



FOUNDATION
FOR THE
National Institutes of Health

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Grand Challenges
in Global Health 

FACT SHEET 4: Funding for our research

The project is funded by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health as part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's 'Grand Challenges in Global Health' initiative.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, established in 2000, works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives.
- In developing countries, the Foundation focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty.
- Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.
- The Foundation supports work in more than 100 countries.

Grand Challenges in Global Health - an Initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- On 26 January 2003, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Bill Gates announced a \$200-million medical research initiative—the Grand Challenges in Global Health. This subsequently became a \$440-million initiative.
- The initiative aims to engage creative minds from across scientific disciplines — including those who have not traditionally taken part in global health research — to work on 14 major challenges. The challenges vary, but they share one essential element: Their solutions could lead to breakthrough advances in global health (see www.gcgh.org).
- One of the long term goals of the Grand Challenges initiative is to control insects that transmit diseases to humans, including mosquitoes and dengue fever.
- The first call for project ideas, announced in 2003, received more than 1,500 responses involving nearly 10,000 scientists from 75 countries.

- Two years later, awards were announced for 43 projects with a total of US\$440 million committed over 5 years.
- One of these successful projects is '**Modifying mosquito population age structure to eliminate dengue transmission**' being led by The University of Queensland in collaboration with other Australian and international researchers.
- The Grant Period is 2005-2010 to the value of US\$8,000,00.
- Ultimately, the project aims to determine if *Wolbachia* can be introduced into mosquitoes that transmit the dengue virus, and if so, whether they can reduce mosquito lifespan sufficiently to prevent transmission of the disease.