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SPECIAL 'END OF MALARIA' COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

BRITAIN BITES BACK!



UK SCIENCE LEADS THE WAY TO END ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST KILLERS

British scientists are celebrating their efforts that helped end malaria.

The UK government announced this morning that thanks to a remarkable global effort spearheaded by British scientists and others around the world, we have ended one of the world's oldest and deadliest enemies.

Continued on page 2



SCIENCE IS OUR SUPERPOWER

Continued from Front Page...

Malaria has been a blight on humans since the dawn of time. Caused by parasites transmitted through bites from infected mosquitoes, just a few years ago malaria claimed the life of a child every minute.

Now, thanks to world-leading British science and brave political leadership alongside partners around the globe, the disease has been consigned to the history books - a proud day for the nation and the world.

Since British scientist Sir Ronald Ross discovered malaria transmission in 1897, the UK has been at the forefront of eliminating the deadly disease.

Progress against malaria plateaued in the early 2020s, in part due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The UK government upped their funding for malaria, prompting

greater investment from several other countries and marking a turning point in the fight.

Scientists crushed this killer disease through a combination of next-generation tools and innovative vaccines.

But world-leading science takes funding. Successive British governments have invested in this country's science, in collaboration with other global health leaders like the US and kept up sustained investment in global health organisations like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"We said that we'd end malaria in a generation and we did it." The Prime Minister said this morning outside Number 10. "It proves, once again, that British innovation is a strong force for good in the world, and when we lead, the world succeeds." For many of the scientists involved,

Swatted. Malaria is no more.



ending malaria has been their life's work. "This is the proudest moment in my career," one of the team told the Mail this morning. "I don't think there was a dry eye on the Zoom call when we were told we'd done it. I'm very proud to be British today." Another told us, through tears, "this will forever be the year that Britain helped wipe out one of the world's most ancient scourges."

They think it's all over... it is now!

Malaria once undermined international health security and strangled international trade. With the burden removed, trade can flourish, with Britain at the helm.

"This news proves that when Britain leads, the world succeeds." Said the PM.

HOW THE CUTTING EDGE OF BRITISH-BACKED TECH ENDED MALARIA



Smarter vaccines, created in Britain.

The deadly toolbox of British innovation that beat malaria for good

To tackle the disease and the maddening biting insects that spread it, a combination of innovative technologies was needed, drawing on all the ingenuity of the UK biotech and life sciences sector. So what was in this deadly toolbox?

Mosquito nets are a key tool against malaria and have saved millions of lives over the years. But some mosquitoes had developed immunity to the insecticide used on existing mosquito nets.

Scientists in Liverpool developed a next-generation dual-insecticide mosquito net which nukes 70-97% of mozzies that come into contact with it, including those resistant to the previous nets.

British Pharma giant GSK developed the first vaccine proven to protect against malaria. This was followed by another vaccine developed at the Jenner Institute at the University of Oxford – the institute that created the life-saving AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine ten years ago. In addition to the vaccine, GSK developed a single-dose cure, tackling the issue that many patients fail to complete longer courses of treatment. A British-funded 'product development partnership' between UK-based Novartis and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) also developed a life-saving faster-acting antimalarial to tackle the most severe form of malaria.

Genetically modified mosquitoes. No, this isn't science fiction - scientists at Imperial College London and Polo GGB used genetic modification to make female mosquitoes infertile, effectively wiping out a whole population of malaria-carrying mosquitoes in West Africa.

This tech is also future proofing us against the next global pandemic threat

Scientists at Imperial College London developed a smart handheld diagnostic computer that can rapidly test for malaria. This tech can also future-proof us against the next global pandemic threat and a whole host of other diseases.

Oxford Nanopore developed a new-generation tool that offers real-time analysis of malaria. This 'DNA/RNA profiling technology has also been used to monitor outbreaks of other diseases including Ebola, Zika, COVID-19 and other diseases.

It's sweet revenge for scientists around the UK who supported the development of an innovative mozzie-killing bait to help tackle mosquitoes outdoors. A mosquito-killing insecticide is inserted inside tempting sugar-meal. Once the mosquito has eaten the bait, the insecticide kills it dead.

From the research lab to a mother's lap

For these life-saving tools to do their job, they needed to get from the lab to affected communities swiftly.

The UK government's financial commitments to the Global Fund helped get these tools, such as the next-generation nets, from the lab, through safety testing and approvals, to those who needed them most, as quickly as possible.

The result – we have ended malaria and millions upon millions of lives saved around the world. This is Britain at its best.

THE PANDEMICS THAT BRITISH SCIENTISTS PREVENTED...

British-backed malaria triumph is preventing the spread of other potential deadly pandemics.

The historic ending of malaria is not the only good news to come out of the British-backed effort to eradicate the killer disease, experts say.

It's also making Britain safer from a raft of deadly infectious diseases - including some that don't even exist yet.

The research, innovation and collaboration that allowed Britain to spearhead the global effort to diagnose, treat and ultimately end malaria are also being deployed to stop other killer diseases in their tracks before they become the next global pandemic.



“COVID-19 taught us that investing in global health is in all our interests.” An epidemiology expert told the Mail. “Infectious diseases are very

smart, they're adaptable and will travel wherever humans travel. The tech and innovation that was developed to tackle malaria means we can constantly monitor health threats

and act quickly to squash them. We have seen that the investments in malaria were an investment in preventing and tackling future pandemics.”

