Griffith UNIVERSITY
Institute for Glycomics
Queensland, Australia

Rotary
District 9640

Malaria Vaccine Project

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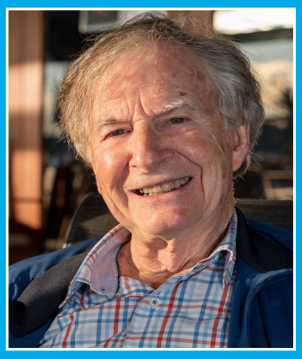
MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

Newsletter Issue 7 - August 2020

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

PDG Sandy Doumany
Chair



Gerard Brennan OAM
Committee Member

Laraine Brennan
Committee Member

Nina Kristensen
Development Manager
Institute for Glycomics

OUR HISTORY

In 2015 Sam & PDG Sandy Doumany attended a Rotary Against Malaria Conference, with Dr Danielle Stanisic as the Guest Speaker on Research for a Malaria Vaccine. She mentioned that the Laboratory needed a Separator which would cost $8000.

Sam took that on board and approached PDG Graham Jones to see if we could raise the money required. Within a week, Graham, Sam & other Rotarians had raised the funds.

The Griffith Rotary Satellite Club was in the formation period and the cheque was presented to Dr Danielle Stanisic (a prospective member) at the next meeting. We all felt this sent a message to the new members " THIS IS THE POWER OF ROTARY "

On learning more about the journey for Professor Michael Good and Dr Danielle Stanisic with their research, there was a core of Rotarians who developed a passion to be part of the quest to save the lives of so many men, women and children and eliminate Malaria from the world.

Committee Chair	PDG Graham Jones AM
Committee	Neil Jones (Treasurer)
	Laraine Brennan (Secretary)
	Gerard Brennan OAM
	Hon Sam Doumany
	PDG Sandy Doumany
	Teresa Dawson
	Karin Kolenko
	Mervyn Powell
	PDG Ross Smith
	PDG Dai Mason

Rotary
District 9640

CHAIRMANS' MESSAGE

What an extraordinary year 2020 has been! We are living under the COVID 19 pandemic and beginning to feel like this eerie existence will never end. It is an intimidating feeling and generally foreign to us because of the wonderful medical facilities and expertise that is available in Australia. By way of contrast people in malaria-endemic countries like Uganda, Kenya, and PNG feel like this every day and see no end in sight to the malady. In a sense we are currently living the experience with them; however, thanks to you we are doing more than that, we are making things happen!

Since our last Newsletter in March, you have taken our total fundraising for PlasProtecT® from $1.13 million to nearly $1.19 million. That is a very generous increase of $60,000 at a time when fundraising and charities have not been gripping people's minds. Thank you Rotary Districts, Rotary Clubs, Friends of Rotary and the many kind-hearted individuals who continue to live the dream of seeing young children in Africa and other endemic regions of the world protected by a malaria vaccine.

Griffith University has established a Recognition Board at the Institute for Glycomics for donors who have given $10,000 or more to the Malaria Vaccine Project. I wish to say a special thank you to all the districts, clubs and individuals who appear on this Board shown below. I'd like to highlight the project organised during 2019-20 by Shauna Bolton, wife of District 9640 Governor Harry Bolton. Shauna's partner project was the Malaria Vaccine Project and she raised a massive $28,000 during the year from club visits and other district activities. Moreover, she did this when her home town of Tenterfield was ravaged by drought, water issues and bushfires. Shauna, your creative energy has been a life-saver for our Project during 2020.

It has been a challenging time for the malaria research at the University, especially as Professor Good has been leading a team that is trying to create a COVID 19 vaccine. He will talk more about this and his goal to move the liposome-housed version of PlasProtecT® forward to Phase 2 trials with a larger sample.

These trials are the key to taking the vaccine where it is sorely needed: a need that WHO (2020) believes will be heightened as a result of growth in malaria cases and deaths during coronavirus pressures on medical facilities. We need your continued support to make this vaccine a reality.

