

Discovery, Development, and Delivery: Driving malaria elimination and Beyond

March 7-9, 2026 | Aab Mahal, Hotel Radisson Blu, Dwarka, New Delhi, India

7 March (Saturday)

Day 1

08:00-09:00 Registration

OPENING SESSION

09:00-09:10 Organizers' address
(Vineeta Singh, Abhinav Sinha, Jaspreet Kaur, Mradul Mohan, Ritesh Ranjha, and Roopa Kumari)

09:10-09:20 Lightening the lamp of knowledge

09:20-09:30 WELCOME ADDRESS
(Anup Anvikar, Director, ICMR – National Institute of Malaria Research, India)

09:30-09:50 MESSAGE from ICMR
(Nivedita Gupta, Indian Council of Medical Research, India)

09:50-10:20 How to eliminate malaria globally?
(Philip Welkhoff, Gates Foundation)

10:20-10:35 India's efforts towards malaria elimination
(Tanu Jain, Director, National Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases Control, Government of India)

10:35-11:00 Group Photograph followed by High Tea

11:00-11:35 OPENING KEYNOTE: Integrating the 3Ds in malaria research and elimination

From Burden to Elimination and Beyond: Architecting an Integrated Discovery-Development-Delivery Ecosystem for a Malaria-Free South-East Asia
(Suman Rijal, World Health Organization, Regional Office SEA, India)

Chairs: Nivedita Gupta, Indian Council of Medical Research, India and Rajani Ved (Director, Health, Gates Foundation India Office)

11:35-11:50 From Discovery to Delivery: Feasible Implementation of G6PD Testing for Radical Cure in India
(Praveen K Bharti, ICMR – National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, India)

THEMATIC SESSION 1: DISCOVERY

Uncovering new molecules, pathways and targets to understand malaria and catalyse malaria control and elimination

11:50-12:30 Interrogating parasite transmission biology to inform malaria elimination
(Matthias Marti, University of Glasgow, UK and University of Zurich, Switzerland)

12:30-13:00 Dry season reservoir: How malaria parasites achieve persistence
(Silvia Portugal, Max Planck Institute, Berlin, Germany)

13:00-13:45 LUNCH

13:45-14:15 The fallacy of the "non-essential" genes in the malaria parasite
(V Arun Nagraj, Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, India)

14:15-14:30 A Tale of Two Parasites: A Glimpse into the RNA Methylome of Patient-derived Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax isolates
(Ashis Das, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India)

- 14:30-14:45 TurboTalk 1: A Moonlighting Nuclear Role for PfPGM1 in Metabolic Feedback Regulation in Plasmodium falciparum (Reena Prajapati, Jawaharlal Nehru, University, New Delhi, India)
- 14:45-15:00 TurboTalk 2: Functional Phenotyping of MMV Pandemic Response Box Identifies Stage and Mechanism-Specific Inhibitors Against Blood Stage Plasmodium falciparum (Akhila TP, BRIC-Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, India)
- 15:00-15:15 Coffee BREAK
- 15:15-15:45 The Plasmodium falciparum Kelch13 protein uses heme to KEAP(1) up a deceptive appearance for altering sensitivity to artemisinin (Souvik Bhattacharjee, Jawaharlal Nehru, University, New Delhi, India)
- 15:45-16:15 Probing organelle protein targets and development of a quinoline to counter drug resistance in malaria (Saman Habib, CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, India)
- 16:15-16:30 TurboTalk 3: Targeted Nanoparticle Delivery for Selective Metabolic Pathway Disruption in Plasmodium falciparum (Shivani Malik, Galgotias University, Greater Noida, India)
- 16:30-18:00 POSTER SESSION I (Poster numbers 1-21)
- 19:30 onwards GALA dinner

8 March (Sunday)

Day 2

THEMATIC SESSION 2: DEVELOPMENT

Shaping existing tools to refine, reshape and catalyse malaria control and elimination

