

TOWARDS ELIMINATING MALARIA



DRUGS AND DRUG
RESISTANCE

VACCINES

DIAGNOSTICS

PREVENTION AND
SURVEILLANCE

COMMUNITY
EMPOWERMENT



Burnet Institute
Medical Research. Practical Action.

A PATHWAY TO ELIMINATING MALARIA

DISCOVERY RESEARCH. INNOVATION. COMMUNITIES.

Every two minutes a child dies from malaria. Imagine the devastating impact this has on families and their communities.

Despite a major reduction globally in malaria-related mortality rates through prevention and treatment efforts, more than 400,000 people – mainly young children – are still dying each year from this preventable disease. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) more than 90 countries are impacted by malaria, many in the Asia-Pacific region. Australia's and the global response towards eliminating malaria requires a dual approach of preventing infections and malaria-related deaths.

Burnet Institute is committed to making a major contribution in efforts to eliminate malaria as a public health threat, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. We work with partners in Australia and internationally, especially in malaria-endemic regions in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and East Africa (including Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Kenya, and Cambodia). We also collaborate with industry partners in development of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.

Our Eliminate Malaria Program aims to:

- Achieve major new advances to strengthen diagnosis, treatment and prevention of malaria through innovative research.
- Contribute to the WHO Global Elimination Targets of a 90 per cent reduction in malaria incidence and mortality. This will be achieved through discovery-based laboratory and translation research, and in-field education, prevention and treatment public health programs.
- Support National Malaria Control Programs in our region in reaching the WHO elimination targets.

MALARIA AT BURNET



50+

**researchers and public
health professionals
focussing on malaria**



25+

research projects



10+

working groups

Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by different species: *Plasmodium falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, *P. malariae* and *P. knowlesi*. *Falciparum* causes the majority of malaria disease globally and if not promptly treated, may lead to death.

LATEST DISCOVERIES AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Discovering new insights into how drug resistance may emerge in populations and how to better quantify and monitor its spread.

Identified new antimalarial compounds with potential for development into drugs.

Identified immune responses that protect against malaria and new approaches for vaccine development.

Developing new low-cost diagnostic tests to guide the treatment of malaria.

Developing novel tools to enhance surveillance and tracking of malaria in populations.

In affected communities created strategies to address gaps in health services and coverage to improve diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.



KEY STRATEGIES

DRUGS AND DRUG RESISTANCE

- Developing new antimalarial drugs and tracking and preventing the spread of drug resistance, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

DIAGNOSTICS

- Creating new malaria diagnostics, tools and strategies for improved malaria treatment and enhanced surveillance.

VACCINES

- Understanding immunity to malaria to develop effective vaccines against the two major causes of human malaria, *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax*.
- Advancing the development and evaluation of leading vaccine candidates.

PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE

- Establishing surveillance and response systems to improve efficiency of malaria control and to fast-track the pathways to elimination.
- Developing and evaluating improved malaria prevention strategies.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- Operational and implementation research to increase access to quality health care services and malaria prevention.
- Supporting improved health behaviours, strengthening health systems and delivery of health care, and supporting communities in malaria elimination activities.



ABOUT BURNET INSTITUTE

Burnet Institute is an Australian, unaligned, independent, not-for-profit organisation. Our mission is to achieve better health for vulnerable communities in Australia and internationally by accelerating the translation of research, discovery and evidence into sustainable health solutions.

MALARIA AT BURNET

Global Health: policy, practice and community action

Co-Heads: Ms Lisa Davidson, Mr Chad Hughes

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (PNG)

Head: Professor James Beeson

Malaria and Infectious Diseases Epidemiology

Head: Professor Freya Fowkes

Malaria and Tropical Diseases Group

Head: Associate Professor Jack Richards

Malaria Immunity and Vaccines

Head: Professor James Beeson

Malaria Virulence and Drug Discovery

Co-Heads: Professor Brendan Crabb AC and Dr Paul Gilson

Modelling and Biostatistics

Head: Dr Nick Scott

Translational Genomics

Head: Associate Professor Alyssa Barry




Vector-Borne Diseases and Tropical Public Health

Head: Professor Leanne Robinson

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We have offices or representatives in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Myanmar, and also contribute to activities in other Asian, Pacific and African countries.