

## The world is opening up

To say this past year has been a challenge would be an understatement. Whilst there is no doubt that Covid-19 has had a huge impact, efforts to prevent malaria have carried on and those on the frontline who have continued to deliver a variety of interventions in the fight against malaria deserve our thanks.

Though collective efforts have prevented the WHO's worst-case scenario of an estimated 769 000 deaths from malaria in 2020, we as a global community have been knocked off-track by the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year's ['World Malaria Day'](#) is on the horizon, and will serve as an important reminder that efforts to combat malaria - an often deadly disease that has consistently claimed more than 400,000 lives per year - must regain focus as the world begins to recover from the pandemic and prevention programmes return to full capacity.

As a global community, we are learning vital lessons about how to manage diseases. At ERADA, we believe that some of the lessons learned during the Covid-19 pandemic can also aid the fight against malaria, and we believe that 2021 will be the year the world regains control of the ambition to defeat malaria.

Keep an eye on our website, social media, and in the news, to see how ERADA is driving the fight against malaria forward.



## ***Why this will be a good year for beating malaria***

Amongst the disruption and anxiety caused by Covid-19, it's important that we remember these positives.

90% of malaria campaigns remained on track during 2020 according to the [RBM Partnership](#), including the distribution of mosquito nets to vulnerable communities across 30 nations.

We now know that it is possible for vaccines to be made at a much quicker rate. A malaria vaccine will be tested on nearly 5 000 children this year and could be ready by 2024, as [Sky News \(UK\)](#) reported in December 2020.

Prominent figures and celebrities, including soccer legend Luis Figo and world-record-holding marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge, joined together with the 'Zero Malaria Starts With Me' movement to ensure efforts to curb malaria continued during Covid-19.

Global leaders have already pledged to continue investing in malaria prevention programmes, including the deployment of rapid diagnostic tests in schools and other community facilities, enabling swifter treatment to be made possible in the most vulnerable communities.

Additionally, there is growing recognition of the need for private sector involvement to help reach the goal of eradicating malaria by 2030. This was highlighted on Thursday 4th of March, when more than 80 private sector companies declared "Zero malaria starts with me" at the virtual [Private Sector Roundtable](#), as part of this year's 'Zero Malaria Starts With Me' movement.

Whilst our research and development has been heavily impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, limiting our time in the laboratory, we are still maintaining our efforts as much as possible. We are optimistic that field trials for our RDT - SALVA! - can commence in the summer, following a successful development at our partners' laboratories at Johns Hopkins University. Updates will be coming shortly via our social media pages.

Click [here](#) for Dr Pretorius's insights into the role of saliva in malaria diagnostics.



*Covid-19 has had a role in disrupting our progress... The time for urgent action is now.*

DR BENJI PRETORIUS ON THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S WORLD MALARIA REPORT 2020



## ***20 years of malaria prevention in pictures***

It has been nothing short of inspirational seeing the determination and dedication of the global community to persevere with malaria prevention measures in the most challenging of circumstances.

As you can see in the video below, the world has made significant strides forward in our combined efforts against malaria over the past 20 years, resulting

in more countries being certified malaria-free and deaths from the disease reduced. As Dr Pretorius says [here](#), we must get back on track with malaria eradication.

Undoubtedly, our eyes have been taken off the ball with malaria. But we can resolve this.

**Let's make 2021 count!**



[Click here to watch the video](#)



***"Mosquitoes don't wear face masks"***

Mosquitoes do not follow social distancing rules and are continuing to infect people with malaria in the world's most vulnerable communities. Prevention programmes in the most at risk communities need to be maintained. Here, Bill Gates explains why eradicating malaria and other diseases must remain a priority even during the current pandemic.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



***"Saliva is the spitting image of your health"***

Our partner and the inventor of our unique technology, Professor Rhoel Dinglasan, recently gave a fantastic interview on ABC (WCJB) TV-20 on why the groundbreaking saliva COVID-19 tests are so important to combatting the novel virus. You can watch his interview online.

[Click here to watch the interview](#)

***Meet the team***



**Dr. Benji Pretorius**

*Managing director*



**George Duncan**

Director of business development



**Dr. Richard Schmidt**

Director of clinical development

### *Our partners*



**Dinglasan Malaria Laboratory**

Dinglasan Malaria Laboratory established in 2009 as part of the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute prior to its transfer to the University of Florida's Emerging Pathogens Institute in 2016

[Learn more](#)



**Oasis Diagnostics® Corporation**

Oasis Diagnostics® Corporation founded in 2002 to address a growing need for non-invasive saliva based technology for rapid testing, sample collection, and molecular diagnostics..

[Learn more](#)



**Fusion Antibodies**

Fusion Antibodies' mission enables biopharmaceutical & diagnostic companies to develop innovative products in a timely and cost-effective manner to benefit the global healthcare industry.

[Learn more](#)

<http://www.eradicatingmalaria.com/>  
ERADA Technology Alliance  
T: +27 (061) 119-1591  
E: [info@www.eradatechnology.com](mailto:info@www.eradatechnology.com)



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