemes is involved in erythrocyte invasion** (Subscription)

Xuerong Li, Huiqing Chen, Steven S. Oh and Athar H. Chishti

*Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, Volume 158, Issue 1, March 2008, Pages 22-31

Together, these results suggest that host band 3 interacts with PfSPP during RBC invasion presumably following parasite microneme discharge. PfSPP is the first microneme-associated intramembrane aspartyl protease identified in the apicomplexan parasites that interacts with a major transmembrane receptor on host erythrocytes.

**Transcriptionally active PCR for antigen identification and vaccine development: In vitro genome-wide screening and in vivo immunogenicity** (Subscription)

David P. Regis, Carlota Dobaño, Paola Quiñones-Olson, Xiaowu Liang, Norma L. Graber, Maureen E. Stefaniak, Joseph J. Campo, Daniel J. Carucci, David A. Roth, Huaping He, Philip L. Felgner and Denise L. Doolan

*Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, Volume 158, Issue 1, March 2008, Pages 32-45

These data support the potential of a TAP approach for rapid high throughput functional screening and identification of potential candidate vaccine antigens from genomic sequence data.

**Major reduction of malaria morbidity with combined vitamin A and zinc supplementation in young children in Burkina Faso: a randomized double blind trial** (Open access)

Augustin N Zeba, Hermann Sorgho, Noel Rouamba, Issaka Zongo, Jeremie Rouamba, Robert T Guiguemde, Davidson H Hamer, Najat Mokhtar and Jean-Bosco Ouedraogo  
*Nutrition Journal* 2008, 7:7

These results suggest that combined vitamin A plus zinc supplementation reduces the risk of fever and clinical malaria episodes among children, and thus may play a key role in malaria control strategies for children in Africa.

**Evidence of Blood Stage Efficacy with a Viroosomal Malaria Vaccine in a Phase IIa Clinical Trial** (Open access)

Fiona M. Thompson et al.

*PLoS ONE* 3(1): e1493

This trial was the first to combine two existing vaccination strategies to produce a vaccine that induces immune responses to both the pre-erythrocytic and blood stages of the *P. falciparum* life cycle. We describe evidence of vaccine-induced blood stage efficacy for the first time in a sporozoite challenge study.

**The molecular basis of chloroquine block of the inward rectifier Kir2.1 channel** (Subscription)

Aldo A. Rodríguez-Menchaca, Ricardo A. Navarro-Polanco, Tania Ferrer-Villada, Jason Rupp, Frank B. Sachse, Martin Tristani-Firouzi, and José A. Sánchez-Chapula  
*PNAS*, Published online before print January 23, 2008

These findings explain how a relatively low-affinity blocker like chloroquine can effectively block  $I_{K1}$  even in the presence of high-affinity endogenous blockers. Moreover, our findings provide the structural framework for the design of safer, alternative compounds that are devoid of Kir2.1-blocking properties.

**Research focus: Carriers, channels and chloroquine efficacy in Guinea-Bissau** (Subscription)

Johan Ursing, Lars Rombo, Poul-Erik Kofoed and José P. Gil

*Trends in Parasitology*, Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 49-51

In Guinea-Bissau high doses of chloroquine are effective, well-tolerated and commonly used. This suggests that chloroquine resistance can be overcome by higher doses. Research on the mechanism of chloroquine resistance is of utmost importance and should include the effect of higher doses.

**Research focus: MARveling at parasite invasion**

Kristin M. Hager and Vern B. Carruthers (Subscription)

*Trends in Parasitology*, Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 51-54

The recently solved *Toxoplasma* MIC1s (TgMIC1s) structure reveals the presence of

novel specialized domains that can discriminate between glycan residues. Comparison with *Plasmodium* erythrocyte-binding antigen 175 reveals that terminal sialic acid residues might represent a shared but tailored invasion pathway among apicomplexan parasites.

**Opinion: Can estimates of antimalarial efficacy from field studies be improved** (Subscription)

Michelle L. Gatton and Qin Cheng

*Trends in Parasitology*, Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 68-73

An important aspect of efficacy studies is the use of PCR genotyping to distinguish recrudescence from new infections. The conclusions reached using this technique might be misleading if there is insufficient parasite diversity or a non-uniform haplotype frequency distribution in the study area. Statistical techniques can be used to overcome this problem, but only when data describing the haplotype frequency distribution are available. Therefore, assessing haplotype frequency and distribution should form an integral part of all studies investigating the therapeutic efficacy of antimalarial treatment regimes.

**Review: Cultivation of Plasmodium vivax** (Subscription)

Rachanee Udomsangpetch, Osamu Kaneko, Kesinee Chotivanich and Jetsumon Sattabongkot

*Trends in Parasitology*, Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 85-88

Here, we summarize and compare the available methodologies and conditions for the *in vitro* cultivation of *P. vivax*.

... Books ...

**Book review, part 1: How colonialism & imperialism spread malaria**

G. Dunkel

A Review of "The Making of a Tropical Disease: A Short History of Malaria" by Randall M. Packard (Johns Hopkins Biographies of Disease).

