Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Declaration of Interests report for MPAC meeting held from 11 to 13 April 2018

All 20 MPAC members submitted their declaration of interest, which was assessed by the WHO Secretariat. 12 members reported relevant conflict of interests, which are summarized below.

1. Professor Graham Brown, Professor Emeritus, University of Melbourne Division, Australia

   Professor Brown has declared a potential conflict of interest related to his consulting work with United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) where he was hired to be part of a review team for the malaria program in Cambodia. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was concerned about slow implementation of the Regional Artemisinin Initiative in Cambodia, which includes malaria control and elimination in the region. Professor Brown was tasked to review the programme, identify bottlenecks in implementation and make recommendations for overcoming them. This work was concluded in September 2017 and he received a total amount of USD8000. This declared interest is considered significant and personal. Given that no decision making is performed he is able to join the discussion on agenda item on Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

2. Dr Thomas Burkot, James Cook University, Australia

   Dr Burkot has declared several potential conflicts of interest related to consulting payments, research support and non-monetary support. His work is summarized as follows:

   1) consulting with Intellectual Ventures Laboratory (IVL) from October 2014 to March 2015 for a total of USD20,000 paid directly to James Cook University;
   2) consulting with IVL for a secondment in 2017 to develop a vector control strategy on mosquito proof housing and methods to age-grade mosquitoes for a total of USD250,000 paid directly to James Cook University;
   3) consulting with PATH in 2017 to support grant applications to evaluate new vector control tools in Africa for a total of USD32,000 paid directly to James Cook University;
   4) consulting with IVL from 2017 to February 2018 to provide technical support on developing guidelines for testing new vector control strategies for a total of USD8,940 paid directly to Dr Burkot;
   5) consulting with PATH from 2017 to February 2018 to provide technical advice on field trials for mosquito proof housing products for a total of USD9,600 paid directly to Dr Burkot;
   6) research support in a supervisory role provided to James Cook University for evaluation of new malaria diagnostic test from October 2015 to March 2017 for a total of USD120,000;
   7) research support in a supervisory role provided to James Cook University to undertake a malaria serologic survey in the Solomon Islands until June 2018 for a total amount of USD100,000; and
   8) non-monetary support to Vestergaard in a supervisory role to evaluate the impact of Zerofly insecticide netting in Solomon Islands on malaria.
Declarations 1-3 and 6-7 are considered financially significant (amount that exceeds USD5,000), non-personal and related to his employment at James Cook University. Declarations 4 and 5 are considered financially significant and personal. Declaration 8 is considered financially insignificant and personal.

3. Professor Gabriel Carrasquilla, Fundación de Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia

Professor Carrasquilla has declared a potential conflict of interest related to his work with GSK. He attended the Latin American Dengue Advisory Board meeting on 15-16 October 2015 in Panama and received USD2,500 for his participation. In addition, he declared 2 contracts with GSK through ASIESALUD where he acts as the principal investigator of (1) the assessment of the introduction of packed cell volume (PCV) in Colombia and (2) the assessment of vaccination against whooping cough in pregnant women in Bogota, Colombia. These declarations are considered insignificant as they are unrelated to topics discussed by the MPAC.

4. Dr Maureen Coetzee, Director, Wits Research Institute for Malaria, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Dr Coetzee has declared a potential conflict of interest related to a family member’s consulting work with AngloGold Ashanti in 2016 to carry out mosquito surveys and determine insecticide resistance, to inform vector control strategies by gold mining companies in Africa. The family member received USD6,000 for this work. This declaration is considered significant and non-personal and will not affect current discussions on malaria vector control guidelines.

5. Dr Umberto D’Alessandro, Director, Medical Research Unit, The Gambia

Dr D’Alessandro has declared several potential conflicts of interest related to his research work and sponsored participation summarized below:
   1) Conducting phase II research on dispersible Eurartesim for Sigma Tau in 2013 for a total amount of EUR22,000 (11patients);
   2) Receiving a donation of ASAQ for PREGACT trial plus some additional funds for a total of EUR100,000 from Sanofi Aventis in 2014;
   3) Member of the external scientific advisory board of Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and attended the meeting in September 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland;
   4) Registration fee at ASTMH in 2015 sponsored by Sigma Tau;
   5) Travel and accommodation at ASTMH in 2014 sponsored by MMV; and
   6) Travel and accommodation for a meeting on DHAPQ in September 2017 in Shanghai, China sponsored by Guilin Pharma.

Declarations 1 and 2 are considered significant and non-personal. Declarations 3 to 6 are considered personal and financially insignificant.
6. Professor Abdoulaye Djimde, Head, Molecular Epidemiology Drug Resistance Unit, University of Mali, Mali

Professor Djimde has declared a potential conflict of interest related to his speaking engagement at the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria Conference (MIM) from 15 to 20 April 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. He was invited by Novartis to speak about “Responding to the emergence of multi-drug resistance” at their Symposium and receive USD600 in addition to travel and accommodation. The declaration is considered financially insignificant and personal.

