

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 Bhubaneshwar, 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 <i>Anopheles stephensi</i> 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 Datoo, 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, Bhubaneshwar, 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 <i>P. falciparum</i> : Dual protection against both infection and community transmission (Susheel K Singh, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneshwar, 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

