



Advancing global health since 1903

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE

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Statement on World Malaria Day 2014

Deerfield, Ill. (April 25, 2014) – It is clear—by almost any metric— that the world has come a long way in the fight against malaria. According to the 2013 World Health Organization World Malaria Report, global control efforts have saved an estimated 3.3 million lives —larger than the populations of Charlotte, Denver and Tucson combined—since 2000, and malaria mortality rates have dropped by 42 percent.

The progress is commendable and we should rightly celebrate. But these achievements can't obscure the immediate and potential challenges. The global community cannot rest on its laurels. Malaria continues to kill approximately 627,000 people every year. There are more than 200 million cases of the disease annually—most go unreported and untested. In addition, emerging drug and insecticide resistance are a very real threat to the progress we've made.

Many of the Society's members are highly engaged with the global malaria fight—researching vaccines, testing new treatment approaches and identifying novel threats. On this World Malaria Day, we pause to acknowledge their outstanding efforts and successes and to reflect on the important, ongoing role for malaria research and development.

“Investment in malaria R&D, especially basic science, remains essential for our efforts to defeat malaria,” said ASTMH President Alan J. Magill, MD, FASTMH. “Malaria is incredibly complex and there is still much for us to learn. Additional investment in R&D could promote the development of better malaria vaccines, new single dose drug combinations, and new vector control interventions. These biomedical tools are essential for our triumph over this global disease.”

ASTMH compiled members and colleagues' personal perspectives on malaria. Interviews in this series include: [ASTMH President Alan Magill](#), [Admiral Tim Ziemer of the President's Malaria Initiative](#), [ASTMH Councilor Laurence Slutsker of the CDC](#), [Judith E. Epstein of the Naval Medical Research Center](#), [Kent Kester of Sanofi Pasteur](#) and [Science Consultant Jessica Taaffe](#).

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About the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

ASTMH, founded in 1903, is a worldwide organization of scientists, clinicians and program professionals whose mission is to promote global health through the prevention and control of infectious and other diseases that disproportionately afflict the global poor. The *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, continuously published since 1921, is the peer-reviewed journal of the Society, and the world's leading voice in the fields of tropical medicine and global health. *AJTMH* disseminates new knowledge in fundamental, translational, clinical and public health sciences focusing on improving global health.