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NEWSLETTER



A publication of the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases, N°021, First Quarter, January-March 2026

DEBATE

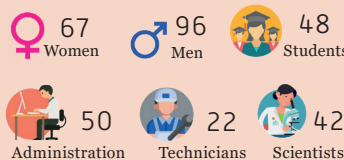
Women scientists: in-between barriers and urgent needs



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As part of the International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations, CRID hosted a dynamic debate on March 5, 2026, under the theme "Accelerating Action: Women Scientists, Protecting Life, and Collective Responsibility." The event featured a distinguished panel including Dr. Basile Kamgang, Senior Research Scientist; Dum-Buo Nnamdi, Social Scientist; Dr. Nelly Tatchou; and Dr. Aurélie Yougang, both researchers. Dr. Kemleu Sylvie, Medical Biologist at the Centre Pasteur du Cameroun, served as the special guest. Panellists openly discussed the real-world challenges women scientists face in balancing demanding professional careers with marital life and pregnancy. They stressed the critical role of faith and self-confidence in navigating these demands, shared candid personal stories, and celebrated the essential contributions of women to scientific progress. The conversation also underscored the urgent need to boost female representation in leadership roles.

OUR STATISTICS



COLLABORATION

bCUBE team engages with NMCP on project phase 2



The two parties agreed starting with a pilot phase during which six priority health districts will be chosen in five regions before rolling out the technology nationwide.

Wednesday, 25th March 2026. CRID welcomed a high-level delegation from the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), led by its Permanent Secretary Dr. Zeh Meka. The objective was to strategize the deployment of a new innovative malaria surveillance kit, the bCUBE molecular platform. Dr. Arnel Tedjou, Project Coordinator, provided an overview of Phase 2 of the project. He highlighted the bCUBE as a solution capable of generating data within one to two days compared to standard methods that typically take 6 to 24 months. Its internal software has been tailored for automatic data interpretation, ensuring the reliability of data and minimizing human bias. Coupled with VectorCam, a rapid, customizable, AI-based, and affordable tool for morphological identification of malaria vectors, the bCUBE platform stands as a powerful means to accelerate malaria elimination in our country.

Discussions with NMCP members focused on establishing an initial deployment plan of the technology in the six pilot districts under the coordination of regional staff of the Ministry of Public Health, and the co-supervision of the NMCP Permanent Secretary and Professor Charles Wondji, Executive Director of CRID, Principal Investigator (PI) of the project. This collaboration between CRID and NMCP is a step towards decentralized, real-time malaria surveillance, for rapid policy responses for vector control. This could be the beginning of a new era in Cameroon's malaria elimination, from reactive to proactive vector control strategies.

ACHIEVEMENT

Knowledge Exchange (KE) Unit launched at CRID



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PROJECT

In-country RAFT results dissemination workshop held in Yaoundé



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**VECTORS DON'T WAIT!
NEITHER CAN WE!**

**PAMCA KENYA
2026 ANNUAL MEETING**



SEPTEMBER 1 - 3, 2026

KCB LEADERSHIP CENTRE, NAIROBI, KENYA

ALL PAMCA members, Chapters, industry partners & friends are invited

It's coming home!

More details including abstract submission, sponsorship opportunities, will follow shortly



DEFENSE

Tatiane Assatse Matakafo earns Ph.D degree

Tatiane Assatse M., a former Research Assistant at CRID, successfully defended her doctoral thesis on January 16, 2026, at the Faculty of Science, University of Yaoundé I. Her research examined the "Molecular bases of resistance to neonicotinoids in *Anopheles funestus* s.l. and *Anopheles gambiae* s.l., major malaria vectors in Africa." Under the leadership of Prof. Flobert Njiokou, the jury praised the depth and quality of her work, which involved extensive fieldwork across several African countries and included detailed transcriptomic analyses. In her recommendations, Dr. Assatse Matakafo called for the responsible and regulated application of neonicotinoids in both public-health and agricultural settings to help prevent the further development of insecticide resistance. The jury awarded her the Highest Distinction for her outstanding contribution.



