

Malaria Bulletin



OFFICE OF MALARIA RESEARCH

August 2015

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GET TO KNOW SA's MALARIA RESEARCHERS!

Dr Frank Hansford

Dr Hansford obtained his Mb.Chb. from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 1948, DTM&H. (London) in 1955 and DPH. (UCT) in 1960. He was employed by the Botswana Government Health Department from 1950 to 1966, first at Maun where they treated and controlled malaria, human trypanosomiasis and plague infections. Dr Hansford isolated *T. rhodesiensis* from man into guinea pigs which were sent to London to start their colony. Later he worked in Gaborone where outbreaks of typhoid, diphtheria and malaria were experienced. Lastly, in Lobatsi he was appointed as medical officer of health and dealt with outbreaks of variola minor. Dr Hansford spent nine months in Welkom as a mine medical officer and ran trials of hycanthane treatment for bilharzia infections.

In 1967 Dr Hansford was appointed as a medical officer in State Health Services in Pietersburg where he supervised bilharzia control. He became involved in dose ranging trials of hycanthane in school children, the results of which were published and accepted by the Dunlop committee for registration in the U.K. In 1971 Dr Hansford took over malaria control duties in Pietersburg and in 1973 after spending six weeks on an updating visit to El Salvador, Atlanta and Brazil arranged by WHO, was transferred to Tzaneen as head of the Malaria Institute which in 1982 became the National Institute for Tropical Diseases.

Following a local malaria outbreak in 1972 the WHO sent a team of three scientists to Tzaneen in 1973 to study malaria transmission. They set up a study area of 12000 residents at Makonde in Venda. Dr Hansford assisted the WHO scientists and took over supervision after they left in 1966 until 1991 continuing to send reports to WHO in Geneva. The WHO medical scientist experienced difficulties in setting up an antibody test and while Dr Hansford was visiting Geneva the WHO sent him to Grenoble to study the test being conducted by Prof

Ambroise-Thomas. On his return to Tzaneen he was able to correct the problem and the antibody test was successful.

In Tzaneen Dr Hansford chaired monthly meetings with the various Transvaal malaria control authorities to coordinate and improve control measures. Entomological studies were undertaken by Institute entomologists in the Transvaal and in KwaZulu-Natal by staff stationed at Eshowe and Jozini. New insecticides and various formulations were assessed in the laboratory and in the field, pyrethroids were identified as suitable and later used on a wide scale. The response to treatment was monitored and chloroquine resistance was identified during 1989 in Ingwavuma and published.

Following a breakdown of malaria control in Swaziland, the Institute was initially involved in advising and later seconded one of their staff for three years to Swaziland to train new control teams and create basic infrastructure. During this time Dr Hansford made numerous visits to Swaziland to ensure a successful outcome. From 1976 until Namibia's independence in 1990 annual visits were made to northern Namibia by the Institute's entomological staff and Dr Hansford to investigate malaria transmission and provide advice. Poor response to chloroquine was noted in Oshakathi hospital. Upon investigations it was found that the disease transmission was among migrants from Angola.

Dr Hansford attended the annual malaria meetings in Botswana giving presentations and participating in discussions. He also accompanied delegations from the Institute's Pretoria head office to Mozambique where he met with staff for discussions. Dr Hansford was requested by Bayer to advise and report on a trial of cyfluthrin house spraying in Boane, near Maputo. During monthly visits he worked with Mozambique entomological staff and submitted a final report to Bayer.

Dr Hansford held annual training courses in Tzaneen for postgraduate DTM&H students, health inspectors and other malaria personnel. Visits were made to Malawi and the Comores islands to investigate and report on malaria. From 1969 to 1991 Dr Hansford attended most of the Parasitology (ICOPA), Malaria and Babesiasis international

conferences. Locally he attended meetings dealing with malaria, e.g. MRC. University, Parasitology Society.

In 1996 it was decided that a malaria advisory committee be established to give guidance to the State Health Department and it was for this purpose that Dr Hansford compiled a history of control, methodology, etc. and provided suggestions for the committee's activities. Two subcommittees were established, one for general control and one for treatment and prevention. Dr Hansford chaired the latter and was a member of the general committee.

In the mid-nineties Dr. James Gilliland who had initiated the Rotary Africa Region PolioPlus committee and was its chairman passed away. Dr Hansford was asked to become a member and was responsible for monitoring and reporting on eleven southern African and island states. As part of his leadership role, Dr Hansford attended the Annual WHO Africa region infectious disease conferences as well as six monthly committee meetings in various countries. Also, in order to obtain information of activities in neighbouring states he attended the WHO organised southern Africa meetings held in adjacent countries including Namibia, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa.

After retiring in 1991 Dr Hansford continued to work part time with State Health attending local meetings until 2010 when he moved to Nelspruit.

MALARIA RESEARCH: INVESTING IN ELIMINATION

Early August 2015 saw the culmination of months of planning and organizing for the MRC Office of Malaria Research (MOMR) in the hosting of the Malaria Research Meeting. The meeting themed “Malaria Research: Investing in Elimination” was held from 3-5 August 2015 in Durban.

The meeting attracted 85 delegates from academic and research institutions who are involved in malaria research and elimination activities. Of the 85 scientists and commercial partners who attended the event, a large number of the delegates were student researchers. A total of 65 abstracts were received and of these 28 were from students. The meeting provided a platform for these young scientists to share their research with their peers and afforded many of them the opportunity to interact with seasoned malaria experts. The MOMR acknowledges with appreciation the efforts from all students on their quality presentations, both oral and poster.

