

World Malaria Day Symposium, April 25th, 2025

Building Better Mosquitoes, Sommer Hall

Organizers: George Dimopoulos, Conor McMeniman, Douglas Norris, and Christopher Potter

08:00 am **Registration and light breakfast**

08:50 am **Welcome address Dr. Jane Carlton, Dr. George Dimopoulos, Dean Ellen MacKenzie**

Session 1: GM mosquito programs for malaria control (Session Chair: Dr. Douglas Norris, JHU)

09:00 am – 09:25 am **Dr. Andrea Crisanti** (Professor, Imperial College London, London, UK)

Target Malaria: a 15-year journey from vision to implementation

09:25 am – 09:50 am **Dr. Kelly Matzen** (Chief Technology Officer, Oxitec, UK)

Friendly™ mosquitoes for scalable biological management of malaria vectors

09:50 am – 10:15 am **Dr. Gregory Lanzaro** (Professor, University of California Davis, Davis, USA)

Biological Research in Support of the UCMi Strategy for Gene Drive Mosquitoes

10:15 am – 10:40 am **Dr. George Christophides** (Professor, Imperial College London, London, UK)

From Lab to Field: Gene Drive Mosquitoes Zeroing in on Malaria Transmission in Africa

10:40 am – 11:05 am **Dr. Abdulaye Diabate** (Professor, Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé, Burkina Faso)

Can gene drive be implemented in Africa to control malaria?

11:05 am – 11:30 am **Coffee Break and Posters – Feinstone Hall**

Session 2: Advances in developing better mosquitoes (Session Chair: Dr. Christopher Potter, JHU)

11:30 am – 11:55 am **Dr. George Dimopoulos** (Professor, Johns Hopkins University, JHMRI, Baltimore, USA)

Transgenic blocking-mechanisms and testing with *Plasmodium falciparum* field isolates

11:55 am – 12:20 pm **Dr. Rebeca Carballar** (Specialist Scientist, University of California Irvine, Irvine, USA)

Target Product Profile for Mosquito Population Replacement Gene Drives

12:20 pm – 12:45 pm **Dr. Tony Nolan** (Professor, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Liverpool, UK)

Understanding Genetic Barriers to Gene Drives for Malaria Vector Suppression:

Insights from inversions, target site variation, and diverse mosquito genomes

12:45 pm – 01:10 pm **Dr. Conor McMeniman** (Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University, JHMRI, Baltimore, USA)

Decoding *Anopheles gambiae* Attraction to Humans using Genome-Engineering

01:10 pm – 02:10 pm **Lunch and Posters – Feinstone Hall**

Session 3: Stakeholder & Community engagement, and regulatory pathways (Chaired by Dr. Yuemei Dong, JHU)

02:10 pm – 02:35 pm **Ms. Ana Kormos** (UCMI Program Administrator/Engagement Director, University of California Davis, Davis, USA)

Stakeholder Engagement Considerations for Gene Drive Field Trials

02:35 pm – 03:00 pm **Ms. Naima Sykes** (Head of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Target Malaria, Imperial College London, London UK)

Community Agreement for Gene Drive Research: Lessons learned from a phased development pathway in preparations for a gene drive field trial

03:00pm – 03:30 pm **Coffee Break and Posters – Feinstone Hall**

03:30 pm – 03:55 pm **Dr. Laura Norris** (Senior Program Officer, Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA)

Shaping the Gene Drive Ecosystem for Impact

03:55 pm – 04:20 pm **Dr. Stephanie James** (member of the GeneConvene team, USA)

Charting the path for gene drive mosquitoes

04:20 pm – 05:20 pm **Panel: Roadblocks for transgenic mosquito-based malaria control.** Moderator: Organizing

Dr. Conor McMeniman (Associate Professor, JHU/JHMRI); Panelists: all speakers

05:20 pm – 05:30 pm **Dr. George Dimopoulos** (Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA)

Closing Remarks

05:30 pm – 06:30 pm **Reception and Posters – Feinstone Hall**