Tagne Djoko Simeon Carlos successfully defends Ph.D. Thesis

He defended his doctoral thesis on February 20, 2026, in the Department of Biochemistry at the Faculty of Science, University of Bamenda, in North-West Cameroon. His study, titled "Genetic diversity, functional validation and cis-regulatory elements of Cytochrome P450 CYP9K1 in resistance to pyrethroid insecticide in the malaria vector *Anopheles funestus*," was conducted as part of a project funded by Gates Foundation. The research spanned 36 months and was co-supervised by Prof. Mbouobda Hermann Desire of the University of Bamenda and Prof. Wondji Charles of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) in the United Kingdom. The jury awarded him the "Highest Distinction."



Another success: Nelly M. Tchatchoua Tatchou completes Doctoral Studies

On February 24, 2026, Nelly Manuela Tchatchoua Tatchou successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Science, University of Buea. Her research, titled "Validation of the Role of CYP6P4a and CYP6P4b Genes in Insecticide Resistance in the Major African Malaria Vector *Anopheles funestus*, using Functional Genomics," was co-supervised by Prof. Ghogomu Stephen of the University of Buea and Prof Wondji Charles of LSTM. The jury was highly impressed by the quality of her work and commended her eloquence and deep mastery of the subject. "I wish to extend my profound appreciation to Prof Charles Wondji for his supervision and guidance during this Ph.D. journey, and to the CRID staff for their invaluable support," said Dr. Tchatchoua Tatchou.



COLLABORATION

IVCC team for a 4-day visit

Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) delegation strengthens collaboration with CRID.



On February 4, 2026, Dr Renaud Govoetchan, Field Entomologist and Dr Janneke Snetselaar, Senior Technical Manager from IVCC conducted a 4-day visit at CRID Cameroon. They were welcomed by Executive Director Prof Charles Wondji and CRID major scientists. The visit started with a presentation of Prof Wondji

on CRID's research and various ongoing projects, followed by a tour of the insectary and a visit to the Elende field station, where researchers assess the impact of insecticide resistance on the effectiveness of vector control tools. The following days, the IVCC team visited the Mangoum field station in the West region.

Meeting with Cameroon's NMCP.

IVCC delegation met with Dr Zeh Meka, Permanent Secretary of the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), and Dr Tabue Raymond, Head of the Vector Control Unit. During an

hour, they discussed how the NMCP can strengthen vector control innovation, particularly in the current context of global funding cuts. Dr Janneke, technical lead for IVCC's ITN portfolio, underlined the importance of strong partnerships with national programmes and spoke about the importance of introducing novel active ingredients on bed nets. Dr Zeh Meka highlighted the challenge of limited data for evidence based decision making, adding that Cameroon currently relies mainly on bed nets and must adopt new tools and strategies to advance toward malaria elimination.



New avenues of collaboration

On February 23, 2026, CRID welcomed Dr. Avelin Aghokeng from Institut de Recherche sur le Développement (IRD) France and Armando Djiyou, an early-career scientist. Their visit focused on exploring potential areas of collaboration in viral infections, with an emphasis on drug resistance and public health.

Dr. Aghokeng is a member of the Infectious Diseases and Vectors: Ecology, Genetics, Evolution, and Control (MIVEGEC) unit of IRD France. Following their discussions with CRID researchers, the visitors toured the institute's laboratory and insectary, which they described as "amazing."

EVENT

Action beyond the health sector for malaria elimination

In February 2026, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), in collaboration with Impact Santé Afrique (ISA), organized a two-day workshop in Yaoundé. The meeting focused on reviewing Cameroon's Sectoral Guide for malaria control, specifically designed for non-health sector ministries. Representing CRID, Prof. Cyrille Ndo, Head of the Parasitology and Microbiology Department, participated in the workshop alongside experts from OCEAC and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Launching of the Roll Back Malaria project

Mvolye, Yaoundé. Health sector stakeholders from across Cameroon gathered at the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon for the official launch of the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) project. The initiative was led by the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Cameroon Chapter. A key highlight of the event was an update on the current status of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) in Cameroon, presented by Dr. Jessy Goupeyou Youmsi, Global Advocacy Lead at CRID. She reaffirmed the institution's strong commitment to advancing malaria control efforts through evidence-based advocacy and active community engagement.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Fruitful genomics training

