



NEWSLETTER



Burkina : INSTech study site :

Progress achieved

- The acquisition of the biomedical equipment needed to prepare the site for the project has been completed.
- To date, INSTech has screened 6 patients, one of whom has participated in the trial of the experimental product. No participants are currently being followed up.

Capacity building and community involvement:

A meeting was held with Community Health Workers (CHWs) and local leaders to raise awareness of the project activities.



AGENDA

1 - Progress made by WANE CAM 2 research sites

- Capacity building and community involvement

2 - Community involvement activities

3 - WANE CAM 2 Master students' success story

4 - Word of thanks

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Burkina : Site de GRAS :

Progress achieved :

Between October 2022 and July 2023, the Groupe de Recherche Action en Santé (GRAS) carried out various activities related to work package 2, concerning the KALUMI and KALUMA clinical trial.

1. KALUMI study :

In November 2022, GRAS obtained approval of the amendment to the study protocol version 01 dated July 29, 2021 from the Clinical Trials Technical Committee (CTTC).

In order to strengthen its capacities, GRAS has prepared and opened new recruitment sites, notably 1003 in Sabou and 1004 in Banfora, located 100 km and 440 km from Ouagadougou, respectively. Initiation visits to these additional sites took place in January 2023. The first patient was recruited in February 2023 for site 1003, while site 1004 began recruitment in May 2023.

During the period from October 2022 to July 2023, GRAS screened a total of 106 patients, 34 of whom were included in the study. Details of recruitment at the three sites are as follows:

- Site 1000: 15 patients screened, of whom 3 were included and followed up
- Site 1003: 42 patients screened, of whom 14 were included and followed-up
- Site 1004: 49 patients screened, 17 included and followed-up

2. KALUMA Studies:

Capacity building and community involvement:

For community involvement in sites 1003 and 1004, meetings were organized with health district managers and health workers from the health facilities. This provided an opportunity to present the study protocol and all associated procedures.



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Gabon:

Progress achieved :

Between October 2022 and July 2023, a total of 52 participants were included in cohorts 1 and 2. Of these, 4 are still being followed up. Outreach activities continue, with the goal of encouraging the inclusion of infants aged 6 months to 2 years in cohort 2. Discussions have been held with clinic managers to facilitate patient selection using Rapid Diagnostic Tests for malaria.

Preparation of satellite sites:

Satellite sites are being activated for malaria screening and participant recruitment. The Four-Place and Sindara satellite sites are being equipped with materials and personnel, supported by other project budgets.

The Sindara satellite site is already able to carry out malaria screening.

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Niger

Capacity building :

As part of the WANEAM 2 program, capacity building focused on two aspects:

- Training to enhance the skills of medical staff: training of microscopists by IQLS to improve their skills in the preparation of thick film and thin films, as well as in their interpretation.
- Equipment acquisition: the budget has enabled the purchase of a hematology machine (Hemoscreen), requiring only small quantities of blood for analysis. In addition, the delivery of a biochemistry machine is pending, which will enable biochemistry analyses to be carried out using very small quantities of blood. This is useful particularly for the young children taking part in the clinical trial.

Acquisition of equipment:

The budget has enabled the purchase of a hematology machine (Hemoscreen), which requires small quantities of blood for analysis. In addition, a biochemistry machine is awaiting delivery, which will also enable analyses to be carried out using very small quantities of blood, particularly for the young children taking part in the clinical trial.



Progress achieved :

The construction of the new building is in progress. The laboratory section has been completed and is now equipped with the appropriate materials to ensure its smooth operation. The front of the building has been painted, and a gated entrance has been installed, with two small staircases to facilitate access. The building has also been equipped with a Wi-Fi connection and an electricity meter.

Capacity building and community involvement :

To build capacity and in preparation for the organization of the KALUMA study, the center's team received a visit from a monitor from Kenya. During this visit, all stages of the study were explained, first within the center, then during a training session organized in the meeting room of the WANEAM 2 office. In addition, data from two phases of the study and data from the in vivo-study were entered on the REDCap database installed on tablets. Adjustments were made in response to numerous requests to ensure satisfaction.



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Mali

Progress made:

Study sites	Screened	Patients enrolled	Completed the study
Bougoula-Hameau (site 1100)	127	64	56
Sotuba (site 1101)	43	29	26
Kollé (site 1102)	54	29	25

Enrollment Statut :

All sites in Mali (1100, 1101 and 1102) were well equipped in terms of laboratory machinery and infrastructure to conduct Good Clinical Practice (GCP)-compliant clinical trials for the KALUMI and KALUMA studies. In March 2023, a fence wall was built around the Bougoula clinical laboratory.

Community engagement activities :

Since June and July 2023, our sites have been facing difficulties due to the malaria season and the rarity of cases in young children under 2 years of age, the targeted age range for our patients. For the rare cases identified in one recruitment village, the parents expressed reluctance to travel and preferred to stay at the research center during the treatment period. We have had discussions with the team to avoid losing these potential cases. As a result, our team can either travel to their village to carry out screening, or encourage them to come to our research centers.