PDG Graham Jones AM

WWW.MALARIAVACCINEPROJECT.COM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BEHIND THE MICROSCOPE LENS

DR DANIELLE STANISIC

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in Brisbane

How long have you been at Institute for Glycomics?
I joined the institute in 2011 and hold the title Associate Research Leader

What are your research interests?
I love parasites, and this interest was sparked during the 3rd year of my Undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree. Michael Good gave a talk during my undergraduate degree and a large part of this was of course dedicated to the malaria parasite. It was then that I knew the malaria parasite was what I wanted to work on and I started with a 3rd year project on malaria in his lab in 1996. Having contracted malaria personally, this project is close to my heart. I am also very interested in immunology and vaccine development. I am very lucky to be working on a project that encompasses these research areas.

What led you to a career in science and medical research?
I have been exposed to science and medicine my entire life.
My grandfather was a GP, my mother a nurse and my father a biologist.

We are only where we are today in terms of our research progress, thanks to Rotary.

In my senior year I attended the CRA National Science Summer School (now the National Youth Science Forum) and as part of this I visited the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra. It was then I decided that I wanted to work in medical research.

What is your career highlight to date?
Without a doubt, the opportunity to work in Papua New Guinea at the PNG Institute for Medical Research. It was a great experience and very eye-opening for me to live and work in a malaria endemic area (Madang). It really highlighted for me just how important it is to develop an effective malaria vaccine. PNG is a beautiful country-I was lucky to also have the opportunity to travel a little bit during this time and also quite a bit of time scuba diving on the weekends.

What are your interests outside of work?
I like to read (I am a member of a few book clubs), go dragon boating when I can, go to the movies and spend time with friends and family. I am also a member of the Griffith University Rotary Club.

How has the support of Rotary assisted in this project?
I co-lead the malaria vaccine project with Michael Good, and developing an effective vaccine against malaria is my ultimate research goal and my research passion. It is what drives me at work every day. Of course, research requires funding and we have been very fortunate to form a fundraising partnership with Rotary District 9640 to help to support our vaccine development activities and evaluation in clinical trials in Australia. I am very appreciative of the effort and dedication of all of the members of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee.

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT UPDATE

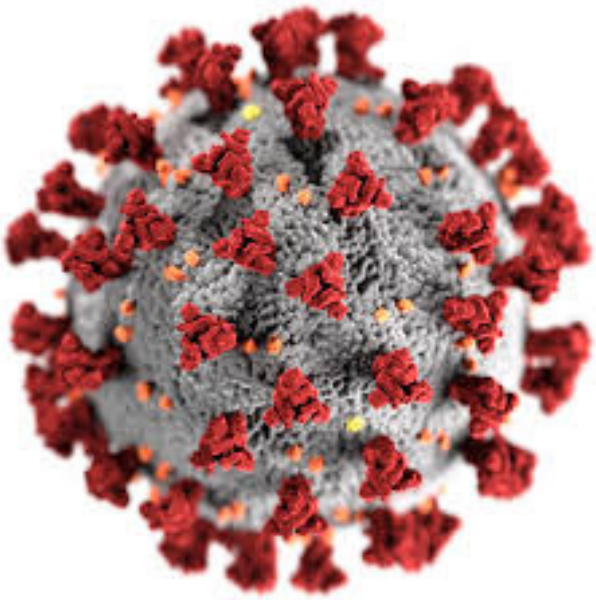
PROFESSOR MICHAEL GOOD AO

Progress over the last 4 months has slowed a little due to COVID restrictions. However, we have managed to keep the lab operating at a partial capacity, being conscious of the needs for safety and distancing.

We are making excellent progress comparing the effect of different liposomal formulations of the vaccine for their immune response and for protection. We can add different ‘adjuvants’ to the liposomal vaccine and these have the ability to enhance the immune response and severely limit parasite growth.

We are also looking at extending previous work on the whole parasite vaccine approach by administering a live infection at the same time as a drug to kill the parasites after a delayed period. We refer to these drugs as ‘delayed death’ drugs and they are readily available licensed drugs.

