



Richmond Afoakwa obtained his PhD in Medical Parasitology at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He has risen through the ranks since joining the University in 2009 – Teaching Assistant, Senior Research Assistant, Lecturer and currently Senior Lecturer. His research interests include antimalarial drug resistance, antimalarial properties of local herbs and vector bionomics of mosquitoes. He is involved in external collaborative research in malaria and vector genomics. Richmond has 22 refereed articles and has presented his results in several local and international conferences and symposia. He is a member of Ghana Science Association, Ghana Biomedical Convention, International Society of Infectious Diseases and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Richmond serves on many boards and committees of the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences and the College of Health and Allied Sciences. He is also the current Head of the new Department of Forensic Sciences in the University of Cape Coast.



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The Malaria situation in Ghana

Malaria remains the most important parasitic infection, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015 there were 212 million new cases of malaria and 429 000 deaths worldwide.

Malaria has been a major cause of poverty and low productivity accounting for about 32.5 percent of all OPD attendances and 48.8 percent of under five years admissions in Ghana. Malaria control strategies including treatment of confirmed cases, use of long-lasting insecticide nets; indoor residual spraying; and Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Pregnancy is bedevilled with numerous challenges accounting for the slow decrease in the reduction of cases in the country.

In 2015 Ghana contributed 3% to the global number of cases of malaria. This presentation will throw light on possible causes of the slow decline of malaria in Ghana and suggest possible solutions through on-going research at the University of Cape Coast.

