



Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) Tropical Health Network

PARTNER TYPE:
Academic

MEMBER SINCE:
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INSTITUTION BACKGROUND

The MORU Tropical Health Network, which hosts the ‘Thailand Wellcome Africa and Asia Programme’, conducts targeted clinical and public health research that aims to discover and develop appropriate, practical, affordable interventions that measurably improve the health of people living in resource-limited parts of the world. It is a partnership between the University of Oxford in the UK and Mahidol University in Thailand support by the Wellcome Trust and has been headquartered in Bangkok since 1979 with satellite units on the Thai-Myanmar border (Shoklo Malaria Research Unit), in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Malaria is historically an important research focus of MORU, and results from close collaboration between the various MORU departments and units. MORU has a dedicated laboratory for malaria research in Bangkok as well as laboratories for molecular malariology, pharmacology and microbiology. Clinical studies are performed in a wide network of clinical trial sites across Asia and Africa.

PARTNER INSTITUTION ENGAGEMENT WITH APMEN

MORU has long supported APMEN as an observer before becoming an official Partner Institution in 2019. It supports the strengthening of malaria programs’ technical skills and practices to manage and use geospatial data and technologies.

In partnership with the APMEN Surveillance and Response Working Group (SRWG), MORU co-designed the **Geospatial Data Management and Technologies Training Workshop** to guide different countries towards geo-enabling their information system to support malaria elimination.

Another recent support for APMEN Vector Control Working Group (VCWG) is capacity building for vector control specialists in Asia Pacific through the Malaria Vector Surveillance for Elimination (MVSE) training, together with other APMEN Partners.

CORE EXPERTISE AND FUNCTIONS

Technical Support, Training and Operational Research

Technical Support

MORU supports National Malaria Programmes through collaborative projects which provide technical assistance with designing and running field surveys and observational studies, GPS mapping, GIS, data analysis, modelling and genetic surveillance. By working in partnership with National Malaria Programmes from project planning through to execution, MORU generates relevant and timely evidence to inform the planning of malaria elimination strategies.

Training and Capacity Building

MORU runs training on a wide range of topics, including:

- Good Clinical Practice and Good Clinical Laboratory Practice
- Research ethics for ethics committee operations
- Biosafety for laboratories
- Project-specific research methodology e.g. surveys, clinical trials
- How to write scientific papers
- Data analysis and statistics
- Geographic Information Systems
- Mathematical modelling

Some training courses and journal clubs are run online for remote participants.

We are open to requests for additional training topics.

MORU Tropical Health Network provides internship, MSc and PhD opportunities at Oxford, Open and Mahidol Universities for suitable candidates

Research

MORU's main malaria research topics include:

- Approaches to malaria elimination
- Epidemiology, mapping and GIS
- Mathematical and economic modelling
- The genetics, biology and epidemiology of antimalarial drug resistance
- The treatment of multidrug-resistant falciparum malaria
- Pathobiology, treatment and management of severe falciparum malaria
- Radical treatment of *P. vivax* malaria
- Development of *P. vivax* Controlled Human Infection Models