



## Answering key questions on ACT drug delivery in Africa: findings from the work of the ACT Consortium

Mon 7 Oct, 15:00-16:30

**Chairs:** David Schellenberg and Shunmay Yeung

### OVERVIEW

The ACT Consortium is a global research partnership that aims to answer key questions on optimizing the delivery and use of ACTs in Africa and Asia. Although there is much evidence on the efficacy of ACTs, there is little evidence on *how* they can best be deployed. At the last MIM conference in Nairobi in 2009, we described how we hope to change this by developing, implementing and rigorously evaluating different interventions and delivery mechanisms. We are now concluding 25 studies in 10 countries and preparing to share our findings. Studies are organised broadly around the research themes of improving ACT access, targeting, safety and quality. Our multi-disciplinary approach looked at the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of different strategies to improve ACT access and targeting, exploring the acceptability and safety of different strategies, and how to improve the use of ACTs by prescribers and by patients.

### 1. Overview of the ACT Consortium

**Presenter:** David Schellenberg (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK*)

This talk will provide an overview of the ACT Consortium's use of formative research to inform the design of complex interventions, and their evaluation using randomized trials, cohort and descriptive studies, and an impact evaluation. Economic and anthropological assessments have also been used to help understand how best to optimise the delivery and use of ACTs by prescribers and patients.

## 2. Monitoring safety of ACTs

**Presenter: David Laloo** (*Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK*)

This talk will describe how the ACT Consortium is collecting, collating and evaluating data on the safety of ACTs when routinely deployed, including repeated use and use in specific groups (eg HIV positive individuals) and evaluating the possibility of pharmacokinetic interactions between ACTs and other commonly used drugs.

## 3. Detecting fake ACTs

**Presenter: Dr. Harparkash Kaur** (*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK*)

The project is assessing the prevalence of falsified and substandard ACT formulations sold in some African and South-East Asian countries. This presentation will explore robust sampling approaches at the country level to ensure that reliable estimates on the quality of ACT brands are generated. These estimates will provide the information to enable the country specific malaria control efforts to take appropriate steps to ensure that the ACTs that the patients are taking are efficacious.

## 4. Improving access to ACTs

**Presenter: Charles Festo** (*Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania*)

We are evaluating alternative models for the delivery of ACTs in a range of settings so as to maximise access to ACTs. This talk will describe activities to optimise access to ACTs in health facility settings, through community-based workers, and within the existing private sector. The talk will draw on results from the IMPACT2 study in Tanzania to demonstrate the importance of a multi-faceted approach to intervention evaluation.

## 5. Improved targeting of ACTs

**Presenter: Evelyn Ansah** (*Ghana Health Service, Ghana*)

We are evaluating the potential of RDTs to reduce over-diagnosis and over-prescription of anti-malarial drugs in the public and private informal sectors. Evaluations consider the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions in the public formal and the private informal sector, as well as some perspectives from clients and service providers.