What Randall M. Packard does masterfully in his book on malaria is to integrate the biological complexity of the disease into its historical, social and economic context, even if he stops short of drawing all the obvious conclusions from the data he so ably presents.

... Events ...

**Formal opening of Olyset LLIN factory in Tanzania**

Date: Friday, 8th February

Location: Kisongo (near Arusha), Tanzania

Realisation of the Sumitomo Chemical - A to Z Textiles Joint Venture: formal opening of the new Olyset® LLIN factory. Olyset is the only WHOPEs-recommended bed net manufactured in Africa. Collaboration between Sumitomo and A to Z started in September 2003 in original A to Z plant - approx. 350,000 nets p.a. Annual manufacture in the new plant - purpose built for net manufacture - will rise in 2008 to approx. 10 million Olyset nets (approx. one third of Sumitomo Chemical's total global production). **More information**

... Training ...

## **The MENTOR Initiative 'Malaria Control in Emergencies Intensive Training Workshops'**

Date: 25-29 March 2008

Location: Oxfordshire, United Kingdom

And

Date: 21-25 April 2008

Location: Entebbe, Uganda

The aim of our workshops is to build the capacity of agencies at the forefront of health care provision in humanitarian crises to assess, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate effective and coordinated malaria prevention and control strategies as part of their overall emergency health response. To date we have run 16 intensive international workshops for both field and HQ based staff of national and international NGOs, faith based organisations, UN agencies, donors, National Malaria Control Programmes and recently for suppliers too. [More information](#)

... Jobs ...

### **Senior Research Associate, Sanaria**

Sanaria is a biotechnology company exclusively dedicated to the production of a vaccine protective against malaria caused by the pathogen *Plasmodium falciparum*. Sanaria's vaccine is based on an approach to immunization that has already proven highly protective in humans.

This position encompasses working with the preservation of sporozoites and performing assays to determine sporozoite viability and immunogenicity both as part of our production process and in ongoing research projects. Experience with the cryopreservation of cells, lyophilization of cells, cold chain supply, sterile technique, cell culture, in vitro and in vivo assays and fluorescence microscopy are preferred. A masters degree in Biology or related field with at least 3 years lab experience at a university or in industry is required. Experience with Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) is advantageous. [More information](#)

### **Associate Director Drug Discovery, MMV, Geneva**

Closing date for applications: 29 February 2008

Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) was established in 1999 as a partnership between the public and private sector to discover, develop and deliver new antimalarial drugs at prices affordable to developing countries.

We are looking for a talented Associate Director Drug Discovery to join our scientific staff and contribute to the impact of our scientific programmes. [More information](#)

### **Senior Computer Biologist (Malaria Scientific Data Curator), Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute**

Closing date for applications: 22nd February 2008.

The WTSI is renowned for sequencing malaria genomes and producing detailed hand-crafted annotation assisted by state-of-the-art analysis technology.

More than five years ago the genome of the human malaria parasite was published. We are looking for an individual to update and improve the annotation of the malaria genome. [More information](#)

### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow: "Fully human antibodies for understanding Fc-receptor mediated immunity to malaria", School of Biology, University of Nottingham**

Closing date: 8 February 2008

Please quote ref. MED/251.

The work involves significant collaborative efforts with Professor Martin Glennie (Tenovus Cancer Research Laboratories, University of Southampton) and the successful candidate will therefore be expected to travel between the two laboratories. Candidates must possess a PhD in human molecular immunology or equivalent qualification in a related discipline. Experience of FcR transgenic/knockout mouse models and/or engineering antibodies, is desirable. **More information**

**Plant Breeding and Genetics Post-doctoral Research Associate, CNAP - Department of Biology, University of York**

Closing date for applications: 12.00 noon on 19 February 2008

Please quote reference number R0846

The Artemisia project aims to create a plant that will produce higher yields of the antimalarial compound, artemisinin, for use as starting material for production of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) for the treatment of malaria.

The successful applicant will study linkage disequilibrium and carry out an association study between natural polymorphisms and traits of interest in Artemisia annua populations. **More information**

**Project Officer EDCTP, NWO EDCTP, The Hague, The Netherlands**

Closing for applications: 09-02-2008

Please quote reference number When AT 1.08.003

EDCTP is an independent international organisation hosted and facilitated by NWO, The Hague. EDCTP is collaboration between European and African countries with the aim to accelerate the development of new clinical interventions (e.g. drugs, vaccines) against poverty-related diseases in Africa (HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis). The organisation focuses on the funding and coordination of large clinical trials and research initiatives in Africa and Europe as well as strengthening the capacity to perform clinical trials in Africa. **More information**

... News ...

31 January 2008, SciDev.Net

**Mali: Malaria Vaccine Enters Second Stage**

A malaria vaccine has performed well in a small clinical trial of adults in Mali, leading to testing being expanded to children.

