

# **Report from the 7<sup>th</sup> MIM Pan African Malaria Conference**

## **Dakar 2018**

**Sarah Svege, University of Bergen**



I attended the MIM Pan African Malaria Conference in Dakar, Senegal April 15-20<sup>th</sup> 2018. The conference was organised by the committee of Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) which was established in 1997 to strengthen malaria research in African countries.

The conference was held at the beautiful and spacious Abdou Diouf International Conference Center. Distinguished speakers from various universities and research institutions in Africa, Europe, USA and Asia presented their latest research findings during a great number of interesting symposiums. Young researchers got the chance to present and showcase their research projects during “turbo talks” and daily poster sessions.

After plenary sessions in the morning, the programme continued with parallel symposiums covering a wide variety of topics including malaria control and elimination, health system strengthening, malaria chemoprevention, insecticide resistance, health policy, vector biology and vaccination. I took part in the sessions which were most relevant to my own research interests and sessions on topics where I had little previous knowledge and wanted to learn more. During lunch – which was served at the venue every day - I would look at posters and meet up with colleagues.



Throughout the conference I was impressed by the many excellent speakers who shared their experiences in the malaria research field, thoughts on malaria control strategies and hopes for a malaria free future. Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease. Thus, elimination is possible if researchers, policy makers, funders and people “on the ground” use their resources and expertise to implement sustainable control programmes in malaria endemic areas where insecticide resistance is emerging and people are especially susceptible to infection. It was inspiring to witness the dedication and commitment existing

within hundreds of academics from a wide range of countries, cultures and professions.

Some of the sessions I attended are included in the following list:

**SESSIONS**

**Monday, April 16, 2018**

POSTER SESSION A	10:45 AM - 6:30 PM
SYMP 02: The potential of dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DP) for intermittent preventive therapy	11:15 AM - 1:00 PM
SYMP 08: Digital health system strengthening approaches for improved malaria case management	2:30 PM - 4:15 PM
SS 9: Immunology 1 (Oral presentation 57-64)	4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018**

SYMP 17: ACCESS-SMC: Scaling-up Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention in the Sahel	9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
POSTER SESSION B	10:45 AM - 6:30 PM
SS 15: Surveillance, Treatment and community management (Oral presentation 113-120)	11:15 AM - 1:00 PM
SYMP 25: Malaria elimination: Country-driven and country-owned	2:30 PM - 4:15 PM
SYMP 31: Overcoming barriers to access to malaria care through integrated community case management	4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018**

POSTER SESSION C	10:45 AM - 6:30 PM
SYMP 40: Symposium on Plasmodium vivax in Sub-Saharan Africa	11:15 AM - 1:00 PM
SYMP 43: Challenges of Malaria Elimination in Africa—Molecular Epidemiology for Malaria Elimination	

**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

POSTER SESSION D	10:45 AM - 6:30 PM
SYMP 48: Evaluating Malaria Programs in Changing Contexts	11:00 AM - 12:45 PM
SYMP 58: Leaving no-one behind	4:45 PM - 6:30 PM
SS 34: Chemoprevention (Oral presentation 265-272)	4:45 PM - 6:30 PM

**Friday, April 20, 2018**

SYMP 65: Assessing the feasibility of malaria burden reduction and elimination	11:15 AM - 1:00 PM
SYMP 69: Visualizing the Path to Malaria Elimination in Zambia	2:30 PM - 4:15 PM

I would like to warmly thank the **Norwegian Research School in Global Health** for the International Training Grant which made this trip possible. It has not yet been decided when the next MIM conference will be held, but I highly recommend other NRS GH members in malaria research to attend.

Regards,

*Sarah Svege*

Research Track Student

Centre for International Health

University of Bergen, Norway