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AMANET AS A NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE

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AFRICAN MALARIA NETWORK TRUST



Introduction

- Malaria is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Africa
- It costs Africa over \$12 billion annually, equivalent to 6% GNP in some African countries
- Globally over 500m cases (90% African) and 1-3m deaths (80% African) per annum
- The problem is made worse by increasing drug and insecticide resistance
- This calls for the refinement of available control tools and development of new ones

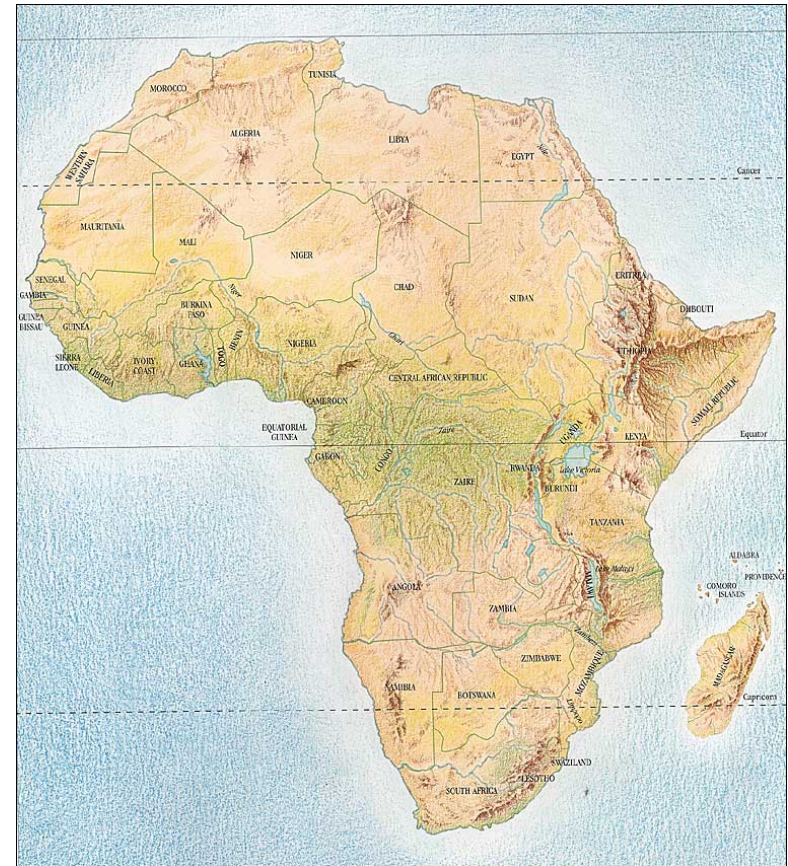


Photo source: www.news.bbc.co.uk



Introduction.. continued

- Although recently significant strides have been achieved in malaria R&D, the participation of African researchers has been limited
- There is therefore a great need to strengthen African malaria research capacity



Establishment

AMANET was founded in 2002 (succeeding the then African Malaria Vaccine Testing Network) to promote African participation in the development of malaria interventions and capacity strengthening



