The Quest to Eradicate Malaria: a progress report

featuring
Rear Admiral Timothy Ziemer, U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator, President’s Malaria Initiative

with an introduction by
Dyann Wirth, PhD, Richard Pearson Strong Professor of Infectious Diseases,
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
4:00 – 5:30 PM (reception following)
Rotunda Room, Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, Harvard Medical School
77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston, MA 02115

PROGRAM

Welcome:
Rebecca Weintraub, MD
Associate Faculty Director, Harvard Global Health Institute; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Introduction:
Dyann Wirth, PhD
Richard Pearson Strong Professor of Infectious Diseases, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Keynote:
Rear Admiral Timothy Ziemer
U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator, President’s Malaria Initiative

Panel Discussion:
Moderator
Ashish Jha, MD, MPH, Faculty Director, Harvard Global Health Institute; K.T. Li Professor of Health Policy, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Panelists
Rear Admiral Timothy Ziemer
Jessica Cohen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Global Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Regina Rabinovich, MD, MPH, ExxonMobil Malaria Scholar in Residence, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Dyann Wirth, PhD

Reception immediately following (5:30 – 6:30 PM)
BIOGRAPHIES

Rear Admiral Tim Ziemer
United States Navy (Retired)
U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator
President’s Malaria Initiative, USAID

Rear Admiral Tim Ziemer leads the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), a historic U.S. Government initiative to reduce the burden of malaria and help relieve poverty in Africa. Appointed in June 2006, Rear Admiral Ziemer has served as the U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator for the past nine years, leading the Initiative across two Administrations. He has been recognized as “one of the most quietly effective leaders in public health.” As Coordinator, Rear Admiral Ziemer reports to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator and has direct authority over both PMI and USAID malaria programs.

PMI is an interagency initiative led by USAID and implemented together with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It is overseen by the U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator and an Interagency Advisory Group made up of representatives of USAID, CDC/HHS, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Office of Management and Budget. In 2008, the Lantos-Hyde Act authorized the expansion of PMI, and, in 2009, it was included as a key component of the U.S. Government’s Global Health Initiative; it contributes significantly to the goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths. Since its launch, PMI has contributed to the important reductions in malaria mortality that have been recorded among children under five in Africa.

Born in Sioux City, Iowa, Rear Admiral Ziemer was raised in Asia, the son of missionary parents serving in Vietnam. After graduating from Wheaton College, he joined the Navy, completed flight school, and returned to Vietnam during the war. During his naval career, Rear Admiral Ziemer commanded several squadrons, naval stations, and an air wing supporting the first Gulf War. Subsequent assignments included serving as the senior fellow with the Navy’s Strategic Studies Program at the Naval War College, and Deputy Director for Operations in the National Military Operations Center on the Joint Command Staff.

Prior to his appointment as U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator, Rear Admiral Ziemer was Vice President of the Arlington Institute, a nonprofit research institute specialized in strategic planning, and Executive Director of World Relief, a humanitarian organization.
Rebecca Weintraub, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Associate Physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She serves as Faculty Director of the Global Health Delivery Project at Harvard and Associate Faculty Director of the Harvard Global Health Institute. Since 2008, Dr. Weintraub has led GHDonline.org, a network of virtual communities that connects 15,000 health professionals from more than 180 countries and 5,000 organizations. She has also led the publication of more than 30 Harvard Business School case studies. Her research on value-generating strategies in global health has been funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Global Fund, the Pershing Square Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Weintraub co-founded Jumpstart, the national AmeriCorps program and she also serves as a technical advisor to Ashoka, promoting the work of health entrepreneurs. In 2014, she was honored as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Dr. Weintraub graduated from Yale University, Stanford School of Medicine, and completed her medical training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Dyann Wirth, PhD is the Richard Pearson Strong Professor of Infectious Diseases, and Chair of the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She is the Faculty Chair of Harvard Integrated Life Sciences at Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and a Senior Associate Member and co-Director of the Infectious Disease Initiative at the Broad Institute.