France, Lyon

Progress achieved :

In Lyon, France, we have made significant progress in our research, with the publication of a paper on protocols for the production of Plasmodium gametocytes in vitro. In addition, we submitted a paper on the impact of KAF156/ganaplacide on Plasmodium falciparum gametocytes in vitro. We have also initiated a study on the effects of ganaplacide on the hemozoin crystal characteristics of gametocytes and asexual parasites using the Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis (NTA) technique. We are currently working on standardizing procedures for preparing, storing and shipping clinical samples in collaboration with Novartis for ex vivo phenotyping tests.

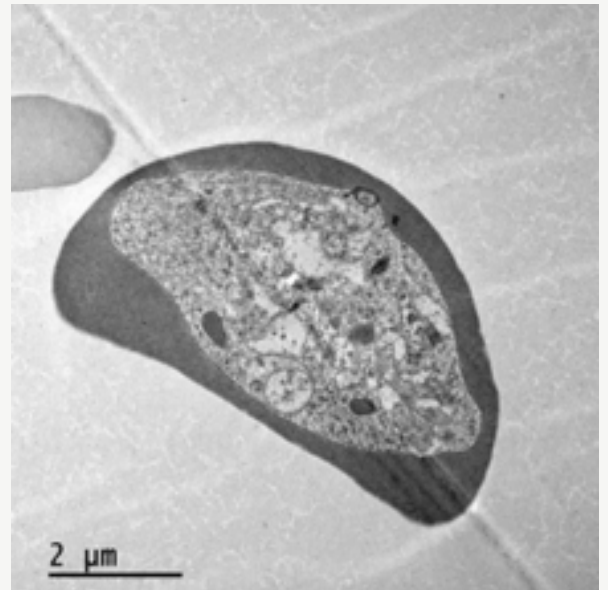


Figure 1: Transmission electron microscopy reveals gametocyte structure.

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The testimony of Roukayatou OMOROU, PhD, highlights her active involvement in WANE CAM 2 work package 3, focused on evaluating the efficacy of KAF 156 on gametocytes through in vitro and ex vivo phenotypic analyses. She has contributed to various research activities, study protocols and scientific communication, and her participation in events such as the annual meeting of WANE CAM-2 researchers has enabled her to expand her professional network. She acquired skills in malaria, research methodology and scientific project management, as well as in scientific communication, which led to the successful publication of scientific articles. She is convinced that this enriching experience will continue to support her in her academic and professional career.

Community involvement activities

WANE CAM 2's participation in World Malaria Day



As part of our community involvement activities, we took part in World Malaria Day, which took place on Tuesday April 25, 2023 at TOMIKOROBOUGOU, in Commune III of the Bamako district. The event was chaired by Mrs Dieminatou Sangaré, Minister of Health and Social Development, in the presence of Mr Oumarou Diarra, Minister Delegate in charge of Humanitarian Action, Solidarity, Refugees and Displaced Persons, and many other partners.

This year's theme was: "It's time to achieve zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement". This theme underlines the need to reinforce emergency action, innovation and investment to achieve maximum impact in the fight against malaria. It aims to accelerate the progress made by countries, particularly those in the process of eliminating the disease, and to reinvigorate the global effort to eradicate malaria, including in our country, where the commitment of WANE CAM 2 remains remarkable.

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Thanks to Professor Abdoulaye Djimdé, the day also enabled WANE CAM 2 to present the project's progress to political decision-makers.

Commitment day for students at les Jasmins school



In collaboration with parents, we also organized a day of commitment for students at the private school "Les Jasmins". This traditional day brought together many of Mali's ethnic groups, giving children and parents the opportunity to talk to Professor Abdoulaye Djimdé about health sciences and research. The aim of this initiative was to encourage children to take a greater interest in these fields.



WANE CAM 2 Master's students' success stories

Finally, we are proud to share the success stories of three WANE CAM 2 Master's students:

- Siaka Goita validated his diploma by assessing the prevalence of malaria caused by different species of Plasmodia in a hyper-endemic area in Kati Faladje, Mali.
- Bouran Sidibé assessed the epidemiological parameters of malaria transmission at a WANE CAM 2 site in Kolle, Mali.
- Kassim Sanogo studied the hepatic and renal tolerance of artemisinin-based combinations in the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in Bougoula-Hameau, Sikasso, Mali.



Siaka Goita



Bouran Sidibé



Kassim Sanogo

These students continued their studies at the Université des Sciences, Techniques et Technologies in Bamako, Mali.

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Word of thanks

We would like to thank all contributors to this second newsletter for sharing updates from of their respective sites where WANECAM 2 clinical studies are being conducted.

We look forward to sharing more news on the progress of the project very soon.

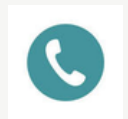
Our strategic partners



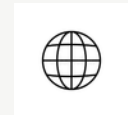
Contact us via:



adamaguindo@icermali.org



00 223 90 31 31 05



www.wanecam.org



[@wanecam_2](https://twitter.com/wanecam_2)



WANECAM 2, Université des Sciences, des
Techniques et des Technologies de Bamako
P.O. Box: 1805 Point G
Bamako - Mali

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