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PNGIMR celebrates 40 years of malaria research

August 10, 2016 – For decades, malaria research in Papua New Guinea has contributed significantly to improving the health of Papua New Guineans and has contributed to the global knowledge of the disease.

In PNG, malaria research has led to changes in drug policies, treatment guidelines and has appropriately identified controlled measures for decreasing the burden of malaria.

In August this year, the country will commemorate 40 years of malaria research– work that has been extensively conducted by the PNG Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR) together with its local and international collaborators since 1977.

To coincide with this event, the PNGIMR will be hosting a three-day Malaria Colloquium from the 24-26 August in Madang.

*“Celebrating 40 years of malaria research is a significant milestone in IMR’s history,” said **Professor Peter Siba, Director of the PNGIMR.** “While the colloquium will be an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of malaria research over the past four decades, it will also be an opportunity to plan our work for the future in how to control and ultimately eradicate malaria in our communities.”*

Based on the theme ‘Continuing innovative research for effective malaria control and elimination’, the event’s program will include presentation and discussion sessions on the significant contributions of malaria research to PNG’s health and to the global community. These sessions will also discuss the current research programs in PNG and at the IMR with particular focus on what they will achieve in the future.

*“We hope these sessions will set the pace and direction for the future of malaria research at IMR and the country and we sincerely thank all our sponsors for making this possible,” says **Dr Moses Laman, Senior Research Fellow and Chairman of the Malaria Colloquium Organizing Committee.***

Since 1977 malaria research has grown to become the Institute’s biggest research program with current research now include epidemiological field based studies, drug studies, clinical studies and others.

In recent years, this has significantly contributed to employment creation and capacity building where a number Papua New Guineans have benefited from or gone on to obtain PhDs, Masters, and honours degrees.

The event is expected to bring together former IMR colleagues, researchers and collaborators from within the country and overseas and among them representatives from most of the communities that IMR conducts research in.

For more information on the malaria colloquium or research at the IMR, visit our websites – [PNGIMR](#) and or the Malaria [Colloquium](#) page.