For more than thirty years, Wirth has been a major leader in malaria research—providing completely new insight into how the malaria parasite has evolved, specifically in the areas of population biology, drug resistance, and antigenicity. Leveraging the tools of the human genomic project, her group has applied state of the art technologies and novel approaches to better understand parasite biology and mechanisms of drug resistance in *Plasmodium falciparum*, the major human malaria parasite. Together with international collaborators, Wirth has developed a unique multidisciplinary malaria research and training network.

At Harvard, Wirth heads a University-wide initiative called, *Defeating Malaria: From the Genes to the Globe*, to produce, transmit, and translate knowledge to support the control and ultimate eradication of malaria. This effort is spearheaded by the Chan School in collaboration with the Harvard Global Health Institute, and was launched in partnership with the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Financing the Health MDGs and for Malaria.

She is Past President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Joseph Augustine LePrince Medal recipient; Board member of the Burroughs-Wellcome Fund and Marine Biological Laboratory; a member of The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences; and a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.
Ashish K. Jha, MD, MPH is Director for the Harvard Global Health Institute, K.T. Li Professor of Health Policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and a practicing Internal Medicine physician at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

Dr. Jha received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School and trained in Internal Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco where he also served as Chief Medical Resident. He completed his General Medicine fellowship from Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School and received his M.P.H. from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Jha’s major research interests lie in improving the quality and costs of healthcare with a specific focus on the impact of policy efforts. His work has focused on a broad set of issues including transparency and public reporting of provider performance, financial incentives, health information technology, and leadership, and the roles they play in fixing healthcare delivery systems.

Jessica Cohen, PhD is Assistant Professor of Global Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Affiliated Professor at the Jameel-Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and Burke Fellow at the Harvard Global Health Institute. Her research applies the methods of program design, randomized trials, and impact evaluation to maternal and child health programs and policies in sub-Saharan Africa.

She has worked on a number of field trials in Africa related to prevention, treatment and diagnosis of malaria, technology adoption, messaging and behavior change and pharmaceutical supply chains. Ongoing work in malaria explores how perceptions of malaria risk influence malaria treatment seeking and prevention. Current field work in Kenya, supported by a Gates Grand Challenges award, uses behavioral economic insights to explore new approaches to increasing demand for high quality maternal care. She has other ongoing field work applying behavioral economic findings to improve program design in the areas of postpartum contraception (in Kenya) and nutrition (in Ethiopia).

Dr. Cohen is a member of the WHO Global Malaria Program’s Technical Expert Group on Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation, has advised the government of Zanzibar on its malaria control program and the Canadian International Development Agency on its child survival programs.

Dr. Cohen received her bachelor’s degree in Economics from Wesleyan University and was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at MIT, where she received her doctorate in economics.
N. Regina Rabinovich, MD, MPH is a global health leader with over 25 years’ experience in the research, public health, and philanthropic sectors, with focus on strategy, analytics, global health product development, and the introduction and scale-up of tools and strategies resulting in impact on endemic populations. Since 2012, she has served as the ExxonMobil Malaria Scholar in Residence at Harvard University.

From 2003-2012, she was Director of the Infectious Diseases Unit at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where she oversaw the development and implementation of strategies for the prevention, treatment, and control of diseases of particular relevance to global health, including malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, and neglected infectious diseases.

During her tenure at the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), she helped develop and evaluate vaccines. In addition to participating in the Children’s Vaccine Initiative and liaising on issues related to vaccine safety and vaccine research, she managed the evaluation of candidate vaccines through a network of U.S. clinical research units. During her time as Director of the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, she advanced efforts to develop promising malaria vaccine candidates.

She serves on the boards of the NIAID Council, National Institutes of Health Council on Councils, PATH Vaccine Solutions, AERAS, and Harvard University’s Defeating Malaria: From the Genes to the Globe initiative. Dr. Rabinovich holds a medical degree from Southern Illinois University and a Masters of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina.