

MEDIA RELEASE



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The Mahidol Vivax Research Center Joins the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network

The Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) today announces that **The Mahidol Vivax Research Center** is one of two new Partner Institutions to join the Network. **The Mahidol Vivax Research Center** (MVRC) established in March 2011 is unique as it is dedicated to the study of *Plasmodium vivax* and non falciparum malaria. Its establishment at Mahidol University in Thailand is important to the region as Mahidol has a long and impressive record in the field of tropical disease medicine and research.

Mahidol Vivax Research Center was initiated by the Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Associate Professor Pratap Singhasivanon and is directed by Dr. Jetsumon Prachumsri, formerly the leader of malaria research at the Armed Forces Research Institutes of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS) and APMEN Partner Institution representative.

The Mahidol Vivax Research Center has already supported APMEN through its active participation within the Vivax Working Group.

They will be formally welcomed at the fourth annual APMEN Annual Meeting, which will be held in May 2012 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. At this meeting, the Network will focus on how to sustain the gains made in the elimination of malaria and how important it will be in the coming years to maintain the successful approaches to avoid a reversal of these gains. The region has many challenges to face in malaria elimination, in particular *P. vivax*. *P. vivax* is a type of malaria that presents a particular challenge to elimination. APMEN, through its information exchange, capacity building, and evidence building and advocacy activities, is committed to supporting and maintaining elimination efforts and the gains made in the Asia Pacific region.

Further information regarding APMEN, please visit www.apmen.org.

About the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network

The Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) was established in 2009 to bring attention and support to the under-appreciated and little-known work of malaria elimination in Asia Pacific, with a particular focus on *Plasmodium vivax*.

APMEN is composed of 12 Asia Pacific countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vanuatu) that are pursuing malaria elimination, as well as leaders and experts from key multilateral and academic agencies. The mission of this diverse but cohesive Network is to collaboratively address the unique challenges of malaria elimination in the region through leadership, advocacy, capacity building, knowledge exchange, and building the evidence base.

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Development of the Network took place in 2008 through the leadership of the UCSF Global Health Group (GHG) and the School of Population Health, University of Queensland (SPH/UQ). APMEN collaborates closely with the WHO and is supported by the Australian Government through its international aid agency AusAID with a commitment of nearly \$7 million for ongoing support to the Network. This complements Australia's overall support for malaria control and elimination in the Asia Pacific and globally.

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