

**\*\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\*\***

**Webcast at 11:00 a.m. EDT Wednesday, September 29**

**AN EXPERT PANEL OF AFRICAN SCIENTISTS WILL DISCUSS  
THE STATUS OF THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED MALARIA VACCINE CANDIDATE  
AT THE *MALARIA VACCINES FOR THE WORLD* CONFERENCE**

Experts will provide an update on the world's most advanced malaria vaccine candidate on Wednesday, September 29 at the second "[Malaria Vaccines for the World](#)" conference. (The session will be webcast.) Developed by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, RTS,S is the leading clinical candidate in the global effort to develop a malaria vaccine, a challenging endeavor led in part by the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI). RTS,S is the first malaria vaccine candidate to reach large-scale Phase 3 clinical testing, typically one of the last steps before regulatory approval. The scientists will also outline the steps that will need to be taken to introduce the vaccine in Africa if the Phase 3 trial proves successful.

The session presents a rare opportunity to hear firsthand, from African scientists currently running the vaccine trial at diverse African sites. The co-inventor of the vaccine, GSK's Joe Cohen; the development partner, MVI and its director Dr. Christian Loucq; and prominent African scientists running the clinical trial at the ground level will be available for interviews, with some of the scientists presenting at the session. This year, RTS,S is in the midst of a large-scale Phase 3 trial that involves 11 study centers in seven African countries. Up to 16,000 infants and children will be enrolled in the study.

Malaria kills approximately 900,000 people a year worldwide and sickens tens of millions more, most of them children living in sub-Saharan Africa. Vaccination could be an important component of malaria control programs, potentially saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

**SPEAKERS:**

**Awa Coll-Seck**, Executive Director, Roll Back Malaria Partnership (Chair), Switzerland  
**Kalifa Bojang**, Clinical Scientist, MRC Laboratories, The Gambia  
**Ally Olotu**, Principal Investigator, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Wellcome Trust Collaborative Research Programme, Kenya  
**Tsiri Agbenyega**, Co-Chair, Clinical Trials Partnership Committee (CTPC) & Principal Investigator, Agogo Presbyterian Hospital Clinical Trial Site, Ghana  
**Marie-Chantal Uwamwezi**, Senior Regulatory Affairs Scientist, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Belgium  
**Alex Adjagba, Program Officer**, PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, France

**DETAILS:**

**Wednesday, September 29, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,**  
Kellogg Conference Hotel Gallaudet University

**RSVP:** *The session will be webcast live. Please RSVP to [psingh@burnesscommunications.com](mailto:psingh@burnesscommunications.com) for URL or for further information call Preeti Singh at +1 301-280-5722.*

The RTS,S malaria vaccine candidate was invented in 1987 by scientists working at GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals. In January 2001, GSK and the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI)—with grant money from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to MVI—entered into a public-private partnership to develop the vaccine for infants and young children in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Phase 3 trial reached a milestone this summer with the completion of enrollment for the older group of children 5 to 17 months of age. Researchers at the African sites now have vaccinated more than 12,500 infants and children, including those in the 6-12 week old group. The Phase 3 trial is designed to evaluate the efficacy and continued safety of the RTS,S malaria vaccine candidate and builds on almost two decades of trials in the United States, Belgium and Africa that studied the safety and efficacy of the vaccine candidate.

“Successfully completing the enrollment of the 5 to 17 month-old children is an indication that we are proceeding on schedule and with the active participation of thousands of families in malaria-endemic regions across Africa,” said Dr. Tsiri Agbenyega, RTS,S principal investigator at a trial site in Agogo, Ghana, and co-chair of the Clinical Trials Partnership Committee, a collaboration of African research institutions, MVI, and GSK Bio that is leading the clinical development of RTS,S.

Under current plans, the RTS,S vaccine candidate would be submitted to regulatory authorities in 2012 for children aged 5-17 months of age. If all goes well, general implementation of RTS,S for infants 6 to 12 weeks of age would be possible within five years or so. The vaccine could be available for targeted use among young children 5 to 17 months old as early as 2013.

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**The PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI)** is a global program established at PATH through an initial grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. MVI's mission is to accelerate the development of malaria vaccines and ensure their availability and accessibility in the developing world. MVI's vision is a world free from malaria. For more information, please visit [www.malariavaccine.org](http://www.malariavaccine.org). Founded in 1977, PATH is an international, nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH's work improves global health and well-being. For more information, please visit [www.path.org](http://www.path.org).