Abstracts covered a range of thematic areas such as Integrated Vector Management and Control; Prevention, Control and Elimination; Pharmacology and Drug Discovery; Tools for Malaria Elimination; Surveillance; Parasite Biology and Drug Efficacy and South Africa’s Elimination Agenda. Presentations made by commercial partners provided an insight into developments being made with regards to preventing and controlling malaria.

Insightful information and statistics were provided by the national and provincial departments of health which indicated that South Africa has its’ work cut out for it in order to achieve elimination by 2018. Of note was the increase in malaria incidence for 2014/15.

The meeting highlighted the importance of continued and intensified cross-border initiatives as well as consistent collaboration amongst all role players within the malaria community. It was also evident from presentations that South Africa is not short of innovative ideas and novel approaches in the fight against malaria but in order to build on

the momentum we need to continuously build capacity, increase resources and sustain our conviction to eliminating malaria.

The MOMR thanks all delegates for their attendance and participation and eagerly awaits the date of the next meeting!

NEWS ARTICLES

Some “light” reading - kindly visit the links to read the full articles.

- Health workers waste malaria medicines-Research.
<http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/health/health-workers-waste-malaria-medicines-research/108656.html>
- MP joins the fight to destroy malaria in a generation. Eastborne Herald, UK. Wealden MP Nus Ghani helped to mark World Mosquito Day and joined the campaign to destroy malaria within a generation
<http://www.eastbourneherald.co.uk/news/local/mp-joins-fight-to-destroy-malaria-in-a-generation-1-6922348>
- The indirect complications of the Ebola crisis and its impact on malaria control.
<http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bugbitten/2015/08/28/indirect-complications-ebola-crisis-impact-malaria-control/>

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Markus, M.B. 2015. Do hypnozoites cause relapse in malaria? Trends in Parasitology 31: 239–245.
- Bouwman H, Bornman R, Van Dyk C, Barnhoorn I. First report of the concentrations and implications of DDT residues in chicken eggs from a malaria-controlled area. 2015. Chemosphere. 2015; 137:174-177.
- Mavundza EJ, Chukwujekwu JC, Maharaj R, Finnie JF, van Heerden, FR and van Staden J. 2015. Identification of compounds in *Olax dissitiflora* with larvicidal effect against *Anopheles arabiensis*. South African Journal of Botany. Doi:10.1016/j.sajb.2015.06.013

FUNDING / OPPORTUNITIES

- SACEMA invites applications for bursaries to study towards MSc or PhD degrees in fields relating to epidemiology, biostatistics and epidemiological modelling. A background in quantitative methods is required, but interdisciplinary experience will be welcome. <http://www.sacema.org/>
http://www.sacema.org/nodes/featured_news
Deadline Date: 26-Oct-2015
- Open Concept Memo Opportunity. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Division aims to harness advances in science and technology to save lives in developing countries. They invest heavily in vaccines to prevent infectious diseases—including HIV, polio, and malaria.
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Grant-Opportunities/Open-Concept-Memo-Global-Health-Grants>

LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONFERENCES

Below are some of the malaria related conferences advertised for the remaining months of 2015. For more information visit the relevant websites:

1. *9th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health*
September 6-10, 2015
Basel, Switzerland <http://www.ectmihbasel2015.ch/>
2. *26th Molecular Parasitology Meeting*
September 20-24, 2015
Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA
https://ws3.mbl.edu/iebms/wri/wri_p1_display.aspx?oc=10&cc=MPM-TEMPHOM
3. *American Global Summit and Expo on Vaccines and Vaccination*
October 5-7, 2015 San Francisco, California, USA

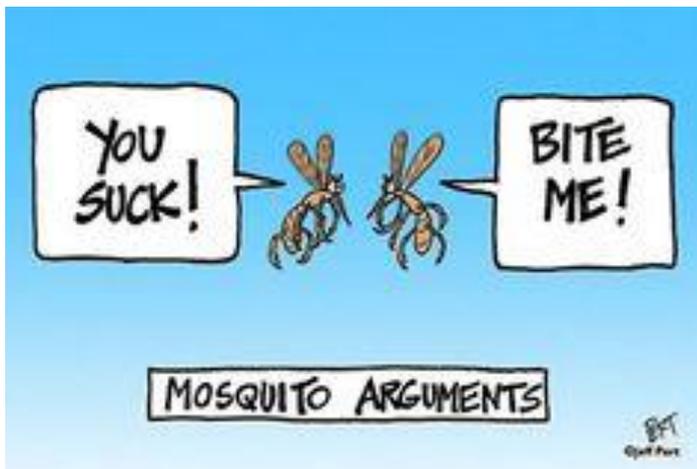
<http://vaccines.global-summit.com/america/index.php>

4. *1st IUIS-FAIS Southern African Regional Immunology Workshop and 6th Infectious Diseases in Africa Symposium: Biomarkers and Correlates of Immune Control in HIV, TB and Malaria*
October 20-24, 2015
University of Cape Town, South Africa
http://www.idm.act.ac.za/event_workshops_conferences.htm

5. *American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) 64th Annual Meeting 2015*
October 25-29, 2015
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
<http://www.astmh.org/Home.htm>

6. *9th World Congress of the World Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (WSPID) 2015*
November 18-21, 2015
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
<http://wspid.kenes.com/>

PRESENTATION ICE-BREAKER!



Contact Us

491 Peter Mokaba Road, Overport
Durban, 4067

P.O. Box 70380, Overport, 4067

Phone: +27 (0)31 2034852

Email: momr@mrc.ac.za

Web: www.mrc.ac.za