7. Professor Azra Ghani, Infectious Diseases Epidemiology, Imperial College, UK

Professor Ghani has declared potential conflicts of interests summarized below:

1) Annual travel from 2011 to 2015 sponsored by GSK to attend joint meetings to discuss ongoing collaboration;
2) Conducted mid-term independent evaluation of DFID malaria programme for Oxford Policy Management in 2013 for an estimated amount of GBP40,000;
3) Consulted for Global Fund on different projects from 2016 to 2017 for a total of USD250,000;
4) Academic grant funding from multiple organizations, namely Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), MVI, MMV, IVCC, MRC Wellcome Trust, NIH, for approximately GBP2,000,000 over three years (current); and
5) Holds the position of Charity Trustee for Malaria No More in UK.

Declarations 1 to 3 are considered insignificant because they are concluded and will not impact the current discussions. Declaration 4 is considered financially significant and non-personal as this academic grant is awarded to her institution. Declaration 5 is considered financially insignificant and personal.

8. Professor Brian Greenwood, Clinical Tropical Medicine, LSTMH, UK

Professor Greenwood has declared two potential conflicts of interest. The first is related to a research grant awarded to LSTMH by PATH to support the evaluation of the RTS,S vaccine in Ghana for a total amount of USD100,000 which ended in 2016. This declaration is considered financially significant, non-personal and relevant to the discussion on the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Project and framework on Day 2 session 7 of MPAC. The second declaration is his ongoing consultancy with Johnson & Johnson on the development of a long action anti-malaria for a total of USD13,000 paid directly to LSTMH. This declaration is considered financially significant and non-personal.

9. Dr Caroline Jones, Senior Social Scientist, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research, Kenya

Dr Jones has declared three potential conflicts of interest. The first is related to her role as senior social scientist on a multi-organization grant with DFID, MRC, Wellcome Trust Global Health trials grant on “Can improved housing provide additional protection against clinical malaria over current best practice?”. She will receive a total of GBP169,280 from 2014 to
2019. The second declaration is related to her role as senior social scientist on a Wellcome Trust Collaborative award on improving the efficacy of malaria prevention in Insecticide Resistant Africa. She will receive a total of GBP24,747 from 2016 to 2019. Both declarations are considered financially significant and non-personal. The last declaration is related to her invitation to speak at the BMGF Eliminate Partners and Malaria Modeling Meeting held in London, UK to present on “Considering Social Reality: A people centred approach to malaria elimination” and her airfare was sponsored by the organization. This declaration is considered financially insignificant and personal.

10. Professor Kevin Marsh, Tropical Medicine, University of Oxford, UK

Professor Marsh has declared 3 potential conflicts of interest related to memberships and research. Professor Marsh is currently a member of the USAID malaria vaccines advisory group and the PATH vaccines advisory group. He receives no income from these memberships only the reimbursement of travel and accommodation to attend meetings. He receives no income from these memberships only the reimbursement of travel and accommodation to attend meetings. The last declaration is related to his role as principal investigator on a phase 3 trial of RTS,S commissioned by MVI and GSK. All three declarations are considered financially insignificant and personal.

11. Dr Neena Valecha, Director, National Institute for Malaria Research (NIMR), India

Dr Valecha has declared several potential conflicts of interest related to her institution’s research work undertaking the evaluation of pesticide products and trials of drugs/diagnostics for which the cost of evaluation is charged. The work is summarized below.

1) Evaluation for Bestnet Insect Control Pvt. Ltd. on field efficacy trials on Net Product LLINs, ceased in 2015;
2) Evaluation for Vestergaard-Frandsen on the efficacy of Permanent 3.0 vs. DM resistance, ceased in 2016;
3) Evaluation for the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme for multiple products:
   a. Field testing and evaluation of the efficacy of VectoMax FG, ceased in 2015;
   b. Evaluation of alphacypermethrin WG-SB in comparison to alphacypermethrin WP indoor residual spray, ceased in 2014;
   c. Evaluation of Life Net LLIN, current;
   d. Evaluation of Oluset Plus LLIN, current;
   e. Evaluation of PermaNet 3.0 (Phase III) long lasting insecticidal nets, current;
   f. Evaluation of the efficacy and residual Sumi ShielF 50% WDG, ceased in 2016;
   g. Evaluation of the efficacy and residual activity of Fludora® Fusion 562.5 WP-SB for indoor residual spraying, current;
   h. Field evaluation of combination long-lasting insecticidal net of chlofenapyr and alphacypermethrin (interceptor G2® of BASE©), current;
   i. Financial support for GLP accreditation, current;
j. Determining discriminating concentration in bottle assays for insecticide compounds that are unstable on filter papers, and some selected compounds suitable for filter paper impregnation, current;

4) Evaluation for MMV Geneva
   1) Phase IIB open label trial for safety and efficacy of Euratesim® in India against children with complicated pf, ceased in 2017
   2) Comprehensive case management in Odisha, current

Dr Valecha’s role in these research project is not to investigate but she deals with them as the Head of the research institute. These declarations are considered financially significant, non-personal and related to the discussions on update on the evaluation process for new vector control tools on day 1 session 4 of MPAC.

12. Professor Dyann Wirth, Richard Pearson Strong Professor and Chair, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA

Professor Wirth has declared one potential conflict of interest related to her employment by Harvard University to teach and conduct research on malaria as well as the grant support she receives from NIH and BMGF for her research work. She currently receives US$280,000 from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. This declaration is considered financially significant and non-personal.

Due diligence (internet search)

Nothing significant was found that was not already declared by MPAC members.