

News from IVCC

14 June 2016

For immediate release

IVCC receives grant to support its work in vector control

IVCC is pleased to announce that it has received its third and largest grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with an additional \$75million over the next five years. The grant will continue to support IVCC's work in vector control, especially preserving and expanding gains against malaria by developing innovative vector control products that prevent transmission of malaria from mosquitos to vulnerable populations. In particular, the grant will contribute to development costs of three new insecticides currently in pre-development and other related tools and solutions, the total costs shared with industry and other funders.

Sir Mark Moody Stuart, Chairman of the IVCC Board of Trustees, said, 'This is a remarkable time for IVCC in its 10th year of discovering and developing new vector control tools. This substantial grant is evidence of the successful journey so far travelled, and we are grateful for the continued support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and all our partners. Vector control has been shown to have played a major role in the rolling back of malaria over the past 15 years and this grant will help to maintain that momentum through the new public health insecticides that are about to go into full development.'

Dr Nick Hamon, IVCC's CEO said, 'We are very pleased to have received this award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, coming as it does at a crucial point in IVCC's strategy to provide malaria control programmes with the vector control tools they need to continue the battle to eradicate malaria. We have a full pipeline of novel vector control products, and next year several innovative compounds will go into final development. We are also working with new partners, and new funders to ensure these insecticide resistance-breaking products are delivered cost effectively and speedily to the market.'

IVCC is also supported by funding from UKAID, USAID, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and UNITAID.

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Information for editors:

IVCC was established in 2005 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with initial funding of \$50 million for five years. The primary purpose was to discover three novel insecticide molecules with novel modes of action that could replace pyrethroid insecticides used on long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) and the four classes of chemistry available for indoor residual spraying (IRS).

At the time, the Gates Foundation and the scientific community recognized that these critical vector control tools were likely to have reduced efficacy as vector mosquitoes developed resistance to the pyrethroids and other insecticide classes. It was also acknowledged no industrial company had ever developed a completely new insecticide for public health use (existing chemistry has always been repurposed from agricultural use), that there was no clear regulatory and approval pathway, and that the road to successful development was likely to be a long one, similar to that of drug development.

When the second grant of \$50 million was received in 2010, IVCC had established Expert Scientific Advisory Committees (ESACs) for development of new active ingredients and other tools and engaged with a range of industry partners to screen chemical libraries representing 4.5 million molecules, including high-throughput screening and biological tests against resistant strains of mosquitoes at an IVCC-funded facility at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

During the next five years, through 2015, IVCC became an independent Product Development Partnership under the direction of Nick Hamon. Significant external sources of funding were added from the US Government (USAID), the UK Government (UKAID), and the Swiss Government (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), amounting to 36% of IVCC's total funding in 2015.

The IVCC has successfully worked with industry to get stopgap solutions to insecticide resistance on the market, as well as identifying candidate molecules for new active ingredients. The company is now directing activity towards assuring delivery of products, including discussion of work toward regulatory approval, improvement of market dynamics, and improvement of the vector control. IVCC's impressive pipeline of vector control solutions is primarily focused on malaria transmission but the portfolio also has significant potential for other vector-borne diseases, such as Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, Filariasis and Yellow Fever.

Development of insecticides for public health presents special challenges because this use pattern represents only about 1% of the total global agricultural insecticide market, at very low profit margins with significant barriers to entry. To help combat this IVCC is working with a number of partners to support the market introduction of novel solutions.

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