

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 3

A Rotary Project Registered with Rotary Australia World Community Service



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



What an opportune time to be writing this message in our Third Newsletter! We are on the cusp of two very special moments. This week the Malaria Vaccine Project has reached almost \$400,000 out of its target of \$500,000. Further, as I write this, the Institute for Glycomics is recruiting 36 subjects to take part in the critical clinical trials of Professor Michael Good's promising vaccine PlasProtect®. These trials are expected to commence at the end of June and continue through 2018 and most of

2019. They will test the efficacy of the vaccine against an injection of a malaria parasite in a non-endemic country. You can feel the expectation building.

We continue to have wonderful support from Rotary clubs and districts throughout Australia and PNG and this includes an extremely supportive national committee of Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM). **Rotarians in Australia:** Thank you for raising \$250,000 for this humanitarian project that could eventually save more than 400,000 lives every year. Please keep it going as we continue to build greater momentum for these goals.

We received a wonderful boost in April when the Queensland Government gave a grant of \$50,000 to Griffith University for malaria research at the Institute for Glycomics. This grant, included in the grand total, came via the Commonwealth Games Legacy Committee and I offer special thanks to the Chair of that Committee, Hon Rob Borbidge AO. This grant joins sponsorship by Kenton and Rachel Campbell (Zarraffas Coffee) and donations by Judge John and

Patsy Nicholson as our most valued supporters.

World Malaria Awareness Day (Australia) on April 30 was a very special day for us.

We were honoured to have His Excellency Mr Manuel Innoencio de Lacerda Santos Jr., Ambassador of Brazil visit the Institute for Glycomics and speak at a Cocktail Function kindly sponsored by Griffith University. As well as bringing much appreciated gifts from the Embassy and the Rotary Club of Canberra, His Excellency demonstrated enthusiastic support of our Project and his intention to forge links for us with Rotary Districts in Brazil.

The Rotary Club of Gold Coast is fast becoming our Rotary champion. It provided a wonderful surprise donation at the Malaria Awareness Cocktail function that was initiated from their coordination of room cleaning activities at the Commonwealth Games Village. As was the

case last year, the Malaria Vaccine Project is also one of the recipients of proceeds from their Gala Masquerade Ball in June with the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads. We are overwhelmed by your gracious support which continues with the Gold Coast Ramble later this year.

A special thanks to the members of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee. Without their creative and tireless efforts and those of our sponsoring clubs (Southport, Broadbeach, Hope Island and Griffith Gold Coast), all this would not be happening. As Marion and I attend the Rotary International Convention in Toronto at the end of June, I look forward to sharing the Malaria Vaccine Project with Rotarians from around the globe—ever hopeful that Rotary International will embrace the potential of a vaccine like PlasProtect®. As Professor Brian Greenwood [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine] wrote recently, “Malaria will never be eradicated until a viable vaccine is available”.

PDG Graham Jones - Chair Malaria Vaccine Project Committee

Committee members: PDG Graham Jones (Chair), Hon Sam Doumany, PDG Sandra Doumany, Gerard Brennan, Laraine Brennan, PDG Michael Irving, Neil Jones, Mervyn Powell, PDG Dai Mason, Teresa Dawson, Karin Kolenko, Dr Danielle Stanisic and Regina Tucker.

INSTITUTE FOR GLYCOMICS MALARIA AWARENESS DAY



(L-R) Hon Rob Borbidge AO DUniv, Professor Ned Pankhurst, Ambassador Manuel Santos and PDG Emeritus Professor Graham Jones AM

ZARRAFFAS COFFEE



Ms Rachel Campbell, Dr Chris Davis and Mr Kenton Campbell CEO and Founder of Zarraffas Coffee

Major Sponsors Zarraffas have continued to support the Malaria Vaccine Project and attended the Malaria Awareness Day reception for the Brazilian Ambassador.

Kenton Campbell gave his unreserved support during an interview with Channel 7 highlighting the need for a vaccine to



address the significant problems caused by the disease and the impact in particular on communities in third world countries.

