

Funding spotlight on eliminating malaria in Vietnam

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The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development of Vietnam (NAFOSTED) had founded a joint project, led by Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies), to undertake malaria research in the Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam.

The three-year clinical trial will be focussed on assessing better treatment options for malaria patients in the Ninh Thuan Province District Hospital and five surrounding Health Centres.

Menzies project leader Dr Kamala Ley-Thriemer, says the research will help develop a unified treatment policy for all malaria species, and ultimately pave the way to achieving the United Nations sustainable development goal of eliminating Malaria epidemics, by 2030.

“Retrospective data analysis so far has indicated that patients with falciparum malaria are at high risk from a vivax malaria relapse. Broadening the indication for radical cure of vivax malaria to include patients with falciparum malaria is therefore a promising approach.

The research will also explore how well patients adhere to a full course of treatment and how cost-effective this new policy would be” Dr Ley-Thriemer said.

The NHMRC-NAFOSTED funding of one million dollars will allow for capacity building of health researchers and increase clinical trial expertise in Vietnam alongside the data and laboratory research in Australia.

“This research has the potential to change policy not only in Vietnam, but also in other areas where *P. vivax* and *P. falciparum* are co-endemic” Dr Ley-Thriemer said.

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Media contact:

Paul Dale, senior communications officer

Phone: 0439 108 754 or (08) 8946 8658 | Email: communications@menzies.edu.au

Menzies School of Health Research

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