

## MalVax Alliance Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### A. General – origins and mission

#### 1. What is the Malaria Vaccine Alliance?

The Malaria Vaccine Alliance, known as the MalVax Alliance, is an initiative that emerged from the malaria vaccine R&D community. It brings together representatives from academia, industry, funding agencies, policy and implementation with the simple purpose to share timely knowledge, coordinate efforts, and support progress in malaria vaccine development for the next-generation of malaria vaccines. Our vision is: “Accelerating the development of better vaccines for a malaria free future”.

#### 2. Why was it created?

The MalVax Alliance was created as an outcome of two stakeholder consultation meetings held in 2024 and 2025 on the sidelines of the ASTMH annual meetings. The two stakeholder meetings helped to identify key barriers and opportunities in the development of next-generation malaria vaccines. Meeting participants highlighted that progress on next-generation malaria vaccines could be accelerated by coordination and inclusive community-led solutions to the challenges identified. This strong support and sense of urgency motivated the creation of a community-led Malaria Vaccine Alliance – providing a structure and central platform for stronger collaboration and engagement across partners working to advance malaria vaccine research and development.

#### 3. Who initiated MalVax?

Many individuals have contributed to the early vision behind the MalVax Alliance. The 2024 and 2025 stakeholder meetings included over 80 people. These events were organised and convened by a small group of malaria vaccine researchers and funding was provided by Coefficient Giving. The three MalVax Executive Committee members were all part of this early group of organisers.

#### 4. What does the MalVax Alliance do? What is its mission?

The MalVax Alliance unites the malaria vaccine R&D community to drive evidence and innovation from lab to policy faster, so better vaccines reach the people who need them sooner. It coordinates action around shared priorities by:

- strengthening innovation and clinical investigation through shared frameworks;
- improving the quality and comparability of research evidence; and

- accelerating the translation of that evidence into regulatory and policy decisions.

#### **5. Why is MalVax important?**

Malaria vaccine research takes place across many institutions and different geographies, making it difficult to coordinate efforts. MalVax connects these efforts so partners can align priorities, design and share research frameworks, avoid duplicating work, and move faster toward effective vaccines that can have a greater impact on reducing the burden of malaria and save more lives.

#### **6. Is the MalVax Alliance a legal entity?**

No. The MalVax Alliance is not a separate legal entity. During this establishment year (2026-27), it operates as a community-led initiative coordinated by a Support Unit at Bridges to Development. Formal hosting or legal arrangements for the MalVax Alliance's longer-term structure have not yet been established.

#### **7. How is the MalVax Alliance funded?**

The stakeholder meetings that led to the formation of MalVax, and its establishment year, have been funded by Coefficient Giving.

### **B. MalVax Alliance governance and structure**

#### **8. How is MalVax governed?**

The MalVax Alliance is in its early stages of formation. For this establishment year (2026-27), a three-member Executive Committee leads the work and takes decisions on how best to design a fit for purpose structure aligned to community vision. A nine-member Advisory Group, drawn from diverse sectors and institutions working in malaria vaccine R&D, provides expert advice, insights and recommendations to support the early operationalization of the new MalVax Alliance. The Advisory Group is time limited, focused on the establishment year. Its members will advise on the design of a more permanent governing body to be installed in 2027. You can find more information on these committees on the website:

[www.MalVax.org](http://www.MalVax.org)

#### **9. What will the permanent governing structure look like after the establishment year, and when will it be decided?**

The Executive Committee and Advisory Group are using this establishment year to design a more permanent governance structure for the MalVax Alliance, informed by community input. This structure is expected to be installed in 2027.

#### **10. Is there a MalVax Secretariat?**

A small Support Unit at Bridges to Development, with offices in Geneva, Switzerland and Seattle, Washington, USA, is serving in this role during the establishment year 2026-27. You can reach the Support Unit by email at [info@malvax.org](mailto:info@malvax.org).