AMANET

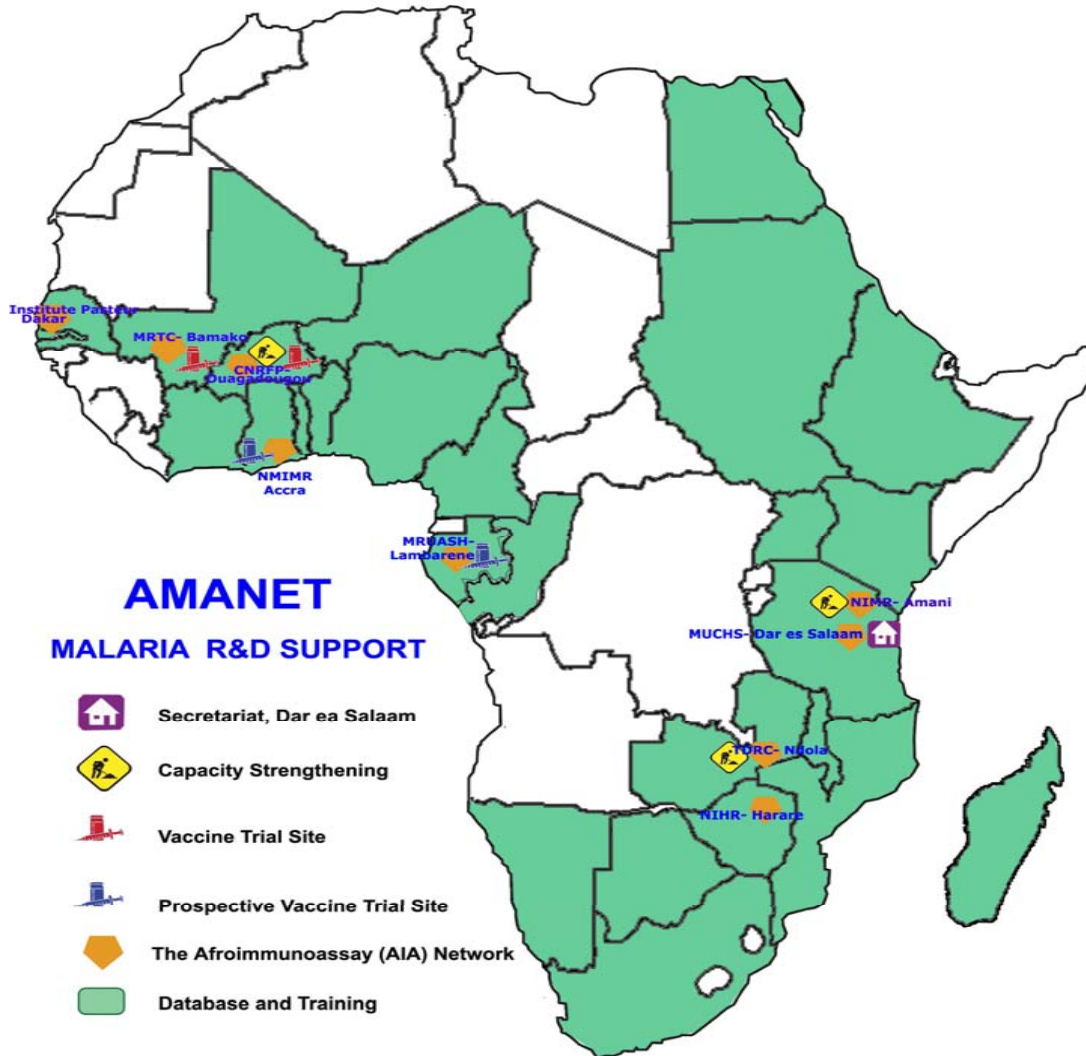
- ♣ Not for profit, Pan African NGO
- ♣ Registered under Tanzania Law
- ♣ Has a general Assembly, Board of Trustees, Scientific Committee, Secretariat & an Advisory Panel
- ♣ Secretariat based at Dar es Salaam responsible for execution of activities
- ♣ Hosts for MIM Secretariat

MISSION

- Global awareness of malaria disaster
- Promote cooperation and collaboration
- Develop potential trial sites in infrastructure and human capacity development
- Sponsorship of clinical trials
- Promote good governance



AMANET Networks



Capacity strengthening programme

To develop self-sustainable centres that meet international requirements for conducting malaria intervention trials.

■ Selected sites supported to achieve GCP standards.