This sponsorship has allowed the project to progress and provides researchers the opportunity to move forward with the Phase 1 Clinical Trial.

To view the interviews please use this link:

<https://malariavaccineproject.com/2018/05/02/channel-7-interviews-dr-danielle-stanisis-from-griffith-university-and-kenton-campbell-from-zarraffas/>

BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS MALARIA VACCINE LABORATORY

The Rotary Malaria Vaccine committee welcomed the Ambassador to the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University to see first-hand the work being done on the development of a new malaria vaccine.

Manuel Innocencio de Lacerda Santos Jr. is a career Brazilian Diplomat having entered the Brazilian Foreign Service in 1974.

Since that time, he has served in Bonn, Hong Kong, Prague, Baghdad, Toronto, Kinshasa, São Tomé, and Faro (Portugal). In Brasilia, he has served in various positions: the Ceremonial Branch, Cabinet of the Minister of State for External Relations, Presidency of the Republic, Head of the West Africa Division, Head of the Division of Central Asia, and as an Advisor for International Affairs in the Ministry of Social Welfare.



He has also taught Ceremonial and Protocol at the Brazilian Diplomatic Academy.

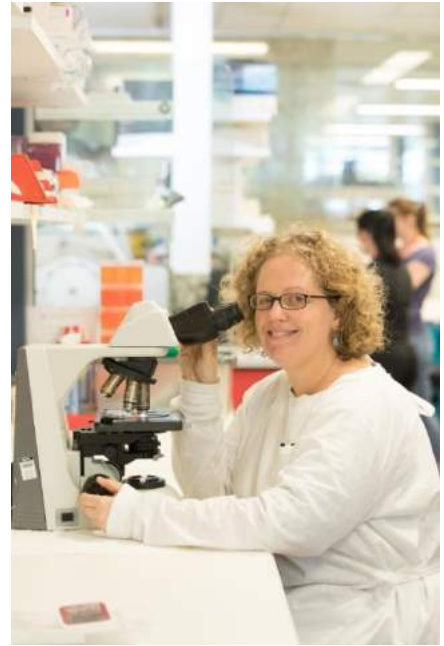
Before he arrived in Canberra, he served as Consul-General in Faro, Portugal, and as Ambassador to São Tomé e Príncipe, Indonesia and ASEAN.

Ambassador Manuel Innocencio de Lacerda Santos Jr. was posted to Canberra as Brazilian Ambassador-Designate to the Commonwealth of Australia on 4th January 2016, and presented his credentials to the Governor General of Australia on 24th February 2016.

CLINICAL TRIALS SAVE LIVES

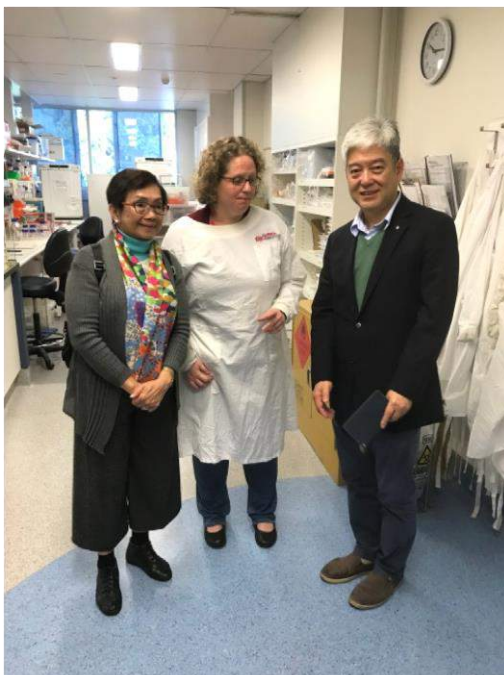


*Professor Michael Good AO – Chief Investigator
Malaria Vaccine Project*



Thanks to the amazing support of Rotary we have been able to commence study activities. Following receipt of ethical and regulatory approvals, recruitment activities and screening of potential study participants for the first study group have commenced at the Clinical Trial Unit, Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus. Once we have the requisite number of volunteers for the first group, vaccine manufacturing will be undertaken at the Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University. Following this, administration of the vaccine will commence.