Because the parasite is not killed rapidly, the body gets a chance to develop an immune response to the parasite. However, the volunteers will not experience any symptoms of disease because the parasite does not get the opportunity to grow sufficiently to make the person ill. We have modelled this in mouse models and shown it to be highly effective.



MALARIA AND COVID-19

With the current COVID-19 pandemic spreading around the world, it is easy to forget that many other diseases continue to cause extensive illness and death. The WHO highlighted this in a recent “Malaria and COVID-19” Q and A, stating that while there is an urgent need to aggressively tackle the novel coronavirus, we must ensure that other killer diseases, such as malaria, are not neglected.

As of March 2020, there have been reports of the suspension of insecticide-treated net (ITN) and indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaigns in several African countries due to concerns around exposure to COVID-19. Suspending such campaigns will leave many vulnerable populations at a greater risk of malaria, particularly children <5 years of age and pregnant women. WHO guidance remains the same. Countries should not scale back efforts to detect and treat malaria; doing so will seriously undermine the health and well-being of millions of people infected with a potentially life-threatening disease. Previous disease outbreaks have shown the disruptive effect on health service delivery and the consequences for diseases such as malaria. For example, the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone impacted on malaria control efforts and led to a massive increase in malaria-related illness and death in these countries.

A new modelling analysis from WHO and partners, published on 23 April, determined that the number of malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa could double in 2020 if there are severe disruptions in access to insecticide-treated nets and anti-malarial medicines due to COVID-19. This reinforces the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the pandemic. The WHO Global Malaria Programme is leading a cross-partner effort to mitigate the negative impact of the coronavirus in malaria-affected countries and, where possible, contribute towards a successful COVID-19 response. Despite the continuing spread of COVID-19, it has never been more important to continue research into the development of an effective malaria vaccine.

Source: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/malaria-and-the-covid-19-pandemic

INSPIRATIONAL SUPPORTERS

DR ROBERT MENSAH

Dr Robert Mensah is a Ghanaian who migrated to Australia in 1986.
He studied for a PhD degree in Applied Entomology (IPM) in the University of Tasmania from 1986-1990. Dr Mensah undertook Postdoctoral Fellowship in the University of Tasmania from 1990-1992.
He was appointed Entomologist by the NSW Department of Primary Industries at the Australian Cotton Research Institute on 21 July 1992 and took early retirement on 12 July 2019. Dr Mensah's research interests are: Insect Population dynamics, Behaviour, Integrated Pest Management, Biopesticides and Botanicals. In 2005, Dr Mensah was awarded the University of Tasmania Graduate Award. The award is given to a graduate of the University of Tasmania in recognition of exceptional qualities, leadership and professional achievements. Dr Robert Mensah was a Senior Principal Research Scientist at New South Wales Department of Primary Industry's Australian Cotton Research Institute (ACRI) in Narrabri in Australia from 1992-2019. He was the Director of the Institute from 2005-2019. Dr Mensah has over 30 years' experience in the development of integrated pest management (IPM) and biological products against pests on cotton and other agricultural crops.

"Malaria is pandemic in Africa. It has been a silent killer of Africans for many generations"

Dr Mensah set up the Centre for Biopesticides and Semiochemicals (CBS) at the Australian Cotton Research Institute in Narrabri, New South Wales to enhance development of IPM, biopesticides and botanical products. He has developed and collaborated with commercial companies to register biopesticides and botanical products to support sustainable pest management on cotton and other agricultural crops. Most of the commercialized products have been adopted by 80% of the Australian Cotton and other agricultural industries to manage pests and beneficial insects, saving the sector hundreds of millions of dollars and providing countless environmental gains.

As the Australian Cotton Industry Researcher of the Year in 1997 and in 2018, Dr Mensah was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his research achievements in pest management and long-term contribution to Agriculture, both in Australia and internationally. He has also won a Churchill Fellowship in 2000 and 2002 to undertake research in CABI in Imperial College, UK and INRA in France; was nominated for the 2009 CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science, and in 2015, was the Australian Cotton Industry nominee to the International Cotton Advisory Council's World Cotton Researcher of the Year. Dr Mensah has now moved to the Gold Coast and keen to assist in part timeteaching, research, postgraduate supervision and mentoring of students.