- Infrastructure
- Human resource development
- Equipment & Refurbishment
- HRE support



Trial capacity Development Programme

Directly supported sites:

- CNRFP's Balonghin -Burkina Faso
- NIMR's Korogwe – Tanzania
- TDRC Mpongwe – Zambia
- Makerere University-Uganda

Trials ongoing at two sites which did not receive capacity strengthening grants:

- MRTC Bandiagara – Mali
- MRU-ASH Lambarene - Gabon



Infrastructure strengthening

CNRFP the lead successful model

- Refurbished labs
- Vehicles
- Vaccination
- HRE support



Role of an African Fund Management Institution: **AMANET**

Short-Term Training



>1000 Africans so far trained

Design and Methodology in malaria vaccines trials (2)	34
Data Management in Intervention Trials (3)	54
Good Clinical Practice (GCP) (8)	209
Molecular Biology & Immunology in Malaria Vaccine Development (6), Vaccinology (1)	192
Trial sites needs assessment (1)	9
Health research ethics in Africa (10) + web based HRE course (new)	425+
Advanced training in bioethics (1)	60
Strengthening of PIs (1)	26
Proposing/reporting on intervention trials (1)	25
Financial Accounting and Procurement Procedures (1)	13
Leadership and management (2)	38
SOPs for Ethical Review of Health Research (2)	50
Total	1135

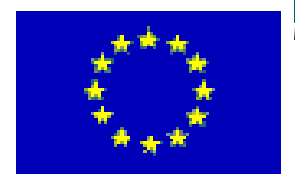


Long-Term Training

Site	Number of candidates	Specialties
CNRFP-Ougadougou Burkina Faso	5	Epidemiology (2), Molecular biology, Clin. Pharmacology, Parasitology
TDRRC-Ndola Zambia	2	Applied Biostatistics Tropical Entomology
NIMR-Tanga Tanzania	2	Immunology Demography
Makerere Univ-Kampala Uganda	2	TBA



Clinical trials



AMANET Sponsors Malaria Vaccine Trials:
By policy, all clinical trials must meet the ICH GCP standard. Therefore, sufficient preparation is required to fill identified gaps.

- On going trials:
 - MSP3 Phase Ib at Ballonghin and Korogwe
 - AMA1 Phase Ib at MRTC Mali
 - GMZ2 Phase Ib at ASH Gabon



Technology transfer

- The key objective is to develop capacity in all critical trial aspects:
 - Immunological capacity for the labs
 - Data Management support
 - Statistical support



AMANET Afro-immunoassay Network (AIA)

Initially 6 labs:

