LSTM, Ronald Ross and malaria
A brief history
Ronald Ross’ career

1857: Ronald Ross is born in Almora (present day Uttarakhand), India

1894: Sir Patrick Manson, the ‘founding father’ of Tropical Medicine, introduces the surgeon Ronald Ross to malaria research

1897: Ronald Ross discovers the malaria parasite inside the Anopheles mosquito during his work for the Indian Medical Service

1898: Ross demonstrates the transmission of the malarial parasite from infected to non-infected birds via Culex mosquitoes

1899: LSTM appoints Ronald Ross as its first lecturer

1902: Ross wins the Nobel Prize for Medicine for his work on malaria, becoming the first British Nobel laureate

1903: Professor of Tropical Medicine at LSTM

1912: Physician for Tropical Diseases at King’s College Hospital in London

1917: Honorary Consultant in Malaria in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance

1926: Director of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London

1932: Ross dies in London

LSTM & its malaria research

1898: LSTM is founded, following a donation of £350 by shipping magnate Sir Alfred Jones.

1899: First scientific expedition to Sierra Leone where Ross and others study malaria

1905: Ross multiple expeditions overseas lead to recommended use of bednets to reduce malaria transmission

1922: J.W.W. Stephens discovers the Plasmodium ovale, a species of parasitic protozoa that causes tertian malaria in humans

1926: Lecturer, entomologist and explorer Dr Alwen Evans publishes ‘Breeding places of Anopheline mosquitoes in and around Freetown, Sierra Leone’

1939: New insectaries with temperature and humidity controls are being installed for transmission experiments

1941: Warrington Yorke demonstrates acquired resistance in a malaria parasite to an antimalarial drug

1942: Researchers develop the anti-malarial drug Paludrine with Imperial Chemical Industries

1945: Professor (and later Dean) Maegraith starts work on the pathogenesis of malaria

1949: LSTM’s Adams & Lourie report plasmodium vivax and plasmodium falciparum resistance to Paludrine

1958: Researchers begin studies to identify malaria toxins

1966: Professor Peters’ research leads to the use of drug combinations to control the emergence of drug resistance in malaria

1970: Carol Homewood publishes her work on the mechanism of chloroquine resistance

1986: Studies start on the pathogenesis of cerebral malaria and early clinical studies on artemisinin

1999: First newly registered antimalarial, chlorproguanil/dapsone (sold commercially as Lapdap), to be delivered through a Product Development Partnership (PDP)

2005: LSTM sets up IVCC, a product development partnership (PDP) to develop new insecticides for public health vector control

2014: Researchers unlock the secret of multiple insecticide resistance in mosquitoes

2015: R. Heyderman and M.E. Molyneux co-author study linking cerebral malaria deaths to brain swelling in children
Vision:
To save lives in resource poor countries through research, education and capacity strengthening

Mission:
To reduce the burden of sickness and mortality in disease endemic countries through the delivery of effective interventions which improve human health and are relevant to the poorest communities

Values:
- Making a difference to health and wellbeing
- Excellence in innovation, leadership and science
- Achieving and delivering through partnership
- An ethical ethos founded on respect, accountability and honesty
- Creating a great place to work and study

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