



The Isdell:Flowers Cross Border Malaria Initiative at the South African Medical Research Council's 2024 Malaria Research Conference

Pretoria, South Africa, August 2, 2024 -- Members of the Isdell:Flowers Cross Border Malaria Initiative (IFCBMI) attended the South African Medical Research Council's (SAMRC) annual Malaria Research Conference to share study results and lessons learned from their experience managing community-based malaria programs. João Baptista Nelo, who presented on the role of community malaria elimination committees in Cuando Cubango Province, Angola, received the award for best oral presentation.

The Malaria Research Conference connects multi-sectoral stakeholders working toward malaria elimination in the region by 2030. This year's Malaria Research Conference, held from 31 July – 2 August at the Future Africa Campus at the University of Pretoria was themed "Malaria Elimination: A moving target," focused on addressing the challenges of achieving malaria elimination by 2030 such as including cross border transmission, insecticide resistance, and inadequate resources.

At this year's conference, IFCBMI was represented by Constance Njovu, Regional Coordinator from the J.C. Flowers Foundation based in Lusaka, Zambia; João Baptista Nelo, Lusophone Coordinator from the Anglican Diocese of Central and South Angola; Philmar Mutowo, Program Manager from the Diocese of Harare in Zimbabwe; and Phelim Mwimana, Program Manager from the Diocese of Lusaka in Zambia.

Mr. Nelo presented on the role of community malaria elimination committees from his experience working in Cuando Cubango Province, Angola, demonstrating that engagement of local leaders and community members maximizes malaria outcomes and ensures sustainability of malaria interventions. Mr. Nelo's presentation won the award of "Best Oral Presentation." Ms. Mutowo shared experiences from Hurungwe District, Zimbabwe in engaging the high-risk groups of artisanal miners and nomadic farmers, which contributed to a reduction in malaria deaths in the district from 9 deaths among this population in 2023 to zero deaths in 2024 thus far. Mr. Mwimana presented on the trajectory of care-seeking behavior among children <5 with fever in select communities in Southern and Western Provinces in Zambia, highlighting both challenges and successes of seeking care within 24 hours of fever onset and adequate provision of malaria testing and treatment.



João Baptista Nelo (left), Constance Njovu (second from left), Phelim Mwimana (second from right), and Philmar Mutowo (right).