

Monkey malaria researcher named NT Young Tall Poppy

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Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) clinical research fellow Dr Matthew Grigg has been named the 2017 NT Young Tall Poppy Scientist of the Year in recognition for ongoing research into *Plasmodium knowlesi* (*P. knowlesi*) malaria, a type of monkey malaria transmitted to humans via mosquitos in Southeast Asia.

The prestigious Young Tall Poppy Awards are run by the Australian Institute of Policy and Science (AIPS) to honour up-and-coming scientists who combine world-class research with a passionate commitment to communicating science.

34 year old Dr Grigg said he was thankful to be nominated for the award by his mentor and supervisor at Menzies, Professor Nick Anstey.

“This award really is recognition for the work of our whole malaria research team at Menzies and our colleagues in Asia, including Dr Timothy William, who is based at our main field site in Sabah, Malaysia where *P. knowlesi* malaria has such a big impact on the local population.

“Through our research we have been able to improve our understanding of the treatment and epidemiology of *P. knowlesi* malaria, to change Malaysian and World Health Organization (WHO) malaria treatment guidelines, whilst building the expertise of local research staff.

“With Menzies colleague, Dr Bridget Barber we were also the first to compare severe and non-severe knowlesi malaria to other species, with results also now included in the WHO severe malaria guidelines,” said Dr Grigg.

Dr Grigg has been working in the Territory for the past nine years including time as a medical officer in remote NT Indigenous communities and also Royal Darwin and Katherine Hospitals.

He is currently continuing his research as a research fellow in Menzies' [HOT NORTH](#) collaboration which has been established to close the gap in Indigenous health disadvantage, protect the north from emerging infectious threats and engage regional neighbours.

“Another benefit of this award will be the opportunity to share my research with school students, teachers and the broader community through workshops, seminars and public lectures during the next 12 months,” Dr Grigg said.

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Dr Matthew Grigg is available for interview.

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Menzies School of Health Research

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia's leading medical research institute dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. We have a 30 year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities across northern and central Australia. We collaborate to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.