Dr Danielle Stanisic



PDG Kenneth Wong – Visit to Institute for Glycomics

Past District Governor Kenneth Wong and his wife Lucia visited with PDG Sandra and Sam Doumany recently and enjoyed a tour of the Malaria Vaccine Research Laboratory with Dr Danielle Stanisic. They were very impressed with the amazing progress of the project and have returned to Hong Kong with lots of information to pass on to his District 3450. It is always a pleasure to host Rotarians who are so committed to Rotary and its good works.

DONORS

MAJOR DONORS

Zarraffas Coffee and Zarraffas Foundation

John Nicholson

Beverly McIlwain

Vince Rehbein

DONORS

AAA Business Accountants

Benji Water

Boston Private Wealth Pty Ltd

Brazilian Embassy

Carne, Kerry

Carroll, Steve and Dorene

Chan, Laurence

Connelly, Bill and Lynn

Deshon, Rob

Doumany, Sam and Sandra

Dyer, David

Goldstraw, Brian

Hallworth, Denis

Hammill, Jenny

Handy, Peter

Heck, Bill and Pat

Hobart, Jennifer

Howlett, Bruce

Jeanes, Simon

Jones, Cameron & Jody

Jones, Graham A

Kalinko, Stan

Kidson, Mrs P

Kuppe, Sandra

Leyew, Zelalem

Loong, Rachel

Ma, Sum Yee

Mason, Dai

McDonell, Patricia

McGehe, Larry & Carol

McGowan, Judith

McKernan, Karen

Muller, Lyn

Mystakidis, Paul

Nightbreeze Pty Ltd

Noble, James

Olsson, Jack

Ouglitchinin, Gregory

Overell, Peter

Pollock, Heather

Pretorius, Albertus

Pritchett, A and S

Puglisi, Angelo

Reuben Pelerman Benevolent Foundation

Rotarians Against Malaria - District 9810

Rotarians Against Malaria - National

Rotarians Against Malaria – PNG Ron Seddon

Rotary Club Currumbin Coolangatta Tweed - D9640

Rotary Club of Albany Creek - District 9600

Rotary Club of Allora - District 9640

Rotary Club of Alstonville - District 9640

Rotary Club of Ashmore - District 9640

Rotary Club of Ballina - District 9640

Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond District 9640

Rotary Club of Bega - District 9710

Rotary Club of Belconnen - District 9710

Rotary Club of Broadbeach - District 9640

Rotary Club of Bundaberg Sunrise - District 9570

Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads - District 9640

Rotary Club of Cairns - District 9550

Rotary Club of Camberwell - District 9800

Rotary Club of Canberra - District 9710

Rotary Club of Carindale - District 9630

Rotary Club of Diamond Creek - District 9790

Rotary Club of East Maitland - District 9670

Rotary Club of Gawler - District 9500

Rotary Club of Ginninderra - District 9710

Rotary Club of Gladstone Port Curtis - District 9570

Rotary Club of Glen Innes - District 9640

Rotary Club of Gold Coast - District 9640

Rotary Club of Goolwa - District 9520

Rotary Club of Goondiwindi - District 9640

Rotary Club of Goonellabah - District 9640

Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast - District 9640

Rotary Club of Hall - District 9710

Rotary Club of Hope Island - District 9640

Rotary Club of Hornsby - District 9685

Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra - District 9710

Rotary Club of Lismore West - District 9640

Rotary Club of Manningham - District 9810

Rotary Club of Maryborough Sunrise - D 9570

Rotary Club of Mermaid Beach - District 9640

Rotary Club of Milton Ulladulla - District 9710

Rotary Club of Minnamurra - District 9675

Rotary Club of Mudgee – District 9670

Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise - District 9670

Rotary Club of Murwillumbah - District 9640

Rotary Club of Newcastle Ent - District 9670

Rotary Club of Nowra - District 9710

Rotary Club of Pambula - District 9710

Rotary Club of Parkwood - District 9640

Rotary Club of Robina - District 9640

Rotary Club of Salisbury - District 9630

Rotary Club of Southport - District 9640

Rotary Club of Summerland Sunrise - District 9640

Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise - District 9640

Rotary Club of Tweed Heads South - District 9640

Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mtns - District 9685

Rotary Club of Vienna Northeast - District 7610

Rotary Club of Warwick - District 9640

Rotary Club of Warwick Sunrise - District 9640

Rotary Club of Woden Daybreak - District 9710

Rotary Club Port of Mackay - District 9570

ROTARY DISTRICT 9570

Rotary District 9640 Conference Raffle

Rotary e-Club of NextGen - District 9640

Rotary Satellite Club of Griffith University - D 9640

Rotary Zone 8 Institute (Darwin)

Ryall, Keith

Scarlett, Wendy

Sheldon, Sally

Smith, Emma

Starr, Rodney

Stevenson, Maureen

Threlfall, BD & BJ