The International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research - Enhancing Malaria Epidemiology Research through Genomics & Translational Systems biology (ICEMR-EMERGENTS) project launched an 11-day intensive genomics training program at CRID on January 19, 2026. The workshop centered on Nanopore Amplicon Sequencing and Molecular Inversion Probe for Plasmodium Analyses. Participants came from CRID itself, the "Centre Pasteur du Cameroun" (CPC), the University of Dschang in Cameroon, and Nigeria's Institute of Genomics and Global Health. This mix of institutions fostered a rich, collaborative learning atmosphere. The training was conducted by Jacob Sadler of the University of North Carolina and Karamoko Niare of Brown University, both based in the United States. Sessions ran through January 30, 2026. At the

closing ceremony, CRID Executive Director and project Co-Principal Investigator Prof Charles Wondji highlighted the importance of turning the newly acquired skills into real-world results. "Ensure these two weeks translate into tangible impact at your home institutions," he urged participants. "We must deploy these insights effectively to establish robust surveillance systems and track resistance" he added. Prof Wondji also praised the group's commitment and dedication, underscoring the broader value of this specialized expertise.

All 16 trainees received official certificates. Far from marking an end, the event represented a major milestone in creating a connected network of African scientists ready to drive forward malaria research and strengthen public health responses across the region.



Induction of Ph.D students on HPLC operation

In January 2026, CRID organized a hands-on induction program dedicated to the operation of the High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) instrument. The training was led by Williams Sakam, Research Technician and official HPLC operator at CRID. The session brought together three Ph.D. students and two interns from CRID. Participants received practical training on the instrument's hardware and software, including parameter configuration, method development, sequence programming, and single-run execution. They also gained essential troubleshooting skills, enabling them to operate the HPLC system confidently and independently. This initiative is part of Aim 3 of the AVecGen Project. The main objective of this aim is to strengthen CRID's functional genomics platform for the validation and in-depth characterization of genes and genetic variants of interest.



Health workers capacitated in Garoua-Boulai

CRID researchers conducted a training of healthcare and community health workers at the Garoua-Boulai Health District, East Region of Cameroon, under the Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) Reader pilot project funded by Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). This project is implemented in collaboration with the Cameroon National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP).



The aim of this was to assess and improve the accuracy of malaria RDT reporting by comparing routinely reported results with independently verified outcomes through manual re-reading of used RDT cassettes and digital image analysis using the HealthPulse TestNow™ application. Through this initiative, CRID is also contributing to health system strengthening by building the capacity of Healthcare Workers (HCWs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) on proper RDT use, interpretation, storage, documentation, and reporting in line with national guidelines.

ACHIEVEMENT

Knowledge Exchange (KE) Unit launched at CRID

It is official ! CRID has launched its Knowledge Exchange (KE) Unit. It is a strategic milestone to improve the real-world impact of its research beyond laboratory. The launch followed a two-day capacity-building workshop from 9–10 March 2026, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in the frame of the Wellcome Institutional Funding for Research Culture (IFRC), a consortium programme of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) and four partner institutions among which CRID. The workshop brought together 20 participants, among which CRID KE Unit members and various senior researchers and Project Managers.

After the workshop, internal consultations took place from 11–13 March



2026 with CRID researchers. These individual sessions identified key research outputs from ongoing projects that are ready to be shared and defined how the new Knowledge Exchange team will actively support researchers in these efforts. The activities were facilitated and monitored by Chloe Brooks, Knowledge Exchange Specialist and Post-Doctoral Researcher IFRC Pro-

gramme at LSTM, based at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme. The newly created KE Unit will be led and supported by the following members: Dr. Jessy Goupeyou, Global Advocacy and KE Unit Lead, Mrs. Edith Tiogo, Focal Point, Dr. Tene Billy, Research Scientist, Dum-Buo Nnamdi, Social Scientist, and William Tadam Tadam, Communication Member.

First field activity in Mbandjock.

On Tuesday, 24 March 2026, above 60 attendees took part in a stakeholders's engagement meeting in Mbandjock, Centre Region of Cameroon. Among them were health district leaders and regional coordinators, community health workers, association leaders, re-

ligious figure, and local residents.

The activity opened with inspiring words from Mr. Elono Enama Sylvain, Head of Mbandjock Health District, who urged active participation from everyone. On behalf of KE Unit, Dr. Jessy Goupeyou, Global Advocacy and KE Unit Lead, shared the unit's bold vision. The sessions were interactive. Dum-Buo Nnamdi, Social Scientist and KE Unit member, dove into community perceptions. Dr. Billy Tene, Senior Researcher and member of the Unit, turned the room into a lively classroom as attendees learned to confidently distinguish the main mosquitoes genus and identify anopheles at adult and larvae stages. CRID's Knowledge Exchange Unit is just getting started!

