The 2011 António Champalimaud Vision Award

African Program for Onchocerciasis Control

The “African Program for Onchocerciasis Control” (APOC) is protecting 70 million people in sub-Saharan Africa from developing “river blindness” and other complications of microfilarial infection with *Onchocerca volvulus*. APOC employs a uniquely effective response to the challenges of reaching poor, rural populations “at the end of the road”, through “Community Directed Treatment with Ivermectin” (CDTI) which places the responsibility for distributing the medication to all those who need it directly upon the communities in which they reside. Supported by a strong and robust partnership of nearly 70 different organizations, there is a growing expectation that APOC can, within a realistic time frame, permanently eliminate onchocerca transmission, and ultimately the need for the continuing treatment of onchocerciasis.