Watson, Leigh

Wilkinson, K and R

Wood, Christine

World Carpets Pty Ltd (Tony Stenton)

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES

PDG Sandra Doumany

Sandra Doumany is a Charter member of the Rotary Club of Hope Island. She is a Past President, held many positions on the Board of the Club. Was an Assistant Governor for 3 years and District Governor 2012-2013. She is married to Sam and between them have a large family, 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild, another little Princess is due in October.

Sandy is a great fan of Benji and took on the responsibility of marketing the Benji Water Project as a fundraiser for the Malaria Vaccine Project. Sam & Sandy are committed to supporting the Malaria Vaccine Project and enjoy the new friendships they have made at Griffith University and the Griffith Gold Coast Rotary Club.



Rotarian Teresa Dawson

Married in 1989 and have 2 daughters Chloe and Courtney both born on the Gold Coast. My husband, Allan and I owned and operated two Opal stores 'Dawsons Opal Mine' in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach with 28 staff for 10 years and founded Execugifts in 1995. Our current business employs 15 staff, importing and supplying branded merchandise, conference bags and accessories throughout Australasia. I

joined Parkwood Rotary in 2006 and within a few months was nominated to join the board and became President in 2012 -2013 and have served on the board in many roles until 2017. In 2010 I set up Parkwood Rotary's Clubrunner website and Facebook still managing to date. As well as the GC100 Charity Cycle Event and our clubs RAWCS Project Farmer Family Support in the Philippines.



For District 9640 I have served on the District Conference Committee in 2012-2013 and the Technology Committee setting up the District website and District Facebook in 2012 managing until 2017.

I am currently serving on the Malaria Vaccine Project committee in the capacity of social media and webmaster. This is such an exciting project to be involved in and I feel privileged to be working with such esteemed committee members and partners, Griffith University Institute for Glycomics.

DONATION FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF GOLD COAST

Rotarian David Baguley presenting a cheque for \$10,000 from Gold Coast Rotary Club to support the Malaria Vaccine Project. The donation was raised by club members who cleaned rooms at the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village.



Hard working Rotarians raising funds for our community at Commonwealth Games village



Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast members work on the "mile of coins" on Malaria Awareness day Australia on Griffith University campus to raise funds for the Malaria Vaccine Project



Bruce Howlett, our hard-working Ambassador in District 9570 visits the malaria laboratory with Ross Smith and Dr Danielle Stanisc



REPORT FROM DISTRICT RAM CHAIR

We have had a boost to the cumulative total of funds raised with \$50000 committed from the Commonwealth Games distribution of legacy grants as well as repeat donations from generous Rotary supporters - as I write this brief update our total figure is expected to exceed \$400000 well before June 30. Following on our attendance at the Brazilian Embassy/Canberra Rotary Club Masquerade Ball our Hope Island Rotary colleague Gerard Brennan was successful in securing the attendance of His Excellency the Ambassador of Brazil at our special Cocktails on 30 April to mark Malaria Awareness Day. The Ambassador presented a cheque from the proceeds of the Canberra Embassy Ball and a cheque from the Canberra Rotary Club. He affirmed his continuing strong support of the Project which we hope will result in igniting the involvement of Brazilian Rotarians and potential corporate donors from that country. The Institute of Glycomics is busy organising the enlistment of volunteers for the onshore clinical trials and has increased the size of the sample to 36 - as this will increase the likely cost of these trials our Committee has agreed that we will extend our first phase fund raising target beyond \$500000. At the end of June I will be passing over the District Chair of RAM to PDG Dai Mason who is already a valued member of the Project Committee - Dai will be attending the World Malaria Congress in Melbourne in early July. I am certain that Dai will be an excellent RAM Chair and will contribute significantly to the future success of the Vaccine Project.