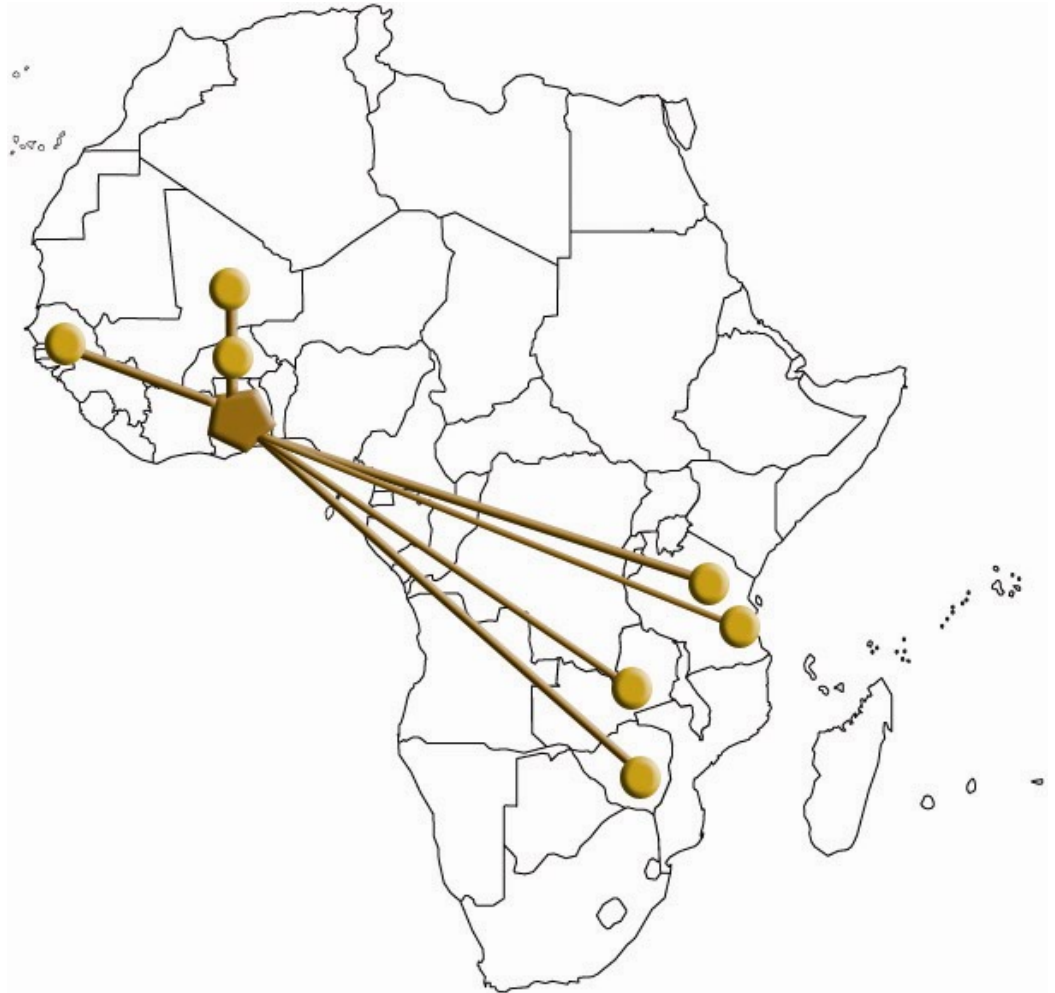


Standardized ELISA for MSP1,
MSP3 GLURP and AMA

Soon to:



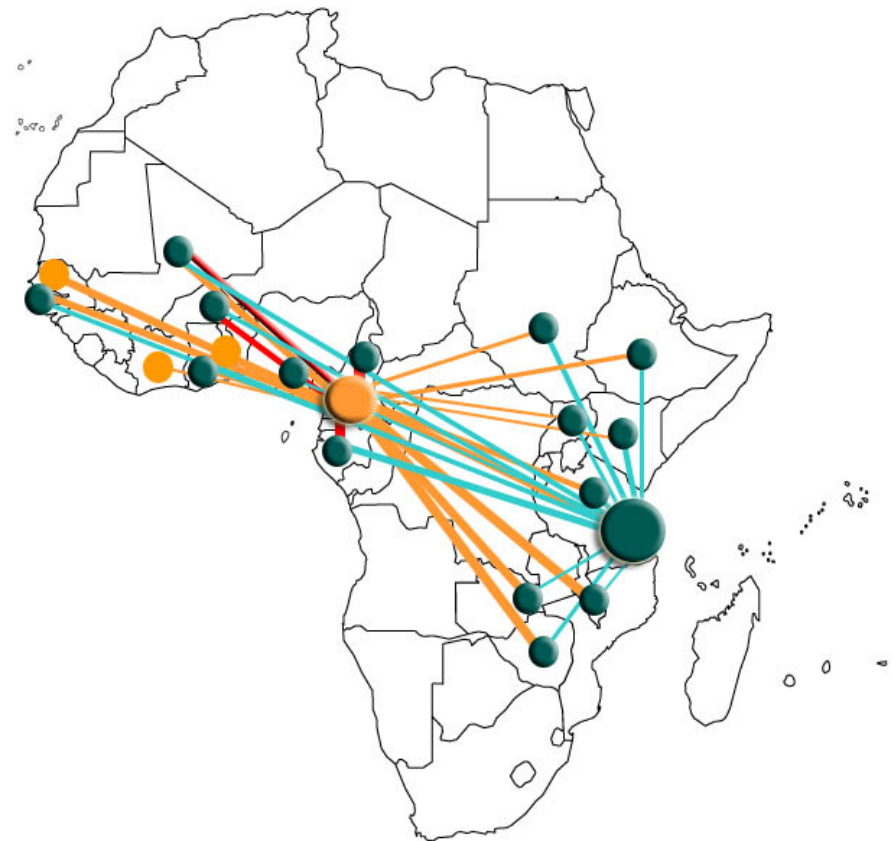
Expand network and activities
with EC support through
EMVDA



