

Let's Unite & Elevate: Celebrating the World Malaria Day 2024 with the 8th Pan African Malaria Conference

The much-anticipated Multilateral Initiative on Malaria Society (MIM Society) 8th Pan-African Malaria Conference, is set to take place this year in Rwanda under the theme, 'Grassroots Mobilization to End Malaria: Invest, Innovate & Integrate'. This celebration of achievements during the World Malaria Day (WMD) falls within the conference days of April 21-27, 2024. The decision to align the conference dates with the WMD was made during the CPHIA Conference when the MIM Society Secretariat met with local organizers in Kigali in December 2022 to assess progress. This deliberate alignment of events was strategic and aimed at maximizing the impact of both events in the fight against malaria in Africa and in recognizing global efforts to combat malaria and remembering those affected by the disease. By hosting the conference on this day, the MIM Society acknowledges the various program efforts and their renewed commitment to malaria control and sees the joint event as a beacon of hope, collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advocacy. The 8th Pan African Malaria Conference will also be the first for the recently founded MIM Society holding its first general assembly.

Awareness Raising, Advocacy, and Collaboration

We recognize that the World Malaria Day, observed annually on April 25th, serves as a powerful global but most importantly a national platform to raise awareness about the woes of malaria. By synchronizing the conference with this significant day, our aim is to amplify the urgency of addressing malaria-related challenges together. The conference provides a unique opportunity to engage a broader audience, including policymakers, researchers, healthcare professionals, and the public, in meaningful discussions about malaria prevention, treatment, and research. We believe that the joint celebration will generate greater visibility. With the advent of new technologies, new interventions and a better understanding of parasite and vector biology, the global malaria community are into exciting times for disease control.

The joint events will foster the idea that the spotlight is firmly on malaria-related matters providing an opportunity to reflect on the progress made, share innovative solutions, and collectively strategize for the future. We firmly believe that this timing reinforces the commitment of the global community to combat malaria and underscores the need for sustained efforts. Our hope is that the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) would designate a high-level officer to be present during the WMD celebrations. By aligning with World Malaria Day, the conference harnesses a collaborative spirit to accelerate progress in malaria control and elimination.

Prof Rose Leke (Co-Chair MIM Society (MIMSOC)); Prof Claude Muvunyi (Chair 8th PAMC – LOC); Prof Jean Pierre van Geertruyden (Co-Chair MIMSOC); Dr. Brenda Kateera (Co-Chair 8th PAMC LOC). Pr. Wilfred Mbacham (ED-MIMSOC), Dr Eric Remera & Pr. Evelyne Ansah (Co-Chairs Scientific Committee).