

Biosketch and motivation note to become a RBM VCWG Co-Chair: Corine Ngufor

Biosketch

I am currently an Assistant Professor of medical entomology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK. I am based in Benin since ~10 years where I lead a GLP-compliant collaborative research programme at the Centre de Recherche Entomologique de Cotonou in the Ministry of Health in Benin, dedicated to the evaluation of novel vector control products. I have also conducted vector control research in other African countries like Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon and Togo. I have led several research grants funded by the IVCC, WHO, USAID, Gates Foundation, Global Fund, USAID and various chemical companies which have contributed to the development of a new generation of ITN and IRS products for controlling insecticide resistant malaria vectors and the identification of suitable methods for evaluating their efficacy and durability. I am currently a member of the WHO evidence review group for determining the non-inferiority of second in class ITN and IRS products and a steering committee member of the i2i project aimed at streamlining the evaluation and registration of new vector control products. I also serve on the vector control advisory board of the national malaria control programme in Benin.



Motivation note

While my career has so far focused mostly on ITNs and IRS products, I believe an effective vector control programme that will drive malaria towards elimination in some of the most endemic countries in Africa, will require a multiplicity of tools and a multidisciplinary approach. I have been a member of VCWG for several years and I have been impressed by the diversity of actors in the vector control landscape that it brings together; academia, NGOs, NCMPs, private sector and multi-laterals organisations. This provides a unique platform for the exchange of ideas and perspectives towards streamlining research priorities and approaches and ensuring that applicable solutions make it to policy and practice. I am particularly interested in seeing how the VCWG through the workstreams can drive the agenda towards the uptake of new promising vector control interventions such as next generation nets, ATSB, endectocides, gene drives etc. while considering the challenges of insecticide resistance, climate change, socio-economic contexts etc. The range of new tools at hand calls for a new and bold approach which also considers the best ways in which interventions which make it to market can be deployed to maximise potential to manage insecticide resistance while optimising impact.

It is clear from the level of diversity of the participants at meetings, that efforts have been made to attract members from endemic countries including NMCPs. By identifying ways to help increase their engagement and contributions, we can ensure faster uptake of new solutions and insights. I am also interested in seeing that the VCWG commits to help prepare the next generation of entomologists and relevant actors to continue its legacy.

My background and strong links with the private sector, academia, endemic country actors and NMCP, I believe, lays the foundation for me to operate in the role of co-chair of the VCWG. I have been inspired by past and present co-chairs and if elected, I look forward to contributing to taking the Group some steps further towards achieving global malaria elimination targets.