Sam Doumany
RAM Chair & member of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee



FIRST MALARIA WORLD CONGRESS

On 1 July a ground-breaking event will occur. The **1st Malaria World Congress** will take place at the Convention Centre in Melbourne. The Congress will attract many local and overseas delegates to discuss the medical, political, social and economic issues regarding the eradication and elimination of the deadly disease. The Congress will conclude on Thursday 5 July with a **Global Strategy Declaration**.

There will be many and concurrent presentations and breakout sessions during the 5 days of the Congress. Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) have organised a display stand showing the work that Rotarians undertake in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. The display will also feature the work of the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University on their Malaria Vaccine Project. Dave Pearson, National Manager for RAM, has been elected to the organising committee for the Congress and will organise and manage the display.

Dai Mason (Rotary eClub NextGen) will also attend the Congress on behalf of Rotary District 9640. Dai is a member of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee, where his role is to manage the Ambassador Programme. On the 1st July 2018 he will become the District 9640 Chair for RAM having taken over from Sam Doumany. Dai has a long history in Rotary having joined the Rotary Club of Nerang in 1979. He was District Governor for District 9600 in 2012-2013 and since becoming an eClub NextGen member he has rejoined his old district.

The annual RAM Conference is being held at Griffith University on 25-26 August 2018 and this will provide a great follow-up after the Melbourne Congress.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUPPORTING MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

Rotary Gold Coast and Burleigh
Masquerade Ball was held on the
9th June – supporting Malaria Vaccine Project



Gold Coast Rotary Ramble on 5th August –
For more information go to -
<http://www.goldcoastramble.org.au/>



Rotarians Against Malaria Conference –
Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th August 2018
at the Institute of Glycomics,
Griffith University Gold Coast campus



Surfers Paradise Rotary - Charity Race Day on the 6th
October Gold Coast Turf Club
For bookings please contact Laraine Brennan – email
brenhill@bigpond.net.au OR phone 0408 484 632





**Article published in the ACT Bar Association Bulletin
Written by Gerard Brennan**

Gerard is a former member of the ACT Law Society, Legal Adviser to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and practised as a solicitor in Canberra. He was also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra where he taught and undertook research in international law. He moved to the Gold Coast two years ago and is a member of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee and the Hope Island Rotary club to which he transferred from the Rotary Club of Canberra.

The Malaria Vaccine Project is an exciting research program which is taking place at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. The research is seeking a vaccine against malaria. If it is successful the vaccine will provide a means for the eradication of malaria worldwide. Rotary clubs are heavily involved in supporting the research. This is in keeping with the Rotary tradition of seeking to alleviate the effects of disease around the world. For example, Rotary has provided support over some forty years to the eradication of polio. Interestingly Sir Clem Renouf, an Australian who was the Rotary International President in 1978-1979 contributed significantly to the planning of the polio eradication program. There is reason for hope that polio will soon be eliminated. From hundreds of thousands of cases each year forty years ago, it seems that only 4 cases have been reported so far this year. A malaria vaccine would give Rotary the possibility to emulate its international end polio program by taking a similar program to the world for the eradication of malaria.

Background

There are approximately 3.2 billion people currently living in malaria endemic areas worldwide. In 2016 there were approximately 216 million cases of malaria and 445,000 deaths, mostly children under five years. The malaria endemic countries include Australia's neighbours Indonesia and Papua and New Guinea as well as several Commonwealth countries. Malaria causes fatigue, fever, seizures and, if untreated, coma and death. It also has adverse economic effects on the countries concerned. It is spread easily by the bite from an infected anopheles mosquito. Despite global efforts there is no effective malaria vaccine available at this time. Accordingly whilst the impact is greatest in the malaria endemic areas, Australians and others travelling to those countries are also at risk.

