







# Development of a *Leishmania* identification PCR assay for use with next generation PoC diagnostic devices

Dr Evangelia Piperaki & Dr Henry M. Staines

DoI: SK is on the Scientific Board of QuantuMDx and both HMS and SK are shareholders



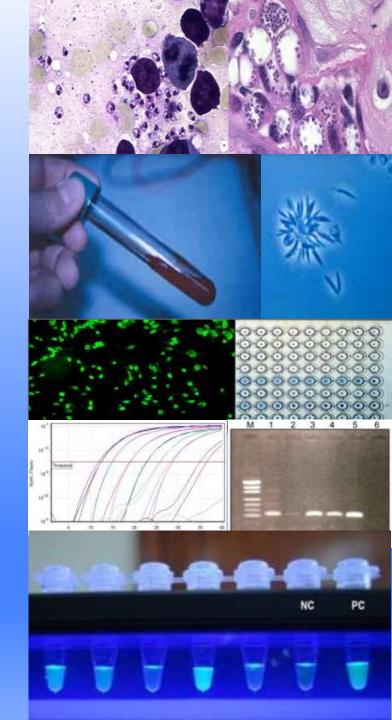
### Leishmaniasis

- ~20 species of *Leishmania* infect humans
- 98 countries
- 9th largest disease burden among infectious diseases
- VL Incidence 0.2 0.4 mil
  ~50,000 deaths
- CL Incidence 0.7 to 1.2 mil



## Diagnosis

- Microscopy Culture
  - Invasive/dangerous sampling
  - Expertise/equipment
- Serology
  - Sensitivity, cross-reactivity, differentiation of past/current infection
- Molecular methods
  - Infrastructure, expertise



## Need for improved diagnosis

- Post Kala-azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL) diagnosis & determination of parasitic load
- Detection of asymptomatic infections
- Test of cure
  - Follow up
  - relapses (HIV+)



#### The Partners

- LSHTM Prof Simon Croft (PI), Dr Vanessa Yardley, <u>Dr Evangelia Piperaki</u>
- QuantuMDx industrial partner (SME based in Newcastle)
- SGUL Prof Sanjeev Krishna, Dr Henry Staines, Ms Rebekah Burrow



















#### NanoMal

- £4 million, FP7 European Union funded
- Develop a diagnostic device for malaria for:

All spp.

Pf, Pv, Pm, Po, Pk

which must be:

Simple

Handheld, Point-of-Care (PoC)

Accurate

Rapid (< 20 mins)

Uploadable data

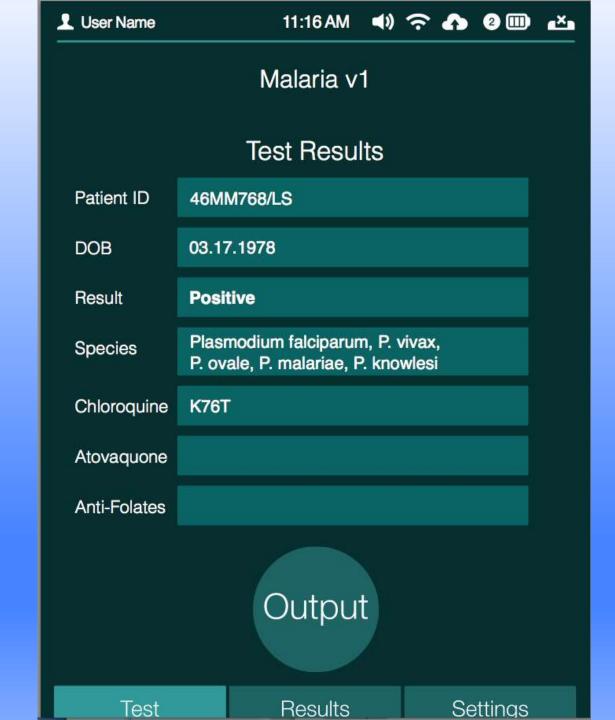
Cheap

In addition.....

#### Resistance mutations

Antimalarial Drug	Resistance Mutation
Artemisinins	A623E and S769N in PfATP6
Amodiaquine	K76T mutation in PfCRT and N86Y mutation in PfMDR1
Atovaquone	Y268S/C/N mutation in cytochrome b
Azithromycin	G76V mutation in the ribosomal protein L4
Chloroquine	K76T mutation in PfCRT
Clindamycin	A1875C mutation in apicoplast 23S rRNA
Cycloguanil	Mutations in DHFR: A16V and S108T
Fosmidomycin	pfdxr amplification
Lumefantrine	pfmdr1 amplification and N86Y
Mefloquine	pfmdr1 amplification
Pyrimethamine	Mutations in DHFR: S108N, N51I, C59R and I164L
Sulfadoxine	Mutations in DHPS: S436A/F, A437G, K540E, A581G and A613S/T

A. Ecker, A.M. Lehane & D. Fidock in Staines & Krishna (Eds) Treatment and Prevention of Malaria



## The Project

 Use the platform PoC technologies that QuantuMDx have developed for diagnosis of Leishmaniasis

- Develop a sensitive PCR assay for diagnosis of *Leishmaniasis* that is compatible
  - Small sample volume
  - Leishmania donovani, multicopy target (kDNA)
- Demonstrate the assay with QuantuMDx's PoC device







Thank you to the Tropical Infectious Disease Consortium for this opportunity