The HRE Network: Building Institutional Capacities in HRE in Africa

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

- Strengthening ethical review process at 21 African research institutions
- Training Investigators in Human Research Ethics
- Fostering and promoting discussion, and debate on HRE from an African perspective



Strengthening ethical review process at African research institutions

- Baseline survey of institutional ERCs/IRBs
- Training Workshops in HRE; both in English and French
- Develop Harmonized SOPs for Ethics Review Committees
- Strengthen institutional ERCs



Fostering and promoting discussion, and debate on HRE from an African perspective

The e-discussion will cover:

1. **Brief case studies**
2. **Ethics Dilemmas**
3. **Ask the Expert/Ethicist**

Coordination: Sub-hub in Yaoundé, Cameroon



HRE:AMANET Web-based Course(s)



www.amanet-trust.org

- Since October 2006
- +430 registered so far
- 127 successfully completed to date
- Interesting experiences now written in manuscript for publication.
- Anticipating continuation and expansion to cover French, Advanced HRE and GCP
- Improved features on the delivery platform

A screenshot of the AMANET web-based course interface. The page title is 'AFRICAN MALARIA NETWORK TRUST'. The main content area is titled 'BASIC HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS > COURSE DOCUMENTS'. On the left, there is a navigation menu with buttons for 'Announcements', 'Course Information', 'Staff Information', 'Course Documents', 'Assignments', 'Communication', 'Discussion Board', 'External Links', and 'Tools'. Below the menu are sections for 'Tools' (Communication, Course Tools, Course Map) and 'Refresh' (Refresh, Detail View). The main content area shows 'Course Documents' with a section for 'Introduction to the Health Research Ethics' and 'Learning Objectives'. The 'Introduction' section states: 'This course aims at providing the basic understanding in biomedical research ethics. There are ten modules in all, but to meet the requirement for basic knowledge, a minimum of seven successfully completed modules will earn the AMANET certificate. You must score at least 70% to pass a module test. Five of the modules are compulsory, and then there is a free choice to select another two in order to meet the requirement for a certificate. You are however encouraged to complete all ten modules.' The 'Learning Objectives' section lists: 'Upon completion of this course, the participant would:'.

- Understand the evolution of health research ethics citing a few historical events that influenced the discourse;
- Have an understanding of the fundamental ethical principles and interpret their applications in research practice;
- Identify the major international guidelines and codes of ethical research conduct when human participants are involved;
- Define an ethical review board, describe its membership requirements, identify their responsibilities and understand the operations of an ERB;
- Have an understanding of potentially vulnerable research participants and issues surrounding their consideration in research ethics, particularly in Africa;
- Define informed consent and describe the elements of the process and a good informed consent document;
- List the criteria a study must meet in order to be approved by an ERC;
- Understand some ways of ensuring protections of human participants throughout the conduct of a study
- Orientation on trans-cultural and international research ethics with a focus on African issues.



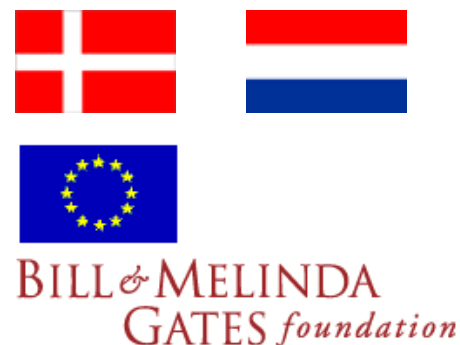
Other Activities

- Inventory of trial site- Needs updating
- Annual Reports
- Web-site www.amanet-trust.org
- Newsletter- biannually
- AMANET Biennial scientific conferences
- African Malaria Research and Control Forum (upcoming)



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Thank You

