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# REMARAG Newsletter

## April 2018

**A child dies every 2 minutes from Malaria**

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**Rotary International Convention Toronto June 2018**

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REMARAG Chair Ian Priestley and our Director of Education Gillian Pierce spent five days at the convention in Toronto telling interested Rotarians and their families all about the work of RAGS.

Whilst there were many very interested and informed people who came to chat to us there were two recurring themes which gave us cause for concern.

- 1) A number of people did not know what RAGs are - so a plea goes out to Evanston for help in promoting the work of all of the RAGs.
- 2) Even more people thought that malaria had already been eliminated!

On a more positive note one of the attendees was from RC Ulan Bator in Mongolia. He has a supply of Artemisinin which he wants to use in the fight against malaria. Through contacts in REMaRAG we were able to connect him with a researcher who is actively involved in this area - demonstrating the value of REMaRAG as a conduit for information.

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## **World Malaria Congress Melbourne Australia July 2018**

Immediately following the RI Convention the first major world conference on Malaria was held in Melbourne Australia and the following was received from David Pearson, National Manager: Rotarians Against Malaria.

“RAM was represented by a very professional stand, in the “Global Village Exhibition” of the Congress, manned by RAM delegates and local RAM volunteers. All up, Rotary had about 20 delegates of the 1000 delegates from 64 nations who attended. In addition to our stand, we were represented on a plenary panel by PDG Bob Aitken (END OF POLIO Coordinator in Rotary Zone 7B and part of Zone 8 in 2017/18) who did an excellent job of describing Rotary’s experience on Polio eradication and reinforcing our strong interest in malaria eradication. In a different session RAM Project Manager for PNG, Tim Freeman, gave a very well received talk on RAM’s role and experience in fighting malaria in PNG. . In addition comments regarding Rotary’s stance and optimism for malaria elimination by several Rotarians were displayed as a revolving slide show on a large screen in the exhibition centre.

## **Ugandan wins Africa prize for bloodless malaria test**

A Ugandan inventor has won a major prize for a device which tests for malaria without drawing blood.

Brian Gitta, 24, won the Royal Academy of Engineering's Africa Prize for a device that detects tell-tale signs of malaria by shining a red beam of light on the patient's finger.

The diagnosis is ready to be shared to a mobile phone in a minute.

He developed the device, called Matibabu, after blood tests failed to diagnose his own malaria. Even though malaria is the leading cause of death in Uganda, but it took four blood tests to diagnose Mr Gitta with the disease

## **REMaRAG updates**

As you know the purpose of the Action Group is not to fundraise or to run projects but to support others within Rotary who are doing this and help with such things as grant applications, contact and generally act as a source of information about malaria.

In order to help with this we now have a number of people who will be responsible for specific geographical areas

Africa PDG Dele Balogun [deleabalogun@gmail.com](mailto:deleabalogun@gmail.com)

Central and South America PDG Ellen Blasi. [epblasi@yahoo.com](mailto:epblasi@yahoo.com)

Australasia - our excellent partners in RAM Jenny Kerrison ([jenny-rexkerrison@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny-rexkerrison@bigpond.com))

Rest of World and general queries - PDG Ian Priestley ([remaragmalaria@gmail.com](mailto:remaragmalaria@gmail.com))

Stop press: The block on our website [www.remarag.org](http://www.remarag.org) has been lifted and we can now get access to update it. This will be an evolving process but it will allow us to communicate much better.

**As ever if you have any news about the work you are doing please contact [remaragmalaria@gmail.com](mailto:remaragmalaria@gmail.com) so that we can publicise this to the wider community.**