### **C. Joining the MalVax Alliance**

#### **11. Who exactly can join the MalVax Alliance? Is there a membership fee?**

Anyone from the malaria vaccine community who wishes to actively contribute or simply stay informed about MalVax news and progress can join the MalVax Alliance mailing list. There is no membership fee to sign up to join the MalVax Alliance.

#### **12. How does one join the MalVax Alliance?**

You can sign up to register your interest and join the MalVax Alliance by completing the contact form here: [MalVax Engagement Form](#)

#### **13. Is industry, including vaccine developers and manufacturers, welcome to participate?**

Yes. Industry representatives, including vaccine developers and manufacturers, are among the MalVax Alliance's stakeholders and have roles within the Advisory Group, Scientific Conference Committee and Working Groups. Given the MalVax Alliance's product-agnostic approach, industry participants are as welcome as anyone else to participate.

#### **14. What opportunities exist to engage with MalVax?**

Opportunities for malaria vaccine R&D community members to engage with MalVax will take different forms and continue to evolve as the MalVax Alliance takes shape during this first establishment year (2026-27). The three initial technical Working Groups (see Section D) will create opportunities for engagement with community members. These may include webinars around specific topics, or invitations to feedback on draft outputs as these become available. In February 2027, all community members are invited to the First Global Malaria Vaccine Alliance R&D Conference in Kuala Lumpur (see Section E) for scientific exchange, interaction with Working Groups, and dialogue to advance next-generation malaria vaccine

development.

**15. I want to receive your Newsletters. How can I join your mailing list?**

Please sign up to our mailing list by completing a short engagement survey, accessible here: [MalVax Engagement Survey](#). You can also reach out to [info@malvax.org](mailto:info@malvax.org) at any time.

**16. Who should I contact for more information?**

If you have further questions or need information not already available on the website, please reach out to the Bridges to Development Support unit at [info@malvax.org](mailto:info@malvax.org).

## **D. Technical Working Groups**

**17. What are the MalVax Working Groups and what do they focus on?**

The MalVax Alliance has established three initial technical Working Groups. Working Group 1 focuses on Clinical Trial Design & Endpoints, working to harmonise how trials are designed and how outcomes are measured. Working Group 2 focuses on Assays, working to improve the quality and comparability of laboratory assays used across the field. Working Group 3 focuses on Modelling, working to strengthen the modelling approaches used to inform vaccine development and policy decisions. The WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on malaria vaccines R&D, currently being set up, will be embedded as a fourth Working Group, although governed by WHO. For more information on the Working Groups and to download the Technical Scopes for each one, please visit the website at [www.MalVax.org](http://www.MalVax.org)

**18. How were the Working Group Chairs and members selected?**

Membership and Co-Chairs of the MalVax Working Groups will change over time. Initial Working Group Co-Chairs were selected by the Executive Committee drawing on interested stakeholders from the engagement survey as well as recommendations from the Advisory Group, using consistent criteria across all three MalVax Alliance Working Groups. The selected Co-Chairs are recognised, credible experts in malaria vaccine R&D, able to lead diverse stakeholder groups towards practical outputs, and committed to ensuring their Working Group remains community-led and product-agnostic. Selection of Working Group members was made by the WG Co-Chairs and Executive Committee, with recommendations from the Advisory Group, drawing on interested stakeholders from the engagement survey as well as targeted invites to expand representation. To the extent possible, this selection

process was designed to ensure the Working Group is a manageable size and benefits from representation from diverse and relevant experts, demonstrated interest, geographic and institutional diversity, and gender balance.

**19. How can I be considered for a Working Group in a future term, once current two-year terms end?**

Current Working Group members were selected to serve an initial two-year term. Based on the final governance structure and Advisory Group inputs, as terms come up for renewal or if additional members are being considered, the MalVax Alliance will share information on how interested community members can put themselves forward for consideration. Such opportunities will be communicated through the MalVax Newsletter and website.

**20. If I'm not on a Working Group, can I still get involved?**

Yes. Working Group membership is one form of involvement, but it isn't the only one. Community touchpoints, that include webinars, public consultation on circulated documents, and the conference itself, will offer other ways to contribute. Not being on a Working Group now doesn't preclude other involvement later.

