

Malaria Bulletin



OFFICE OF MALARIA RESEARCH

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GET TO KNOW SA's RESEARCHERS

Dr Jaishree Raman

Dr Raman's foray in the world of malaria began in 2004 when she joined the Malaria Research Unit of the South African Medical Research (SAMRC) after completing her post-doctoral research fellowship in Sweden. During her 10 year tenure at the SAMRC, Dr Raman was instrumental in establishing a high through-put PCR-based molecular surveillance laboratory. The high through-put nature of the laboratory enabled her research to play a pivotal role in ensuring evidence-based effective case management policies were implemented in South Africa as well as in Mozambique and Swaziland as part of the multi-country cross-border Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative.

In 2014, Dr Raman moved her research programme to the National Institute for Communicable (NICD) in Johannesburg, where in line with the National policy her research now focusses on assisting South Africa and other SADC countries achieve malaria elimination. She is currently involved in evaluating the cost effectiveness of novel, more sensitive diagnostic tools for potential roll-out in South Africa. In collaboration with researchers from the NICD, Universities of Cape Town, Pretoria and Witwatersrand as well as the SAMRC, Dr Raman is assisting with the implementation of new initiatives aimed at more effectively identifying and treating sub-patent, asymptomatic and gametocyte carriers.

Deeply committed to capacity development within the region Dr Raman has developed and facilitated epidemiology and malaria diagnostic training workshops for malaria control staff, healthcare workers, malaria environmental health practitioners and health science students. She has also served as co-supervisor to post-graduate students from the Universities of KwaZulu-Natal and Pretoria as well as the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

As a recognised expert on the emergence and spread of antimalarial drug resistance within southern Africa, Dr Raman has been invited to deliver keynote speeches at numerous conferences, including the 9th INTEREST Conference in Zimbabwe, the 6th FIDSSA Congress in the Drakensberg, South Africa and the 2nd National Malaria Conference, Pretoria, South Africa. In further recognition of her technical expertise, Dr Raman is a member African *Plasmodium* Diversity Network (PDNA) and sits on the case management sub-committee of the South African Malaria Elimination Committee (SAMEC), the Research Constituency of Southern African Resistance Network (SARN) and case management sub-committee of the Elimination 8 (E8) multi-country initiative.

Dr Raman has published a number of articles on various aspects of malaria including

- Raman J et al., (2016) Reviewing South Africa's malaria elimination strategy (2012-2018): progress, challenges and priorities. *Malar J* 15:438;
- Hemingway J et al., (2013) Country-level operational implementation of the global plan for insecticide resistance management. *PNAS* 110(23): 9397-9402;
- Raman J et al., (2011) Five years of antimalarial resistance marker surveillance in Gaza Province, Mozambique, following artemisinin-based combination therapy roll out. *PLoS One* 6(10): e25991.

NEWS ARTICLES

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

- “Malaria killing 3 in 10 children yearly, yet FG ‘doing nothing about it.’ “The federal government has excused itself from the intervention and treatment of malaria, the Society for Family Health (SFH) has said.” <https://www.thecable.ng/malaria-killing-3-in-10-children-yearly-yet-fg-doing-nothing-about-it>
- Researchers are debating whether bed nets have lost the power to protect against the malaria carrying mosquito. Read the full article: <http://www.opb.org/news/article/npr-the-new-debate-over-bed-nets/>
- The World Health Organisation raises concern on growing mosquito resistance. <http://www.ivcc.com/news-and-media/blog/mosquito-resistance-a-growing-concern-says-who>
- A breakthrough in long lasting insecticide treat nets (LLIN). Read the full article: <http://www.ivcc.com/news-and-media/news/novel-mosquito-net-marks-breakthrough-in-new-long-lasting-nets>
- “Ultra-long acting pill releases daily doses of medicine for a month. Investigators from Brigham and Women’s Hospital and their collaborators from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have developed a long-acting drug delivery capsule.” <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161116144601.htm>
- “Malaria parasite evades rapid test detection in children.” A study conducted in the DRC by researchers from the University of North Carolina say “one of every 15 children infected with Plasmodium falciparum malaria parasites in the DRC is infected by a pfhrrp2-deleted mutant, producing a false-negative result

when an RDT is used.”

