

# News

Winter 2010  
Issue No 1

## MDSS validation and testing in Africa



In August, the IVCC's Malaria Decision Support System (MDSS) moved into a new phase in its development when a Beta version of the software system, under development at CSU Fort Collins, US, was released for in-country validation and testing in Africa.

The MDSS will provide vector control managers with information vital to effective decision making when planning control interventions. The system collects data from a range of sources, including local clinics and sentinel sites to provide decision support information in maps, tables and reports which can be used in monitoring and evaluation as well as for reporting to key stakeholders.

Between August and October, the system was validated in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, demonstrating the software to clinicians, entomologists, epidemiologists and programme managers, who were asked for feedback on the system in order to ensure that the finished product meets the needs of end users. Testing was also carried out by experts at the Medical Research Council in South Africa.

The validation programme worked with more than 100 stakeholders in the three countries and gained valuable feedback on the system's operation and user interfaces. Andrew Spencer, IVCC Business Development Manager said of the programme: "We were able to confirm a very positive reception for the MDSS and an eagerness among potential users to see the system up and running."

The MDSS development is now being completed and final testing is planned for early 2010. Once this is complete the system will be available for installation.

## Welcome to IVCC News



Welcome to the first edition of IVCC News, a quarterly update newsletter aimed at keeping our stakeholders better informed.

As well as regular updates on IVCC projects, products and roll-outs, we will be including guest articles from our industrial partners and other items of interest in the field of vector control.

Professor Janet Hemingway, Chief Executive Officer, said: "Keeping all our stakeholders informed and up to date with our activities is increasingly important. The newsletter format is ideal for short updates and complements the more detailed information on the website and in our other publications."

**Editorial contact:**  
**Alan Hughes,**  
**Communications Manager**

**Office: +44 (0) 151 705 3308**  
**Email: [a.p.hughes@liv.ac.uk](mailto:a.p.hughes@liv.ac.uk)**

## World Health Summit mention for PHP screening project



IVCC's collaborative project with Bayer to discover new chemical candidates for development into active ingredients for public health pesticides featured in a presentation to the World Health Summit in Berlin in October.

In a session on climate change and its likely impact on the spread of disease, Dr Wolfgang Plischke from Bayer AG (above) outlined the effects that an increase in global temperature could have on disease distribution.

Dr Plischke suggested that an increase of only 1-2 degrees could potentially expose up to an extra 60 million people to malaria, which highlighted the urgent need for new insecticides with new modes of action to combat resistance.

Dr Plischke used the new insecticide project as an example of how industry can help to combat the effects of climate change in a sustainable way, highlighting the collaboration as a 'lighthouse project' in Bayer's Climate Program. Bayer's research experience and large compound library combined with IVCC's funding of qualified research presented a unique opportunity for innovation in the field of malaria control, he said.

Tom McLean, IVCC's Chief Operating Officer, said: "It is heartening to see one of our projects held up as an example of best practice by an industrial giant like Bayer.

"New active ingredients for pesticides are a cornerstone in our strategy and this is further evidence that by covering initial risk, we can unlock the profound expertise of the agrochemical industry and bring its special aptitude to bear on one of the greatest challenges to health in the developing world."

## Syngenta LLIRS project update



Working with the support of IVCC, Syngenta has been developing an improved non-pyrethroid pesticide formulation designed for extended residual performance for use in IRS programs to add to its portfolio of products for the vector control market. Laboratory evaluation of a number of

prototype formulations has led to testing of lead formulations in hut trials in Benin, Tanzania and Cote D'Ivoire against both susceptible and resistant *Anopheles* and *Culex* mosquito strains. The experimental hut studies have been used to determine efficacy and residuality on various typical household surfaces.

Dave Malone, IVCC's Technical Programme Officer, said: "These studies are now close to completion and have demonstrated a significant increase in performance over existing formulations on a range of surfaces in field conditions. We are very pleased to have worked with Syngenta on this project and look forward to this new formulation becoming available for vector control programs in the near future."

## IVCC at MIM and ASTMH conferences



IVCC hosted symposia and exhibited at two of the most important conferences for vector control in 2009 – the 5<sup>th</sup> Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) Pan-African conference in Nairobi, Kenya and the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) in Washington DC, both held in November.

The MIM conference, attracting delegates from across Africa and around the world, was the ideal opportunity to raise awareness of IVCC and its products to a wide range of malaria control professionals and end users.

The symposium brought together four experts in monitoring and evaluation and an exhibition stand showcased the Malaria Decision Support System with an interactive screencast. IVCC personnel were on hand to explain the key features of this and other developing vector control information systems and tools.

"The MIM conference gave us the opportunity to talk face to face with many of the people who we hope will benefit from the IVCC's developing range of tools for monitoring and evaluation. The stand and the symposium were very effective in increasing awareness of the work that we do with public health officials and other key contacts in affected countries and communities. ASTMH was a similar opportunity to raise our profile in the international malaria and dengue community," said Dr Tom McLean, IVCC's Chief Operating Officer (above).