Malaria Control: From Science Innovation to Policy to Program Implementation

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There have been four major innovations in malaria control since the 1970's. These include insecticide treated bednets, artemisinin combination therapies, the development of rapid diagnostic tests and the GSK malaria vaccine RTS,S. I will review the timescales from science discovery to policy and scale up to program implementation for these innovations analyzing hurdles to success. I will also discuss an innovation in malaria control designated “Strain Theory” that has been developed by my research team and collaborators that has significant policy implications for malaria control.

Karen Day is Professor of Medical Parasitology and Professor of Medicine at NYU School of Medicine. She graduated in Science from The University of Melbourne and did her PhD in molecular parasitology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. She completed postdoctoral training in population science at PNG Institute of Medical Research gaining experience in infectious disease epidemiology, clinical trials and malaria surveillance. She runs a multidisciplinary research program employing laboratory, field and mathematical modelling investigations to ask population science questions to improve malaria control. Professor Day has published extensively in parasitology and malaria genomic epidemiology. She has held substantial teaching and administrative posts at University of Oxford and NYU, including Director of the NYU Masters Program in Global Public Health from 2004 to 2009. She is passionate about global public health, science and music.