**21. Is MalVax only for stakeholders working on *P. Falciparum* malaria vaccines?**

The MalVax Alliance's current focus is on *Plasmodium falciparum* vaccines. However, stakeholders working on *Plasmodium vivax* or multi-*Plasmodium* species vaccines are also welcome to join the MalVax Alliance to exchange experiences and help address shared challenges.

**22. How can I propose a Working Group workstream, particular output, or a new Working Group altogether?**

Community members are welcome to reach out to the relevant Working Group Co-Chair to provide feedback on current workplans and share ideas for additional outputs. New Working Groups may be proposed by community members and are considered by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisory Group. A proposal should include a rationale, draft scope of work, and suggested initial deliverables.

**23. Are Controlled Human Malaria Infection (CHMI) endpoints part of Working Group 1's scope?**

Not in Year 1. The Working Group's Technical Scope explicitly states that endpoints and trial design for CHMI studies, while valuable for vaccine development, are out of

scope for Working Group 1 in its first year, which is instead focused on endpoints for Phase 1–3 field trials. CHMI is identified as a priority area for the Working Group to expand into after the February 2027 conference, alongside other groups such as pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals, once its initial guidance document is complete. In the meantime, CHMI research remains welcome across the Alliance, including as an accepted abstract theme at the MalVax 2027 conference.

**24. Does Working Group 1's scope currently include endpoints for pregnant women (malaria in pregnancy)?**

Not in Year 1. Working Group 1's initial work is organised around two subthemes — vaccines that provide personal protection for infants and children, and adults, and vaccines that primarily target reduction transmission/provide community protection — and doesn't currently include a dedicated pregnancy stream. The Technical Scope identifies pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals, alongside CHMI, as a priority for expansion after February 2027. This reflects both current stakeholder input and the added scientific and ethical complexity of trial design in this population. In the meantime, malaria-in-pregnancy research remains welcome across the Alliance, including as an accepted abstract theme at the MalVax 2027 conference.

**25. What types of next-generation malaria vaccines are included in MalVax?**

The MalVax Alliance's work is product agnostic and spans the range of next-generation malaria vaccine approaches, including pre-erythrocytic vaccines (PEV), blood-stage vaccines (BSV), transmission-blocking vaccines (TBV) and multi-stage vaccines.

**26. Is the MalVax Alliance product-agnostic, or does it endorse specific vaccines or vaccine developers?**

The MalVax Alliance is product-agnostic. It does not endorse, favour, or fund any particular vaccine candidate or developer. Its role is to unite the malaria vaccine R&D community to drive evidence and innovation from lab to policy faster, so better vaccines reach the people who need them sooner.

**E. MalVax 2027: The First Global Malaria Vaccine Alliance R&D Conference**

## **27. What is the goal of the MalVax 2027 conference?**

The goal of the inaugural conference is built around showcasing the most exciting, up-to-date science across the malaria vaccine space. Rather than us second guessing who will have the most exciting results to present, we plan that most talks will be drawn directly from abstract submissions.

## **28. Who is the conference intended for?**

The MalVax 2027 Conference is intended to bring together the international research and development (R&D) community to share evidence, strengthen collaboration, and accelerate progress towards next-generation malaria vaccines. We welcome all stakeholders involved in malaria vaccine development, including from:

- Universities and academic institutions
- Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies
- Research institutes
- Funders (philanthropy, foundations, bilateral donors)
- Ministries of Health and regulatory authorities
- WHO and other multilateral organizations (e.g. UN agencies, Gavi, Global Fund)
- Implementing and technical partners (e.g. NGOs)

## **29. Who are the conference organisers?**

The MalVax Executive Committee established a Scientific Conference Committee (SCC) to provide strategic and technical guidance for the planning, programme development, abstract selection and execution of the conference. The SCC comprises a group of 22 internationally recognised experts drawn from across the malaria vaccine ecosystem, including basic research and immunology, pre-clinical and clinical development, regulatory, public health, and policy. Visit the [MalVax website](#) for details of the SCC members. Conference logistics are also being managed by the MalVax Support Unit at Bridges to Development.

