
Preface

The *Plasmodium* spp. parasite was identified as the causative agent of malaria in 1880, and the mosquito was identified as the vector in 1897. Despite subsequent efforts focused on the epidemiology, cell biology, immunology, molecular biology, and clinical manifestations of malaria and the *Plasmodium* parasite, there is still no licensed vaccine for the prevention of malaria. Physical barriers (bed nets, window screens) and chemical prevention methods (insecticides and mosquito repellents) intended to interfere with the transmission of the disease are not highly effective, and the profile of resistance of the parasite to chemoprophylactic and chemotherapeutic agents is increasing.

The dawn of the new millennium has seen a resurgence of interest in the disease by government and philanthropic organizations, but we are still faced with complexities of the parasite, the host, and the vector, and the interactions among them. *Malaria Methods and Protocols* offers a comprehensive collection of protocols describing conventional and state-of-the-art techniques for the study of malaria, as well as associated theory and potential problems, written by experts in the field. The major themes reflected here include assessing the risk of infection and severity of disease, laboratory models, diagnosis and typing, molecular biology techniques, immunological techniques, cell biology techniques, and field applications.

The contributors and I hope that this manual will assist researchers at all stages of their careers in carrying out high caliber research to address the difficult problems with which we are faced. I express my deepest gratitude to all the many authors who have contributed to *Malaria Methods and Protocols*, without whose efforts this volume would not have been possible, and to my husband and friends for their support and understanding.

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