

Malaria in Focus

From research to global action

12-13 June 2025, Kreuzstrasse 2, 4123 Allschwil, Switzerland

PRELIMINARY Programme

Thursday, 12 June 2025

08:30 On-site Registration (8:55 virtual check-in)

Biology and Immunology

Moderators, Christof Grüning and Angela Hellingman, Swiss TPH

09:00 Welcome and Setting the Stage, Manuel Hetzel, Swiss TPH

09:10 Mosquito Transmitted Blood Stage Attenuated Malaria Parasites as Experimental Vaccines, Freddy Frischknecht, University of Heidelberg, Germany

09:35 SLI Ways to Study the Major Virulence Factor of *Plasmodium falciparum*, Tobias Spielmann, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany

10:00 Function and Potential of the Cysteine-Rich Protective Antigen as Vaccine Component, Gerd Pluschke, Swiss TPH

10:20 Coffee Break (20 minutes)

10:40 A Universal Malaria Vaccine Based on CD8⁺ T Lymphocytes, Caroline Junqueira, Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Switzerland

11:05 A Novel Subset of $\gamma\delta$ T Cells in Malaria Pre-Exposed Populations, Mathias Schmalzer, Swiss TPH

11:25 Targeting Mosquito-Parasite Interactions to Limit Malaria Transmission, Stephanie Blandin, University of Strasbourg, France

11:50 New Viability Reporter Lines for Basic Research on Gametocyte Biology and Transmission-Blocking Drug Discovery, Nicolas Brancucci, Swiss TPH

12:20 Swiss TPH Speed Talks

1. **Mode of Drug Action**, Patricia Bravo
2. **Boosting Impact: Fast-Tracking Capacity Strengthening for Malaria Elimination**, Christof Selinger
3. **Empowering Action: Strategic Capacity Building for Malaria Control and Elimination**, tba
4. **From Training to Transformation: Strengthening Malaria Capacity Across Borders**, tba
5. **Capacity Counts: Unlocking Human Potential in the Fight Against Malaria**, tba
6. **Latent Malaria Infections among Pregnant Women in Rural Cote d'Ivoire**, Günther Fink

12:40 Lunch (75 minutes)

Research and Development

Cristina Donini, Medicines for Malaria Venture, Switzerland

13:55 Next Generation Antimalarial Combination Approaches to Address Resistance Challenges, Caroline Boulton, Novartis, Switzerland

14:20 Malaria Drug Discovery Models in Parasite Chemotherapy, Pascal Mäser, Swiss TPH

14:40 The Global Malaria Vaccine R&D Landscape – What's Next? Nicola Viebig, European Vaccine Initiative, Germany

15:05 Evolving Malaria Vaccine Landscape: Opportunities for Multistage Vaccines, Ally Olotu, Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania

15:30 Coffee Break (25 minutes)

15:55 The First Step in the Clinical Journey: Matching Need with Innovation in Diagnostics, Kevin Tetteh, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, Switzerland

16:20 Assessment of uRDTs for Reactive Active Case Detection in Rwanda, Sara Cantoreggi, Swiss TPH

- 16:40 **Supporting Innovation to Encourage Development of Novel Approaches to Enhance Malaria Vector Control**, *Justin McBeath, Innovative Vector Control Consortium, UK*
- 17:00 **Integrating Durability Data into Development and Procurement of High-Quality Insecticide-Treated Nets**, *Sarah Moore, Swiss TPH*
- 17:20 **Words from the Director**, *Jürg Utzinger, Swiss TPH*
- 17:30 **Reception in Belo Café**

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Epidemiology and Modelling

Moderator, Emilie Pothin, Swiss TPH

- 09:00 Welcome and Setting the Stage**, *Nakul Chitnis, Swiss TPH*
- 09:10 **Convergence of Malaria Biological Threats in the Horn of Africa**, *Fitsum Tadesse, Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Ethiopia*
- 09:35 **Title tba**, *Olivo Mito, Mahidol-Oxford Research Unit, Mahidol University, Bangkok*
- 10:00 **Modelling the Impact of Climate on Malaria Transmission**, *Penelope Vounatsou, Swiss TPH*
- 10:20 Coffee Break** (30 minutes)
- 10:50 **Evaluating Control Efforts in Climate Variability: A Case Study on Urban Malaria in India**, *Mercedes Pascual, New York University, USA*
- 11:15 **Novel Vector Control Interventions**, *Nakul Chitnis, Swiss TPH*
- 11:35 **Strengthening Malaria Modelling Capacities in Africa**, *Punam Amratia, Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania*
- 12:00 **Anticipating Malaria Needs: A Global Framework for Accurate Forecasting of Intervention Impact**, *Monica Golumbeanu, Swiss TPH*
- 12:20 Lunch** (75 minutes)

Implementation Research and Partnerships

Moderator, Aita Signorell, Swiss TPH

- 13:35 **Title tba**, *Quique Bassat, IS Global, Spain*
- 14:00 **Malaria Research and Partnerships in Papua New Guinea**, *Maria Ome-Kaius, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (virtual)*
- 14:25 **Harnessing the Power of Academia to Support Malaria Control Programmes**, *Christian Lengeler, Swiss TPH*
- 14:45 Coffee Break** (30 minutes)
- 15:15 **Panel Discussion with Q&A: Global Partnerships for Malaria Control and Elimination**
- *Abdisalan Noor, Harvard, USA*
 - *Michael Charles, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Switzerland*
 - *Ally Olotu, Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania*
 - *Manuel Hetzel, Swiss TPH*
 - *Aimable Mbituyumuremyi (tbc), Rwanda Biomedical Centre*
- 16:05 **Closing Words**, *Jürg Utzinger, Swiss TPH*
- 16:15 End of Event**