The Malaria vaccine is important to me because malaria kills more Africans than any disease known in Africa. Malaria is pandemic in Africa. It has been a silent killer of Africans for many generations. In Ghana, the message is to sleep under mosquito nets. However, the high humidity and temperature negates the use of mosquito nets. Therefore, producing a vaccine that will enhance the body's Immune system to overcome the disease will be crucial.
I have had malaria since childhood. My family back in Ghana still have malaria. Once you contract malaria, you become so weak to walk, you lose your taste for food hence you lose appetite. During the period I was in Ghana, the only medicine available was Chloroquin injections and oral medications.

"It will be a great achievement for Griffith University to develop a malaria vaccine, Africa will be very grateful."

INSPIRATIONAL SUPPORTERS

MAUREEN STEVENSON

Although Maureen Stevenson has only lived on the Gold Coast for 26 years, she has left an indelible imprint on the art of philanthropy in the region.

Maureen and her late husband Barry, have always seen the need to support charities and make a difference in the community landscape, providing generous support for many local, Brisbane, Queensland and Interstate charities. Maureen was already giving significantly to many causes when she made her initial donation to the Malaria Vaccine Project at Griffith University Institute for Glycomics. The project had been initiated by a group of committed Rotarians from several clubs within the district and Maureen's continuing support has made a significant difference to their fundraising efforts.

Without her meaningful patronage, the Malaria Vaccine Project would not have been as successful as it has been. It is people like Maureen working quietly in the background who make the most important contributions to projects, that are of substantial importance to those suffering in the world.

"If the definition of compassion is the desire to relieve suffering, then Maureen certainly shows that completely in her commitment to making a difference"

Maureen often comments on her busy calendar however this is just a sign of her dedication. This is not only providing financial assistance but also participating in fundraising events and informative programs. These keep her updated on the activities and progress of the research or community programs in which she participates.

Always with a smile on her face Maureen interacts with a positive attitude, to every endeavour with which she is involved. It is particularly heart warming to receive her support for the Malaria Vaccine Project as there is little understanding of the magnitude of the disease in those countries that are severely affected.

She is a woman of compassion and if the definition of compassion is the "desire to relieve suffering", then Maureen certainly shows that completely in her commitment to making a difference.

The Malaria Vaccine Project committee and the Institute for Glycomics are truly grateful for her support.

ROTARY DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S PARTNER PROJECT

SHAUNA BOLTON

The Malaria Vaccine Project has been a very important part of District Governor's Rotary District 9640 year. It was taken on as the District Governor's Partner Project by his wife, Shauna Bolton, to raise much needed funds for the clinical trials of the Malaria Vaccine in Australia this year.

During Harry's visits to each club in District 9640 the importance of the Malaria Vaccine Project was highlighted to Rotary members and their guests. It was not only a fundraising opportunity but gave Shauna an audience to raise the profile of the project and explain (in layman's terms) about the scourge of malaria and the progress of the malaria vaccine. The importance of this ground breaking research by the Institute of Glycomics at Griffith University on the Gold Coast was highlighted in these presentations during club visits.

Many Rotary clubs in District 9640 already support the Malaria Vaccine Project by hosting specific events to fundraise for the research. These clubs didn't need any convincing to maintain their support of this very worthy project - we were preaching to the converted.

Unfortunately COVID 19 meant that the D9640 District Conference in Tenterfield, New South Wales was cancelled. This conference was to have been an opportunity for attendees to hear Professor Michael Good from the Institute for Glycomics speak about the project and the progress he and his team are making. All was not lost as many generous Rotarians chose not to receive refunds of their conference fees but redirected them as a donation to the Malaria Vaccine Project to the tune of $9,527. With other donations from clubs totalling $17,765 the final amount of $27,292 has been donated from the DG Partners Project for the 2019 - 2020 year. A special thank you goes to Rotarian Graham Jones for his enthusiasm and energy promoting the Malaria Vaccine Project.