31 January 2008, Angola Press Agency

**Angola: Moxico - Malaria Death Cases Drop**

The Provincial Programme of Malaria, in eastern Moxico province, recorded in 2007, 62 deaths of the disease against 285 reported in 2006, characterising a considerable decrease, disclosed Thursday a source close to public health sector.

30 January 2008, The News Tribune

**USA: Federal way: Nothing But Nets fundraiser helps fight malaria in Africa**

The public is invited to a fundraiser to fight malaria in Africa tonight at Todd Beamer High School.

30 January 2008, Millsaps College Athletics

**USA: Millsaps Global Missions Team Partners with Nothing But Nets**

The Millsaps CMT Global Missions team is having a fundraiser for the Nothing But Nets organization at the men's and women's basketball games on Friday, Feb. 8, against visiting Colorado College. Tipoff is set for 6 and 8 p.m.

29 January 2008, The Kingston Whig-Standard

**Strong scientific evidence sparked banning of DDT**

Contrary to Millar's claim, DDT was not banned because of environmentalist Rachel Carson's concern about the harm DDT did to birds. It was banned because, based on reliable scientific data, government agencies in the United States and internationally classified DDT as an agent that can cause cancer and nerve damage. Moreover, DDT and its metabolites have been identified as endocrine disruptors, which is a very serious consequence of exposure to DDT.

29 January 2008, Earthtimes

**Bush seeks doubling of AIDS, malaria commitments for Africa**

US President George W Bush on Monday called for Congress to double the money going to a programme combatting HIV/AIDS and malaria in Africa. Bush proposed a 30-billion-dollar programme over five years to combat the diseases ahead of a planned trip to the continent next month.

28 January 2008, The East African

**Tanzania: Malaria Vaccine Undergoes Clinical Trials**

Researchers at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Tanga Region are carrying out a clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunological potential of a candidate malaria vaccine called MSP3-LSP.

28 January 2008, This Day

**Nigeria: Collaborating to Tame the Malaria Scourge**

The continuing ravages of malaria in Nigeria in particular and across sub-Saharan Africa in general, has put many interested stakeholders to serious work and brain storming on how best to tame the disease. Since they have realised that it is not a fight that one single body can fight, collaboration has come handy.

28 January 2008, New Vision

**DDT spraying set for February 5**

The Government is to begin indoor residual spraying of the anti-mosquito chemical, DDT, on February 5, the officer in-charge of the process has revealed.

28 January 2008, Reuters

**Gambia: the Red Cross distributes impregnated mosquito nets to protect children and pregnant women from malaria**

Although mosquito nets are considered one of the best ways of preventing malaria, they remain inaccessible to many needy families. A mosquito net costs around GMD 750 (EUR 25), a price that many cannot afford, and people in Kinteh Kunda Marong Kunda have to go to one of the big cities or to Ker Pathey, a village that is some ten kilometres away, in order to purchase this vital item.

28 January 2008, FinalCall.com

**For \$10, in Mali, a life can be saved**

For the mere cost of only \$10 a child's life can be spared from malaria and certain death with an insecticide treated bed net. Seems simple and easy but malaria is the

number one killer of children under five in Sub Saharan Africa. For only \$2 medicine can be bought and given to those infected.

28 January 2008, SciDev.Net

**Test for P. knowlesi malaria not routine in remote areas**

The statement "There is currently no specific diagnostic test for Plasmodium knowlesi" (see Fatal malaria strain 'mistaken for more benign form') is not strictly correct.

26 January 2008, Foroyaa Newspaper

**Gambia: New Malaria Drug Launched**

The National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), in collaboration with the Department of State for Health and Social Welfare, on Wednesday, January 23rd launched a new Malaria treatment drug called Atenisinin Combination Therapy (ACT).

25 January 2008, Republic of Botswana

**Botswana: Malaria spraying in full swing**

Following the recent heavy rains that have enveloped Botswana, Tutume Sub-district, as one of the five malaria-prone areas in the country, has already started spraying for the disease carrying mosquito.

25 January 2008, The Daily Observer

**Gambia: New Malaria Drug Set for Use**

The Gambia, on Wednesday, ventured officially into using a new drug in malaria treatment called Coartem, following studies across the country showing resistance to chloroquine (CQ) exceeding levels recommended by the World Health Organisation globally.

25 January 2008, China Post

**Taiwan: Year's first imported malaria case reported**

Health officials confirmed yesterday that a man in the northern county of Taoyuan has contracted malaria after a business trip to South Africa, making it this year's first imported case of malaria in Taiwan.

25 January 2008, PR Newswire

**Switzerland: Global Health and Business Leaders Announce 36-Month Effort to Expand Malaria Control in Africa; 3.5 Million Lives Could be Saved in Five Years, Study Finds**

3.5 million lives could be saved over the next five years through the rapid scale-up of malaria prevention and treatment measures in the 30 hardest hit countries in Africa, according to a new report released today at the World Economic Forum.