With the terrible financial burden of malaria stripped away, countries once plagued by this killer disease can direct more resources to bolster healthcare in the communities who need it most, making them better at detecting and tackling new pandemic threats as they emerge – keeping us all safer.

The British-backed global effort to wipe out malaria has driven improvements in global health which are preventing a repeat of the chaos and economic turmoil caused by past pandemics. “We can't afford another COVID-19,” says the expert. “The leaps forward in tech and medicine mean that developing countries have been able to strengthen their health systems and reduce the spread of infectious diseases.”

HOW BRITAIN BECAME THE HOME OF NEXT-GENERATION VACCINES



And we're not stopping there – our disease-decoding scientists are using malaria breakthroughs to tackle cancer, dementia and a medley of other deadly diseases.

Britain's journey to becoming the home of world-leading malaria vaccines has been a long one. Clinical trials for a life-saving vaccine for the killer disease first began in the 1940s.

It wasn't until the 2020s that the first malaria vaccine, developed by GSK, was approved for use by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which

proved to be one of the 'endgame tools' needed to tackle the disease.

A highly effective malaria vaccine has been the essential part of malaria research for decades, but while over 100 vaccine candidates had made it to human trials, none proved effective - until British-based pharma giant GSK finally succeeded.

Over three decades in the making, the GSK vaccine became the first vaccine approved to protect against malaria in 2021. In parallel, another first-generation vaccine was developed at the UK-based Jenner Institute at Oxford University – the institute that brought the world the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Britain also played a critical role in testing the potential impact of malaria vaccines at scale, demonstrating that a dose of a malaria vaccine could be very affordable. In just a few years, vaccines reached millions of children around the world. Vaccines combined with other malaria-beating tools such as next generation bed nets and treatments have helped save billions of dollars and millions of lives to date.

“There isn't a disease we can't beat.”

Not content with saving millions of lives from malaria and COVID-19, the disease-decoding scientists at the University of Oxford's Jenner Institute then took on cancer, dementia and an array of other diseases - that are closer to home - with several new vaccines now in phase 2 human trials.

“It's amazing to have been part of ending malaria.” A member of the vaccine team told us. “But scientists don't like resting on their laurels for long. Our attitude is ‘there isn't a disease we can't beat’”.

MEGA BOOST FOR TRADE

With the scourge of malaria ended, Britain is jumping on potential of trade with a thriving Commonwealth

The end of malaria heralds booming international trade, boosting business at home and across the world, the Department for International Trade announced today.

In recent decades, malaria has placed a huge burden on economies and health systems across the world, slashing billions of dollars in potential wealth each year – especially in Africa, which at one stage accounted for 95% of all malaria cases.

Many of Britain's Commonwealth partners have historically been held back by malaria, but these countries are now able to grow their domestic economies and flex their export capabilities.

In response, the Department for International Trade has published a new strategy which identifies the Commonwealth as one of the UK's fastest growing trading partnerships, and one which will support developing economies and lift communities out of poverty.

Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania, three of the UK's major trading partners in sub-Saharan Africa, were previously countries with a high malaria burden are now seeing a growth dividend thanks to the end of malaria.

The benefits of this boost in trade won't only be felt in Africa – but in Britain and the rest of the world too.

A global opportunity for the UK's exporters

"We've always known that healthy, prosperous countries make the best trading partners," said the Secretary of State for International Trade today in a press release. "Now that we've called curtains on malaria, we can focus on building a strong, stable and resilient network of trading partners across the globe - reminding the world of everything that puts the 'great' in Great Britain."

IT'S A GIRL'S WORLD NOW!

Malaria was holding women and girls back – but now it's their time to shine

Britain has long been a supporter of women and girls' rights.

But because malaria, one of the world's biggest killers, was most dangerous for young children and pregnant women, it threatened to bring gender equality efforts grinding to a halt. With malaria now at an end, girls' literacy and access to higher education is skyrocketing across the African continent, and women are contributing to economic growth like never before.

Young children lack immunity to malaria and have therefore always

been more vulnerable to the killer disease. But treatment is expensive, and many families struggled to afford it. "Imagine having to choose between buying malaria medicine for your desperately sick child or feeding your family, or paying school fees," said a representative from The Global Fund. "For decades, this was the heart-breaking reality for families across Sub-Saharan Africa."

Malaria also kept girls out of school more often than boys, as girls had to stay home and care for younger siblings or parents who were sick with the disease.

The threat of malaria started before children were even born, as malaria was particularly life-threatening for expectant mothers and their unborn babies. As recently as 2020, around one third of all pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa suffered from

malaria during their pregnancy, putting them and their babies at great risk.

In a malaria-free world, pregnant women can give birth knowing that malaria doesn't endanger their lives or that of their unborn child. Girls can get back to the classroom and go on to get a wider choice of jobs across Sub-Saharan Africa – offering a huge economic boost for the region and beyond. And according to The Global Fund, the end of malaria will slash the number of caregiving days provided by women. "Imagine what women can do without that caregiving burden." Said a Global Fund spokesperson today. "The end of malaria spells the beginning of so many new possibilities for women and the world."

"The end of malaria spells the beginning of so many new possibilities for women and the world."

Thanks to the British-led global effort to end malaria, more girls can achieve their potential and have the opportunities all girls deserve – including the right simply to be a child.



"The right simply to be a child."

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