WITH THANKS

Danielle and I were overwhelmed to hear of the collective donation being made, derived from the registration fees for the cancelled Rotary 9640 District Conference in Tenterfield late March. None of this would be possible without the individual attendees who agreed to redirect their refunds to the malaria vaccine project. Your generosity and support for the progression of this vital malaria vaccine project continues to motivate our dedicated team.

Our immediate objective is to raise funds to complete the Phase 1 clinical trials of PlasProtect® in a non-endemic country--Australia. These clinical trials are used to assess the efficacy of the vaccine with human volunteers before it can be trialled in endemic countries. The good news is that the Gold Coast Phase 1 trials with a small sample have been completed and the trials have gone extremely well. For the remaining Phase 1 trials, the vaccine will be housed in an artificial membrane (liposome) that will enable it to be freezedried, stored and shipped to any location. This new form of the vaccine will be trialled in Melbourne with a larger group of volunteers. Success in this trial will enable an almost seamless transfer to Phase 2 trials in malaria endemic countries in SE Asia and Africa. We are excited to continue making headway in our objectives.

At the end of the road, when this vaccine comes to fruition and is deployed to the endemic countries to eradicate malaria for good, please always remember that your contribution helped to achieve our vision and bring our hard work to reality.

From the Malaria Vaccine Development team, Danielle and I….Thank you.

Prof. Michael Good AO

CLAYTON GLENISTER

MANAGING PARTNER

Advocating for his community is at the forefront of everything Clayton Glenister stands for. Not only is Clayton championing the rights of the business community as Managing Partner of MBA Lawyers, one of the Gold Coast's longest running law firm. He is also the Director of Southport Sharks, non-executive Director of Advice First and is also on the Board of Advice for The Institute of Glycomics. Here, Clayton tells us a little about himself.

I grew up in Melbourne and moved to the Gold Coast when I was 15.
After completing my schooling at The Southport School, I attended University of Queensland before completing my studies at Bond University. Today, I live and breathe the Gold Coast and I'm very committed to seeing it become a vibrant city with diverse industries that attract world class thinkers and business leaders as the world adapts to more of a "liveability" focus for their preferred destination to call home after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Just like the Gold Coast, MBA Lawyers has been a part of my life for almost 20 years. I started as an employee at 23, and the culture and team value has kept me there ever since. This year (2020) we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a law firm servicing the Gold Coast and we are proud to say we have multiple generations of clients which demonstrates our staunch view of 'playing the long game' within the business community. I wanted to become a lawyer because I thrive on the ability to empower people's lives by helping them navigate the legal maze. I love the art of the deal and assisting clients negotiate the best commercial outcome is what still motivates me to this day. When I'm not in the office, you'll find me on the golf course, supporting the AFT or enjoying the beach with my wife, two daughters and dog "Turbo".

When I first heard about the Malaria Vaccine Project I was astounded by the devastating statistics in relation to the number of deaths caused by this disease. Then to hear about the incredible research being done at the Institute for Glycomics right here on the Gold Coast, it really interested me. It could be easy to think that this infectious disease doesn't affect use here on the Gold Coast, especially as we deal with a global pandemic that is closer to home. But the reality is that irrespective of physical location this disease affects mothers, fathers, children, aid personnel, doctors, and charity workers.
As global citizens we have a responsibility to play an active role in putting an end to malaria, and I'm please I can play a small part in helping achieve that.

As we embark on 50 years of service to our Gold Coast, Queensland and national clients and we're excited to embark on another exciting 50 years with the aspiration of being our clients' lawyers for life.
Our vision is to work with our clients, no matter their stage in life, and support them through the ups and downs, the good times and challenging times – throughout life, for life. As part of marking this exciting milestone we'll be holding a special event later in the year, where all funds raised will be donated to the Malaria Vaccine Project.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WINTER OKOTH - PHD CANDIDATE

My name is Ms. Winter A. Okoth, PhD candidate in the Laboratory of Vaccines for the Developing World, at the Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University.