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161117115335.htm>

- “DDT spray for malaria 'may affect fertility'” An article by Katharine Child.
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2016/11/03/DDT-spray-for-malaria-may-affect-fertility>
- “DDT doesn’t harm human fertility.” A response to the above article by Jasson Urbach. See the full letter on page 11- “Opinions and Letters.”
http://stapp.timeslive.co.za/STPDFS/TT_Main%20Body_07112016.PDF

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Verónica Mixão, Daniel Bravo Barriga, Ricardo Parreira, Maria Teresa Novo, Carla Alexandra Sousa, Eva Frontera, Marietjie Venter, Leo Braack and António Paulo Gouveia Almeida. Comparative morphological and molecular analysis confirms the presence of the West Nile virus mosquito vector, *Culex univittatus*, in the Iberian Peninsula. *Parasites & Vectors* 2016 9:601

FUNDING / OPPORTUNITIES

- The 2017 edition of the Science of Eradication: Malaria leadership development course will be hosted by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel, Switzerland from 25 June to 1 July 2017. The course will provide individuals working in broad areas of malaria with a multidisciplinary perspective of disease eradication. For more information visit:
<http://scienceoferadication.org/courses/science-of-eradication-malaria-2017/overview/>

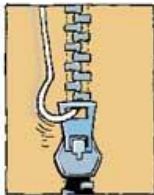
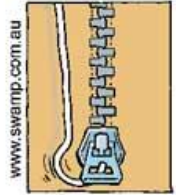
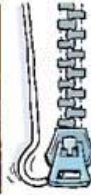
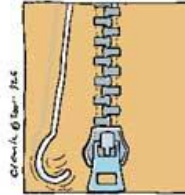
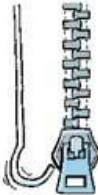
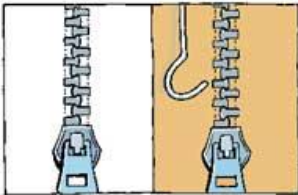
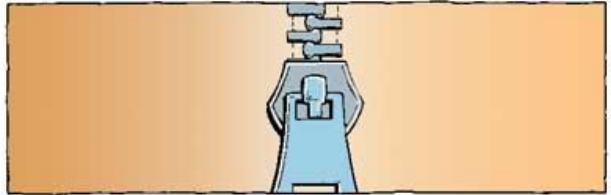
LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONFERENCES

Below please find links to malaria related conferences advertised for 2017. For more information please visit the relevant websites:

1. Malaria: From Innovation to Eradication (B5)
February 19-23, 2017
Kampala, Uganda
<http://www.keystonesymposia.org/17B5>
2. Advances in Basic & Translational Research in Tropical Infectious Diseases
March 12-17, 2017
Galveston, Texas
<https://www.grc.org/programes.aspx?id=13986>
3. ICTID 2017: 19th International Conference on Tropical Infectious Diseases
March 29-30, 2017
Singapore
<http://waset.org/conference/2017/03/singapore/ICTID>
4. 15th Conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine (CISTM15)
May 14-18, 2017
Barcelona, Spain
<http://www.istm.org/cistm15>
5. BioMalPar XIII: Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite
May 29-31, 2017
EMBL Heidelberg, Germany
<http://www.embl.de/training/events/2017/BMP17-01/index.html>
6. International Conference on Vector Borne Diseases
June 29-30, 2017
Philadelphia, USA
<http://vectorborne-diseases.conferences.com>

7. Malaria: Gordon Research Conference
July 2-7, 2017
Les Diablerets, Switzerland
<https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12780>
8. Third International Conference on Public Health
July 27-29, 2017
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<http://publichealthconference.co/>
9. Vectors, Pathogens and Diseases: Current Trends and Emerging Challenges (T1)
September 10-14, 2017
Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
<https://www.keystonesymposia.org/index.cfm?e=web.Meeting.Program&meetingid=1574>
10. 10th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health
October 16-20, 2017
Antwerp, Belgium
<http://www.ectmih2017.be/ehome/188459/426833/>
11. American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
66th Annual Meeting
November 5-9, 2017
The Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland USA
<http://www.astmh.org/>

PRESENTATION ICE-BREAKER!



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