Research into a vaccine and other possible methods of eliminating malaria is being conducted in various universities around the world including in Australia. One of the universities undertaking such research is Griffith University on the Gold Coast. Professor Michael Good AO is leading the ground-breaking research in the Institute for Glycomics at the University. He has developed a novel malaria vaccine candidate called PlasProtect. It consists of whole malaria parasites that are grown in the laboratory under strictly controlled conditions. The parasites are treated with a chemical so that they can no longer replicate or cause an infection. These treated parasites are then administered as a vaccine to raise an immune response without causing disease. The body is then primed to fight malaria parasites that may enter the body in the future thus preventing

malaria infection. The vaccine is at an advanced stage of development. It has been produced for animal studies and has been shown to have broad spectrum protection against infection with malaria parasites in animal models. Most recently the vaccine has been used for pilot clinical studies in human volunteers. This preliminary study with a small sample of human volunteers has shown that the vaccine is safe and able to induce an immune response. All these studies suggest that PlasProtect is potent against all strains of malaria.

The Malaria Vaccine Project The malaria vaccine project is a partnership between the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University and the Rotary clubs of Southport, Broadbeach, Hope Island and the satellite club at the University. The project is registered with Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). Pursuant to this registration donations to the project are tax-free as RAWCS has DGR status with the Australian taxation office. The Project is also endorsed by Rotarians Against Malaria who have been combating malaria by various means including the provision of insecticide impregnated bed nets that repel or kill mosquitoes. A vaccine is the key to shifting the fight against malaria from sustained control to eradication.

The initial aim of the project is to raise \$500,000 to support the next phase of clinical trials which will take place on the Gold Coast after the Commonwealth games. The project was launched by the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove on 27 March 2017. Sir Peter said the work represented Australian science and innovation at its very best. "This is what will make a difference, a better world and save lives. It is being done in our corner of the world, for the world" he said. The project has received great support from Rotary clubs not only on the Gold Coast but also from almost every State. A total of more than \$370,000 has been raised including a substantial donation from our first corporate sponsor Zarraffas Coffee (Kenton and Rachel Campbell).

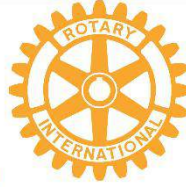
If the clinical trials on the Gold Coast prove successful the next stage of the project will be to undertake clinical trials in an endemic country or countries. This will require further funding and the co-operation of governments.

Structure

The project is run by a Committee of 14 people established by a Charter embodying the agreement between Rotary District 9640 and the University. The Charter sets out the powers of the Committee which include not only the power to raise funds for the necessary research but also importantly the power to carry the task through to the 'vaccination of all peoples at risk in malaria affected countries.' The Committee has appointed various ambassadors and key contact persons in Rotary districts throughout Australia. These ambassadors make presentations and keep contact with clubs and other organisations in their region or district. The chairmen of Rotarians Against Malaria in the various districts also provide assistance and help coordinate fundraising activities. The Malaria Vaccine Project has three co-patrons: Past Rotary International President Glen Kinross AO, the Hon Lawrence Springborg former MP and Opposition Leader for Queensland and Rotary Institute director Noel Trevaskis OAM. **Conclusion** The committee made its first distribution of \$200,000 to the Institute for Glycomics last August. This has enabled preliminary work to begin on the clinical trials that will take place with the assistance of Gold Coast University Hospital. The ethical procedures that will allow the testing program to go ahead have been concluded. Accordingly the actual vaccine assessment program will go ahead after the Commonwealth Games.



Rotary
District 9640



MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

HELP BENJI FIGHT MALARIA

**Benji Water can be purchased for \$1 a bottle and the proceeds
go to the Malaria Vaccine Project**

Boxes of 24 available

or

Support this very special Benji Project and make a donation

Go to - <https://malariavaccineproject.com/>

