
Clinical Pre-Meeting Course:

***The Highly Prevalent Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs): Update on Clinical Aspects and Novel Approaches to Control***

November 17-18, 2009

Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC USA

The neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of chronic infections whose major impact is in producing significant disability and suffering in those affected, who primarily consist of the world's poorest people. The most prevalent NTDs include the soil-transmitted helminths (ascariasis, trichuriasis, hookworm infection), schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma and onchocerciasis. More recently, the food-borne trematodes (opisthorchiasis, clonorchiasis, fascioliasis, paragonimiasis) have emerged as important causes of morbidity in several areas of the world. Over 1 billion people are currently infected with at least one of these NTDs, and many are concurrently affected by more than one. Reduction of disease burden or interference with transmission of NTDs would have both immediate impact on global health and longer-term effects on economic growth and development.

In the past few years, greater awareness of the global health burden due to NTDs has led to an unprecedented increase in commitment and funding to tackle these important diseases. Substantial monetary commitments were made in 2008 by the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom, and through the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases, a group of private, public and international organizations that are now coordinating their activities in order to launch a more integrated assault on these conditions.

Current control efforts for NTDs center on the periodic mass administration of chemotherapeutic agents against the causative organisms in endemic regions. Such large-scale programs have been shown to be highly cost-effective; however, several concerns make sustainable control doubtful for some of the NTDs. First and foremost, widespread drug distribution for the major NTDs carries the risk of development of drug resistance, just as has happened with malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. The possibility of resistance is being anticipated, as manifested in increased global funding by NTD programs into development of novel anthelminthic drugs and vaccines.

The course will provide updates on the highly-prevalent NTDs listed above, with special emphasis on the latest innovations in diagnosis and treatment, as well as current control strategies, including efforts at integration of interventions. In addition, updates will be provided on the state of current research on new control drugs, diagnostic materials, insecticides and vaccines. For each of the highlighted NTDs, the presentation will be divided into two parts: an update on the clinical aspects of the disease and an update on the latest and future control strategies.

*Course Schedule*

**Tuesday, November 17**

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| 1 - 1:30 pm | *Introduction and Overview*<br>The Highly-Prevalent NTDs |
| 1:30 - 3 pm | *Soil-Transmitted Helminths* |
| 3 – 3:30 pm | Break |
| 3:30 – 4:30 pm | *Food-Borne Trematodes* |
| 4:30 – 5:15 pm | *Schistosomiasis*<br>▪ Clinical Update |
| 5:15 pm | *Summary/Review* |
| 5:30 pm | *Adjourn for Day* |

**Wednesday, November 18**

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| 7:30 – 8 am | Light Continental Breakfast |
| 8 – 8:45 am | *Schistosomiasis*<br>▪ Control Update |
| 8:45 – 10:15 am | *Lymphatic Filariasis*<br>▪ Clinical Update<br>▪ Control Update |
| 10:15 – 10:30 am | Break |
| 10:30 – Noon | *Onchocerciasis*<br>• Clinical Update<br>• Control Update |
| Noon – 1 pm | Lunch (on your own) |
| 1 – 2:30 pm | *Trachoma*<br>▪ Clinical Update<br>▪ Control Update |
| 2:30 pm | *Wrap-Up*: Regional Approaches to NTD Control |
| 3 pm | *Course Adjourns* |

**Objectives**

- Understand the defining clinical features and update current diagnosis and management of the highly-prevalent neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including the soil-transmitted helminth infections, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, trachoma and the food-borne trematodes.
- Understand the global disease burden and distribution of these conditions.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and scope of current control approaches for the highly-prevalent NTDs.
- Evaluate the current status of for the highly-prevalent NTDs.
- Interpret recent developments in the control of highly-prevalent NTDs, including efforts to integrate control strategies.
- Interpret current research into developing new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines for NTDs.
- Understand the different regional approaches to NTD control and how these can be tailored based on local prevalences.