## **30. What does the conference programme cover?**

While the final programme will be shaped by the abstracts received, scientific sessions are expected to cover the malaria vaccine life cycle: pre-erythrocytic vaccines, blood-stage vaccines, transmission-blocking vaccines, and multi-stage vaccines. While *Plasmodium falciparum* vaccines are the primary focus, we also welcome content on *P. vivax* and multi-species vaccines, vaccines targeting malaria in pregnancy, and monoclonal antibodies.

## **31. How do I register for the conference?**

You will find details on how to register for the conference on the [MalVax website](#).

Alternatively, the following link will take you directly to the conference registration page: [MalVax 2027 Registration](#)

**32. Do I need to submit an abstract to register and attend the conference?**

No, you do not need to submit an abstract to participate. There will be many attendees at the conference who did not submit an abstract.

**33. How do I submit an abstract?**

You will find details on how to submit an abstract for the conference on the [MalVax website](#). Alternatively, the following link will take you directly to the abstract submission page: [MalVax 2027 Abstract Submissions](#)

**34. What are you looking for in an abstract?**

The Scientific Conference Committee are looking for abstracts that present current, in-motion science — not just polished, completed studies. Early-stage findings, novel methodologies, unexpected or null results, and work that challenges existing assumptions are all welcome. We especially want to hear from researchers who aren't already well-known names in this field. You can find all the details in the “Call for Abstracts” section of the [MalVax website](#).

**35. How will abstracts be reviewed, and what criteria matter?**

The Scientific Conference Committee will follow a grading rubric to evaluate abstract submissions considering the following: scientific quality, innovation and contribution, and diversity. Scientific quality considers elements such as a clear research question, appropriate study design, sound methodology, and conclusions supported by credible data. Innovation and contribution consider whether the abstract generates new evidence, addresses an important knowledge gap, and contributes to malaria vaccine development, delivery, policy, strategy, equity, or access. To ensure the conference programme represents diverse perspectives and topics, the SCC will also consider how abstracts cover the range of vaccine types and stages of the vaccine lifecycle, different geographies, and feature new, or early-career research talent.

**36. When will I know if my abstract submission has been accepted?**

All eligible abstracts submitted ahead of the 7 September 2026 deadline will be reviewed by the Scientific Conference Committee during the last three weeks of September. We aim to send notifications by mid-October 2026.

**37. Can I use AI tools to help write my abstract?**

We do not prohibit the use of AI tools when preparing your abstract, but we do ask that the science, the analysis, and the ideas are your own. We ask that authors confirm the abstract represents their own original work and judgment.

**38. If I am applying for travel support, must I register and pay the registration fee?**

You do not need to register to apply for travel support. Some may wait to register for the conference until after the outcome of a travel support application is known. However, we are asking all registrants to self-pay the registration fee. Tiered pricing has been set to ensure registration fees are not a barrier to participation.

**39. Will you refund my registration fee if I have to cancel my participation?**

Refunds for a registration fee will be provided only if the request reaches us with sufficient advance notice. As such, no refunds for registration will be granted after Sunday, 20 December 2026. Please direct your request to [conference@malvax.org](mailto:conference@malvax.org).

**40. If I've registered and have not been granted travel support, will my registration fee be refunded?**

See the response above, as the deadline for refund requests will be the same.

**41. Is there a reduced registration fee for LMIC-based researchers or students?**

Yes, the pricing of conference registration falls under the following categories:

- Low-and middle-income country (LMIC) student/ Post-doc: \$50
- LMIC professional: \$150
- Standard student/ Post-doc: \$150
- Standard Professional: \$400

**42. What are the key dates for the conference (abstract deadline, travel support deadline, registration deadline)?**

Please be sure to visit the [MalVax website](#) for information on the conference timeline and ensure you have completed the [Engagement Contact Form](#) to receive our newsletter updates about the conference and the MalVax Alliance in general. The abstract submission deadline is 7 September 2026. Registrations will likely close by mid-November.