



Mary Kingsley Award Ceremony



Dr Kevin Marsh, Professor in Tropical Medicine at University of Oxford, will receive the **100th Mary Kingsley Medal** for his contribution to the field of Tropical Medicine

The award ceremony will take place after Professor Marsh's lecture entitled **'The global picture of malaria: is the glass half full or half empty'**



Wednesday 30 September 2015
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Kevin Marsh



Is a senior advisor at the African Academy of Sciences and Professor of Tropical Medicine at the University of Oxford. He qualified in medicine at the University of Liverpool in 1978. After undertaking specialist training as a physician he took the DTM&H at LSTM before beginning his research career at the Medical Research Council Unit in the Gambia working on the immunology of malaria. From 1985-89 he was at the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford and in 1989 established with colleagues a series of research projects on the clinical epidemiology and immunology of malaria in Kilifi on the Kenyan coast. These have subsequently developed into an international programme (the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme) involving around 800 staff working across a number of countries in East Africa of which he was director until August 2014

Professor Marsh has a broad interest in clinical, epidemiological and immunological aspects of malaria and has authored or coauthored over 400 publications on different aspects of malaria. The research team he leads has made major contributions across these fields and works closely with national and international policy makers. Professor Marsh has a particular interest in developing and strengthening research capacity and scientific leadership in Africa. He is currently supporting the development of a new platform for the acceleration of science in Africa through the African Academy of Sciences. He is chair of the WHO Malaria Policy Advisory Committee and is a member of a number of international advisory committees relating to malaria and to global health research. He is a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and was awarded the Prince Mahidol prize for Medicine in 2010.

The global picture of malaria: is the glass half full or half empty?

Malaria has historically been one of the major threats to populations living in the tropics around the world. Although eradication attempts in the 1950's had major successes in Europe and other sub-tropical regions, in traditionally highly endemic areas there was either a resurgence after initial gains or even no major effect. The global strategy moved to one of simply controlling disease and this was subsequently dramatically undermined by the development of resistance to all the available anti malarial drugs. By the late 1990's malaria was accurately described as a "global health disaster". Since 2000 there have been remarkable gains, both in levels of international investment in malaria control, in the development of effective new approaches and in major reductions in the burden of disease and death. In 2015 the World Health Assembly

Selected past recipients of the Mary Kingsley Medal



unanimously adopted a new Global Technical Strategy for accelerating towards elimination of malaria. However, despite the encouraging gains several major issues loom: these include shortfalls in global investment and, most worrying, the ever present spectre of drug and insecticide resistance. This has led some to question whether we can maintain and build on recent gains or whether we are already at a high point from which we will slide back and history repeat itself.

1905: Sir Patrick Manson

Scottish physician, considered the founder of Tropical Medicine and a pioneer in the field of parasitology & **Robert Koch** – German physician and microbiologist. Founder of modern bacteriology and identified the causative agents of tuberculosis, cholera and anthrax.

1910: Anton Breinl

Austrian medical scientist whose ground-breaking work led to discoveries of drugs to cure sleeping sickness.

1938: Émile Brumpt

French parasitologist, credited with the discovery of the avian malarial parasite.

1949: Neil Hamilton Farley

Australian physician, instrumental in saving thousands of Allied Forces lives from Malaria during both World Wars.

1958: Rupert Montgomery Gordon

Holder of the Dutton and Walter Myers Chair of Entomology and Parasitology, giving 39 years' service to LSTM.

1973: Brian Gilmore Maegraith

Pioneer in Tropical Medicine. LSTM's longest serving Dean. (29 years)

1987: Adetokunbo O. Lucas

Nigerian doctor and former Professor of International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

1998: HRH The Princess Royal

Patron of LSTM since 1990.

2005: David Alan Warrell

Honorary Clinical Director at LSTM's Alistair Reid Venom Research Unit and Emeritus Professor of Tropical Medicine & Infectious Disease, at the University of Oxford.

A full list of recipients can be found on LSTM's website.
www.lstmed.ac.uk

Mary Kingsley

The medal Professor Marsh receives is named after Mary Kingsley. She was a self-educated writer and traveller who set sail from Liverpool for West Africa on a boat of the Elder Dempster Line of shipping magnate Sir Alfred Jones whose annual £350 donation was instrumental in founding LSTM.

Her resulting book 'Travels in West Africa', published in 1897, became an instant bestseller. Through her experiences she acquired a detailed knowledge of African society and politics and was regarded as an expert in government circles. She was a personal friend of LSTM founders Sir Alfred Lewis Jones and John Holt, with the latter acknowledging her role in 'getting us to think on the right lines and to work for the good of the African peoples.'

Kingsley demanded a wider understanding of African social and legal systems and how they should be reflected in colonial commerce. It led to the formation of the Fair Commerce Party, The Congo Reform Association and the African Society. It would be the ethos of equity, particularly in relation to improving health that would continue to drive the work of LSTM.

Mary Kingsley died in 1900 in South Africa from suspected typhoid whilst tending to Boer Prisoners of War, aged just 38.

In honour of her achievements and passion, the Mary Kingsley Medal was instituted by John Holt in 1903 and was issued for the first time in 1905 to Sir Patrick Manson, by many seen as the founding father of the field of Tropical Medicine.



For more information visit our website at www.lstmed.ac.uk or email info@lstmed.ac.uk