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Towards Malaria Elimination in the Asia-Pacific – Challenges and Opportunities

Thursday 6 April, 1600 - 1800, Plenary Hall 1

Lead	Associate Professor Freya Fowkes, Burnet Institute
Speakers	Professor Ric Price, University of Oxford
	Professor James Beeson, Burnet Institute
	Associate Professor Julie Simpson, University of Melbourne
	Dr Leanne Robinson, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research
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	Professor Archie Clements, Australian National University

In the past decade, global efforts in malaria control have seen an unprecedented halving in the number of malaria-attributable deaths and malaria cases globally. Despite these substantial gains malaria still causes an estimated 500,000 deaths and over 200 million clinical cases annually. These deaths are mainly attributed to *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria but *P. vivax* malaria is increasingly recognised as a major contributor to malaria morbidity and a greater challenge for elimination. Malaria elimination is now firmly on the agenda, particularly in areas of low transmission in Asia, with goals of malaria elimination in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030.

To achieve successful long term malaria elimination, a multipronged approach with buy-in from governments, public and private sector is required. This entails effective upscaling and implementation of current tools, and development and evaluation of new tools such as drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics, together with co-ordinated engagement with, and commitment by, relevant stakeholders. Mathematical modelling approaches to predict the population level impact of novel interventions and elimination strategies and to identify public health programs to be prioritised with available funding are also important. To achieve widespread uptake of tools and strategies in the Asia-Pacific region, operational and implementation research in affected communities is also essential as well as capacity building to strengthen resource allocation, disease control and surveillance programs, and health care systems.

