

Malaria Vaccine Alliance (MalVax Alliance) Advisory Group

Guiding the establishment of a new Alliance for next-generation malaria vaccines

Terms of Reference

1. Background

Recent consultations¹ across the malaria vaccine community have highlighted persistent challenges slowing the development of improved vaccines, such as fragmented coordination, inconsistent clinical trial designs, limited comparability of data, and uncertainty around regulatory pathways. Stakeholders agreed that a neutral mechanism could help improve community alignment, strengthen collaboration and help guide the next phase of malaria vaccine innovation.

Building on this momentum, funding has now been secured to establish a **Malaria Vaccine Alliance** (or “MalVax Alliance”) in 2026. To steer this work over the coming months, a small **Executive Committee**² (or “ExCom”), supported by Bridges to Development will lead the design of an inclusive, community-driven Alliance and an **Advisory Group** (“MalVax Advisory Group” or “MalVax AG”) will serve as a ‘sounding board’, providing regular input and guidance for consideration by the ExCom to support early priority setting and governance design. This arrangement will be in place until a more permanent governance structure is installed in early 2027.

2. Purpose

The MalVax AG is established as an **interim advisory body** to provide expert advice, insights and recommendations to support the design, setup, and early operationalization of the new MalVax Alliance. Until a more permanent governance structure is appointed in early 2027, the MalVax AG provides strategic input on behalf of the broader malaria vaccine community to the MalVax ExCom who holds decision-making authority.

3. Objectives

The MalVax AG seeks to ensure that the Alliance is built through a **transparent and inclusive process** reflecting the needs of stakeholders across research, industry, funders, regulatory bodies, endemic country institutions, and policy organizations.

During this initial phase of design (May to February 2027), the MalVax AG will have the following objectives:

- 2.1. Provide strategic guidance:** Review and advise on the draft vision, strategy, value proposition, performance metrics, and operational model of the new partnership.
- 2.2. Support governance design:** Guide the development of its governance architecture, including leadership, membership categories, roles, and decision-making processes.

¹ See notes from 2024 and 2025 Stakeholder Engagement Meetings held at ASTMH.

² MalVax Executive Committee members: Simon Draper, Melissa Penny, Katharine Collins

- 2.3. Guide setup and agreed outputs of initial technical Working Groups (WGs):** Including topics for initial Working Groups (WGs), validate TORs, and support transparent processes to select WG Leads and membership.
- 2.4. Support planning and provide advice for an inaugural scientific conference³:** Provide inputs on objectives, program priorities, and structure; and support community engagement.

4. Deliverables

During its term, the MalVax AG will contribute to the following expected deliverables for final decision by the MalVax ExCom:

- Endorsed strategy, vision and metrics of the new Alliance;
- Governance design and final TORs for a permanent “MalVax Steering Committee”;
- Validated TORs for the initial set of technical WGs;
- Communication and advocacy efforts supporting a MalVax Alliance launch event;
- Design of its inaugural scientific conference;
- Recommendations for phase 2 hosting arrangements.

5. Membership and term

The MalVax AG will consist of no more than 15 members, selected through a mix of direct invitations and expressions of interest. The member selection will help ensure:

- Representation (as far as possible) from diverse stakeholders involved in the R&D of malaria vaccines - research, industry, funders, policy bodies, and WHO/regulatory agencies.
- Demonstrated interest in the initiative – having either actively engaged in discussions to date or expressing interest in contributing.
- At least 2 members from malaria-endemic countries.
- Gender balance.
- A mix of expertise including scientific, programmatic, and alliance/governance.

The role of a MalVax AG member will require approximately 4 hours per month. MalVax AG members are expected to serve from May to early 2027 in a voluntary capacity, with a possible extension if needed before the installation of a more permanent Steering Committee (or decision-making governing body).

Members are expected to participate in the AG’s activities and may not delegate their role or participation to another individual within their organisation. Consistent participation, as far as reasonably possible, is expected. Repeat non-attendance may result in a request for the member to step down and for a replacement to be appointed.

³ We currently expect this objective to be addressed by a separate Working Group or sub-committee mandated to support the scientific planning and organization of this event.

6. Leadership

The MalVax AG will be led by two Co-Chairs, who also serve as two of three ExCom members. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for:

- Convening and chairing meetings, ensuring balanced discussion and championing inclusive participation in all MalVax AG deliberations.
- Approving agendas and documentation of all proceedings.
- Representing the MalVax AG externally, where appropriate.

7. Meetings

Starting in May 2026, the MalVax AG will meet at least monthly or more frequently as needed. These will be conducted virtually (via Teams). All reasonable efforts will be made to schedule these in advance when most members are available. Meetings will be recorded and duly documented for absent members. A collaborative space for meeting notes and other document sharing will be provided.

8. Support

The MalVax AG will receive secretariat and coordination support from Bridges to Development. This will include setting the agenda in advance with the Co-Chairs, ensuring meeting materials are shared in advance, and preparing meeting notes and documentation to support the tracking of discussions and follow-up actions.

9. Confidentiality

MalVax AG members may have access to sensitive information during the establishment of the Alliance and are expected to treat all discussions, draft materials, and internal documents as confidential unless explicitly designated for wider sharing. Members are expected to participate respectfully, contribute constructively, and support an inclusive process that values diverse perspectives and approaches to malaria vaccine development.