I come from a very humble background, born and raised in Kenya where I experienced a very difficult childhood due to stringent poverty and domestic issues. I have learnt to take my pains and turn them into opportunities to help not only myself but also the society as a whole. All the challenges I went through while growing up only left me with one option: to be empowered, and I therefore embarked on my empowerment journey very early on.

This passion has been driven by wanting to know more about the debilitating and life-threatening diseases such as malaria, a major public health concern in Kenya and other developing nations. Regardless of my background, I was determined to continue with my higher education and pursue my dreams of becoming a scientist. I wanted to contribute to finding cures, developing vaccines and/or finding effective therapeutic strategies for diseases such as malaria that plague my society today.

"I experienced a very difficult childhood due to stringent poverty"

As a first-generation college student, I started realizing this dream by winning a full time four-year academic-based scholarship from Thomas More University based in Kentucky, USA. I earned my undergraduate degrees in Biology with a cellular and molecular concentration major, and an associate's degree in Chemistry. While attaining my undergraduate studies, I also achieved two competitive summer undergraduate research fellowships at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine Immunology Program, Minnesota USA. During my internships at the Allergic Diseases Research Laboratory, my project investigated on the dynamics of a novel subset of innate lymphocytes in the lungs in response to various cytokines and their role in the allergic asthma. Upon graduation from college, I also participated in amyloidosis disease research focusing on protein misfolding and cellular cytotoxicity as a research technologist at the Mayo Clinic where I achieved my first publication as a co-author in the Journal of Liposome Research. These educational experiences and many more, prepared me and served as a great foundation. This was my gateway into the scientific world of biomedical / clinical research.

In 2017, I was awarded my Master of Science in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health based in Maryland USA where I had my debut malaria research exposure in the Laboratory of Professor David Sullivan. My research thesis work assessed the pharmacodynamics of the antimalarial drugs and I successfully achieved my first authored scientific publication in the Antimicrobial Agents & Chemotherapy (ACC) Journal in 2018. Upon completing my ScM degree, I won a two-year ORISE research fellowship at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) within U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) based in Maryland, USA.

I was privileged to further pursue malaria research as an ORISE research fellow where I was actively involved in malaria research projects seeking to identify novel mechanisms of malaria immunity and pathogenesis, studying the immunomodulation of pre-erythrocytic vaccine efficacy by blood stage malaria using murine malaria model, and studying T cell independent immunity during malaria. In sub-Saharan Africa, malaria is still one of the leading causes of high infant morbidity and mortality, especially in children under the age of five years, and it remains a major public health concern even today. Kisumu, my hometown in Kenya, is a malaria hotspot. I have personally suffered from malaria while living there and also witnessed many children and pregnant women lose their lives to the disease. I am therefore deeply motivated to better understand malaria disease, by engaging in research to help develop effective therapeutic and preventive measures such as an effective vaccine that would be key in eradicating the disease.

A COIN-DRIVEN REMEDY FOR MALARIA

GEOFF SELL

Geoff with his magic foreign-coin-collection box

The Rotary Club of Hornsby District was one of the first contributors to the Malaria Vaccine Project and it continues to be one of our greatest supporters. The Club's first donation dates back to December 2016 and they have now given more than $25,000 to the development of Professor Good's promising malaria vaccine. They also support RAM's many malaria endeavours (bed nets, water treatment and education) as well as Rotary international projects in health education and welfare in poorer regions of the world. How do they do it!!

The first ingredient is to have a passionate Rotarian like Geoff Sell and the second is to have a creative idea that provides substantial and ongoing funds. Geoff has been a member of the RC Club of Hornsby, now RC of Hornsby District, for 42 years and has always been keenly interested global and humanitarian projects that improve people's lives. Geoff is the General Manager of Mitten Vinyl Australia, a business he established in 1986 and one that imports cladding products from Canada and USA and sells them in Australia and New Zealand. Geoff and his wife admit to having had little experience in the building industry back in 1986 but his penchant for challenges has generated a very successful business and that expertise flows onto his Club's fundraising for malaria projects.