- 09:00-09:45 Where are they, and where do they come from? Development of new tools to diagnose and track malaria parasites (Cristian Koepfli, University of Notre Dame, USA)
- 09:45-10:15 Advancing Plasmodium vivax Malaria R&D Through Controlled Human Infection: The Malaria Infection Study Thailand (MIST) Platform (Jetsumon Prachumsri, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand)
- 10:15-10:45 Recent advances in antigen-based malaria diagnostics; sensitivity, specificity, and field applicability (Kailash C Pandey, ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi, India)
- 10:45-11:15 Coffee BREAK
- 11:15-11:45 Next-Generation Malaria Diagnostics: The FIKK Kinase Paradigm (Vishal Trivedi, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India)
- 11:45-12:00 TurboTalk 4: Carbon Quantum Dot-Enhanced Glycyrrhizin as a Dual Inhibitor of β -Hematin Formation and Protease Targets: A Repurposing Strategy Towards Antiplasmodial Activity (Harithaa Sathyanarayanan, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, India)
- 12:00-12:15 TurboTalk 5: Evolving Malaria Diagnosis: Gold Standard Smear, Rapid Test with novel Pf markers and PTOC based molecular testing (Sanjeev Gupta, Intrust Consulting LLP)
- 12:15-12:30 TurboTalk 6: Hsp70 Interaction With D7 Class Of Salivary Gland Proteins: A Facilitator Of Mosquito Blood Feeding? (Bhuvan Dixit, ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi, India)
- 12:30 Group Photograph
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH

THEMATIC SESSION 3: Malaria beyond falciparum and vivax

- 14:00-14:45 Beyond Human Parasites: The Challenge of Zoonotic Malaria to Elimination
(Balbir Singh, University Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia)
- 14:45-15:15 The nature of "Plasmodium ovale", with reference to biology and elimination
(Miles Markus, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)
- 15:15-15:30 Coffee BREAK
- 15:30-16:00 Unseen Plasmodium Threats: Neglected Species in India's Malaria Landscape
(Aparup Das, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Sri Vijaya Puram, India)
- 16:00-18:00 POSTER SESSION II (Poster numbers 22-43)

9 March (Monday)

Day 3

THEMATIC SESSION 4: DELIVERY

Interventional and operational research to fuel the last mile

- 09:00-09:45 Closing the gaps: tackling residual transmission on the path to malaria elimination
(Neil Lobo, University of Notre Dame, USA)
- 09:45-10:15 Key data from the clinical trials that facilitated licensure and now widespread use of R21/Matrix M malaria vaccine for protection against falciparum
(Mehreen S Dattoo, University of Oxford, UK)
- 10:15-10:45 Malaria in Odisha: Challenges and way forward
(MM Pradhan, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, India)
- 10:45-11:15 Coffee BREAK
- 11:15-11:45 An indigenous advanced vaccine against *P. falciparum*: Dual protection against both infection and community transmission
(Susheel K Singh, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, India)
- 11:45-12:15 From Simple Chemistry to Promising Antiparasitic Leads
(Brijesh Rathi, Delhi University, New Delhi, India)
- 12:15-12:30 Targeted and tailor-made intervention approaches for accelerated Malaria control amongst the Jhum Cultivators of Tripura, NE India
(Ipsita Pal Bhowmick, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh, India)
- 12:30-12:45 TurboTalk 7: Cohort Profile of a Multicentric Longitudinal Study on Malaria Burden across Diverse Eco-Epidemiological Settings in India
(Arya Rahul, ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry, India)
- 12:45-13:00 **Meril Commercial presentation**
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-14:10 **ThermoFisher Commercial presentation**
- 14:10-14:50 Panel Discussion: From lab to last mile: Delivering malaria Elimination through Gender, Climate and Community Systems
Convener: CARAH Women Foundation
- 14:50-15:15 Coffee BREAK
- 15:15-16:15 CLOSING KEYNOTE: Synthesizing evidence towards best practices in malaria elimination
Precision Epidemiology for the Malaria Endgame
(Richard Maude, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Bangkok, Thailand)

Chairs: Balbir Singh, University Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia and Neena Valecha (Independent expert; Medicines for Malaria Venture; Gates Foundation)

16:15-16:30

Final Discussions / Q & A / Feedback

16:30-17:00

Valedictory, Thanks giving and CLOSE

