

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

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

7 March (Saturday)

Day 1

OPENING SESSION

- 09:00-09:10 Organizers' address
(Vineeta Singh, Abhinav Sinha, Jaspreet Kaur, Mradul Mohan & Ritesh Ranjha)
- 09:10-09:20 WELCOME ADDRESS
(Anup Anvikar, Director, ICMR – National Institute of Malaria Research, India)
- 09:20-09:30 India's efforts towards malaria elimination
(Tanu Jain, Director, National Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases Control, Government of India)
- 09:30-09:50 How to eliminate malaria globally?
Philip Welkhoff, Gates Foundation
- 09:50-10:10 HOST'S MESSAGE
(Rajiv Bahl, Secretary Department of Health Research and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India)
- 10:10-10:45 OPENING KEYNOTE: Integrating the 3Ds in malaria research and elimination
Title TBD
(Suman Rijal, World Health Organization, India)
- 10:45-11:15 High Tea

THEMATIC SESSION 1: DISCOVERY

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

- 11:15-12:00 Interrogating parasite transmission biology to inform malaria elimination
(Mathias Marti, University of Zurich, Switzerland)
- 12:00-12:30 Dry season reservoir: How malaria parasites achieve persistence
(Silvia Portugal, Max Planck Institute, Berlin, Germany)
- 12:30-13:00 Probing organelle protein targets and development of a quinoline to counter drug resistance in malaria
(Saman Habib, CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, India)
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-14:15 A Tale of Two Parasites: A Glimpse into the RNA Methylome of Patient-derived Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax isolates (Ashish Das, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India)
- 14:15-14:30 A Moonlighting Nuclear Role for PfPGM1 in Metabolic Feedback Regulation in Plasmodium falciparum (Reena Prajapati, Jawaharlal Nehru, University, New Delhi, India)
- 14:30-14:45 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)
- 14:45-15:15 The Plasmodium falciparum Kelch13 protein uses heme to KEAP(1) up a deceptive appearance for altering sensitivity to artemisinins
(Souvik Bhattacharjee, Jawaharlal Nehru, University, New Delhi, India)
- 15:15-15:30 Coffee BREAK
- 15:30-16:00 The fallacy of the "non-essential" genes in the malaria parasite
(V Arun Nagraj, Institute of Life Sciences Bhubaneswar, India)
- 16:00-18:00 POSTER SESSION I (Poster number 1-25)

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 **Title TBD**
(Jetsumon Prachumsri, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand)
- 10:15–10:45 **TBD**
- 10:45–11:15 Coffee BREAK
- 11:15–11:45 **Title TBD** (Vishal Trivedi, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India)
- 11:45–12:15 Recent advances in antigen-based malaria diagnostics; sensitivity, specificity, and field applicability
(Kailash C Pandey, ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi, India)
- 12:15–12:30 **Title TBD** (Ipshita Pal Bhowmick, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh, India)
- 12:30–12:45 **TBD**
- 12:45–13:00 A large-scale trial in Chennai, India shows effective reduction of *Anopheles stephensi* populations by the biolarvicide Natular (Shriram A Nagarajan, ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry, India)
- 13:00–14:00 LUNCH

THEMATIC SESSION 3: DELIVERY

Interventional and operational research to fuel the last mile

- 14:00–14:45 Closing the gaps: tackling residual transmission on the path to malaria elimination
(Neil Lobo, University of Notre Dame, USA)
- 14:45–15:15 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)
- 15:15–15:30 Coffee BREAK
- 15:30–16:00 Malaria in Odisha: Challenges and way forward
(MM Pradhan, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, India)
- 16:00–18:00 POSTER SESSION II (Poster number 26–50)

THEMATIC SESSION 3: DELIVERY continued...

- 09:00–09:30 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)
- 09:30–10:00 From Simple Chemistry to Promising Antiparasitic Leads
(Brijesh Rathi, Delhi University, New Delhi, India)
- 10:00–10:15 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)
- 10:15–10:30 **Turbo Talk: TBD**
- 10:30–10:45 Coffee BREAK

THEMATIC SESSION 4: Malaria beyond falciparum and vivax

10:45-11:30	Beyond Human Parasites: The Challenge of Zoonotic Malaria to Elimination (Balbir Singh, University Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia)
11:30-12:00	The nature of "Plasmodium ovale", with reference to biology and elimination (Miles Markus, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)
12:00-12:30	Unseen Plasmodium Threats: Neglected Species in India's Malaria Landscape (Aparup Das, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Sri Vijaya Puram, India)
12:30-12:45	Turbo Talk 1 (TBD)
12:45-13:00	Turbo Talk 2 (TBD)
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-14:45	Panel Discussion – Transcending boundaries for a common goal (CARAH Foundation, ICMR-NIMR, NCVBDC)
14:45-15:15	Coffee BREAK
15:15-16:15	CLOSING KEYNOTE: Synthesizing evidence towards best practices in malaria elimination Title TBD (Richard Maude, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand)
16:15-16:30	Final Discussions / Q & A / Feedback
16:30-17:00	Valedictory, Thanks giving and CLOSE