The Foreign Coin Repatriation Program (FCRP) began over two decades ago when Rotarian Adrian Garton (now RC of Orange NSW), working in the flight crew industry, saw an opportunity to make "big change from small change". The program has since been championed by Ian Vacchini, and more recently Geoff Sell, who stepped into the role of FCRP Committee Chair.
Over a number of years, with the careful stewardship of Geoff and the team, the RC of Hornsby District has collected and repatriated unwanted foreign coins and notes that travellers have brought back to Australia. The coins are of too little value to be changed back into Australian currency so the travellers are happy to donate them to Rotary. The Hornsby District Club, assisted by other Rotary clubs, collects the unwanted coins and notes from perspex collection boxes placed in AMEX and Bendigo Bank branches and currency exchange facilities in various Australian cities. Finally the coins and notes are sorted and returned to their country of origin where they are converted into Australian dollars. Sounds like a complex process but more than $560,000 AUD has been raised by this coin program over the last 24 years. Participating Rotary clubs receive a pro rata percentage of funds, directed to their choice of international projects.

What a great project! We are indebted the RC of Hornsby District, their FCRP Committee and dedicated team of collectors and coin sorters for their wonderful support of the Malaria Vaccine Project. We also receive parallel support from the RC of Goolwa (South Australia); it is one of the clubs assisting Hornsby in the foreign coins program. Special thanks to Kevin Hales who works with Geoff in coordinating the Goolwa coin collection. They have donated nearly $15,000 to the Malaria Vaccine Project.

We are very thankful that Geoff truly lives the dream of a malaria free world!

For Rotary Clubs or others wishing to be involved in this program, more about the FCRP can be found at the Club's website: https://hornsbydistrictrotary.org or call Geoff Sell on 1300 582 665.

Geoff would also like to thank John and Barbara Rafter, RC of East Keilor VIC, Ian Bradshaw, RC of Wanneroo WA, Chris Durie, RC of Cooroy QLD, John Steele RC of St Ives NSW and RC of Woden ACT for being part of the FCRP team

OUR NEW COORDINATOR OF THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

PDG ROSS SMITH

On behalf of the Malaria Vaccine Project, I am delighted to announce that Ross Smith is the new coordinator of our Ambassador Program. Ross has been an ambassador for the Project since the program was initiated by PDG Dai Mason back in 2017. It has been an extremely successful program maintaining speakers and communications in Rotary districts all over Australia and New Zealand.

Ross brings very special expertise to this role. He was a secondary school Principal for 27 years, represented Education Queensland at major international conferences and currently works with the Sydney University Medical School on prostate cancer research. In addition to being a Rotary Governor in District 9640 and a member of the RC of Burleigh Heads, Ross has worked on volunteer projects in education and health in Tanzania, Timor Leste, PNG and Fiji.

Ross extended the malaria ambassador program to Central Queensland through his friendship with Bruce Howlett and that has brought wonderful outcomes to the Project especially in opening up the Federal Government matching grant. Ross is looking forward to working with our ambassador team and key contacts in other Districts

In welcoming Ross as coordinator, we are sad to see Dai Mason step down from this role. Dai built this program from the grass roots and developed a training program and resources for all of the ambassadors. These resources included information and updates on malaria and the vaccine research, a PowerPoint focused on the origin and fundraising activities of the Malaria Vaccine Project, video material generated by the Institute for Glycomics and even instructions on how to prepare and set up for a presentation. Dai has enabled us to build connections into Rotary districts, clubs and people's hearts that we never imagined possible and has helped us to achieve diverse fundraising sources.

We say a huge THANKS to Dai for his dedication to this role and we are fortunate to have him remain on the Project Committee as he undertakes new malaria roles at the national and international level in RAM, RAWCS, the World Global Fund and RAM Global.

