

****** MEDIA ADVISORY ******

Scientists to discuss transmission-blocking vaccines and their role in malaria eradication

The PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI) will host a symposium at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on November 19 to detail a key scientific component of their research and development strategy: development of vaccines meant to break the cycle of malaria transmission between people in a community. This session follows the launch earlier this month of MVI's new strategy to develop "next-generation" malaria vaccines that would contribute to achieving the ultimate goal of disease eradication.

Transmission-blocking vaccines aim to interrupt the life cycle of the malaria parasite by inducing antibodies in humans that prevent the parasite from maturing in the mosquito after it bites a vaccinated person. Transmission-blocking vaccines would not prevent the person receiving the vaccine from getting malaria, but would significantly limit the spread of infection and disease to others.

WHO: **Ashley Birkett**, MVI (Moderator)
Robert Sinden, Imperial College, UK
Nirbhay Kumar, Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute
Frank Collins, University of Notre Dame
Rhoel Dinglasan, Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute

WHEN: 1:30p.m.–3:15 p.m., November 19, 2009
Salon 1, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC

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Malaria is one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases, killing nearly 900,000 people a year, most of them children in sub-Saharan Africa. Defeating malaria will require new tools to supplement current interventions, and vaccines will be an essential part of this tool kit. Released at the Fifth Multilateral Initiative on Malaria Pan-African Malaria Conference, the MVI strategy represents a multi-pronged approach to developing the next generation of malaria vaccines.

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About the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI)

MVI is a global program established at PATH through an initial grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. MVI's mission is to accelerate the development of malaria vaccines and ensure their availability and accessibility in the developing world. MVI's vision is a world free from malaria. For more information, please visit www.malariavaccine.org.

About PATH

PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH's work improves global health and well-being. For more information, please visit www.path.org.