You will soon been hearing from Ross and please don't hesitate to contact him, if you need ambassadorial support or other assistance across the malaria vaccine landscape. His email address is as follow: rossatburleigh@gmail.com

PDG Ross Smith

PDG Dai Mason

OUR PARTNERS

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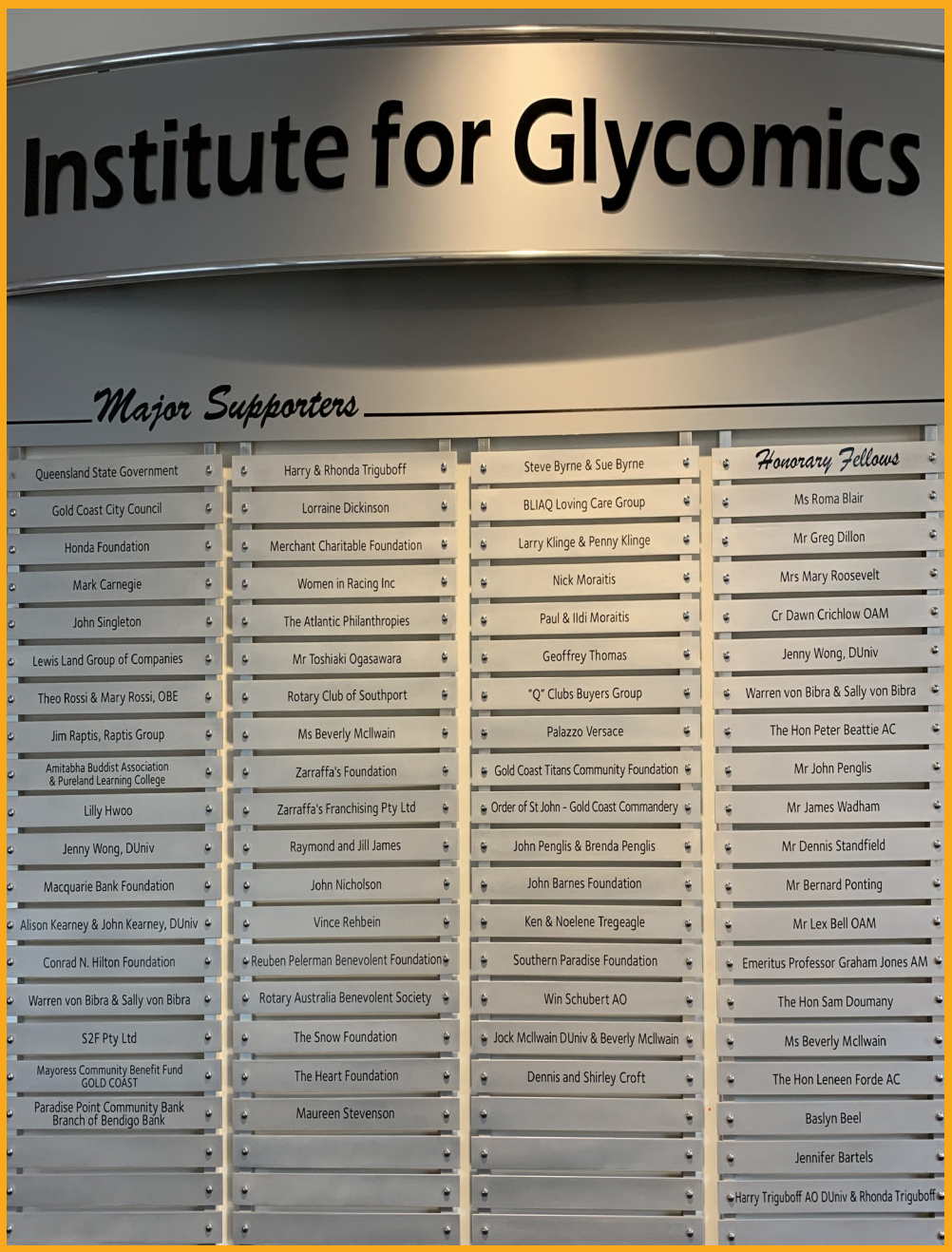

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