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding training success

On February 3, CRID organized an Introduction to Safeguarding training session for 17 new staff members from various projects. The session was facilitated by designated safeguarding Lead, Ngala Nadege. It provided a clear overview of what safeguarding means in a research setting. Primarily ensuring that all activities “do no harm” to children, vulnerable adults, research participants, and

local communities. Key topics covered included the different types of risks such Gender-based violence (GBV), neglect, and bullying. Participants explored their individual responsibilities to identify concerns and report them promptly to the Safeguarding Lead, Human Resources, or line managers. The training also featured interactive real-life scenarios, for example, how to handle rumors of colleague

misconduct. Attendees were reminded of the available reporting channels: the dedicated email safeguarding@crid-cam.net or anonymous submissions via the suggestion boxes. This essential training equips the new team members with the knowledge and tools needed to help build a safer, more inclusive, and respectful working environment at CRID.



PROJECT

Training of data collectors launched for ICARS-funded AMR study



A specialized training session for data collectors was held on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Faculty of Education of the University of Yaoundé I, as part of the ICARS-funded project titled “Preventing the Spread of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) from Wastewater through Urban Agriculture in Cameroon.”

This capacity-building initiative marks a key step in the implementation of the project’s psychosocial and community-

based research component. The training, which spanned three days and is followed by a pilot phase, aims to ensure high-quality and scientifically robust data collection in the field.

The session was officially opened by Prof. Boungnom Blaise, Principal Investigator of the ICARS project and jointly led with Prof. Ngamaleu Henri Rodrigue, social psychologist, coordinator of the community component. Six research assistants—selected based on their experience in field surveys, familiarity with AMR-related issues, and balanced gender representation—attended the training. As data collectors they will be responsible for gathering information from key stakeholder groups, including urban farmers, vegetable vendors, consumers, community influencers, and institutional actors.

In-country RAFT results dissemination workshop held in Yaoundé



March 19th, 2026. CRID successfully hosted the Resilience Against Future Threats (RAFT) Results Dissemination Workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon. In fact, the RAFT project is a major six-year initiative funded by United Kingdom (UK) International Development during this period, the RAFT team generated evidence to strengthen vector control strategies, addressed the growing challenge of insecticide resistance in

malaria vectors, and enhanced preparedness for emerging mosquito-borne threats in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and South East Asia (SEA). The workshop brought together key national stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Public Health, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) and the Department for the Fight Against Diseases, Epidemics, and Pandemics (DLMEP), as well as several major partners involved in malaria and vector-borne disease surveillance and control. This national gathering marked an important milestone in translating six years of collaborative research into actionable insights to strengthen Cameroon’s public health preparedness and response.

STAFF UPDATES

ARRIVALS



1. Nanda Milan, Data Manager
2. Essomba Eyenga Joseph, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
3. Mbeuku Kuetche Henri Joel, Driver
4. Ami Bienvenu, Research Assistant
5. Ebuja Gallus Fung, Research Assistant
6. Alo'o Nguema Nathan Dilane, PhD Student

DEPARTURES



1. Ntyame Ebo Etoua Angéla Audrey, Finance Officer
2. Bessala Cédric Gabriel, PhD Student
3. Awoufack-Djouatsa Merveille, Student

SCIENTIFICS PUBLICATIONS

Sylvère Kezeta-Bondja, Charles S Wondji, Ramsés Djidjou-Demasse. *Optimizing insecticide deployment strategies to delay quantitative resistance in mosquito populations.* J Math Biol. 2026 Feb 23;92(3):37. doi: 10.1007/s00285-026-02343-z. PMID: 41724886; PMCID: PMC12926253. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41724886/>

Jonas A. Kengne-Ouafo, Mersimine F. M. Kouamo, Abdullahi Muhammad, Arnaud Tapa, Stevia Ntadoun, Leon M. J. Mugenzi, Theofelix Tekoh, Jack Hearn Magellan Tchouakui, [...] and Charles S. Wondji. *The E205D mutation in CYP6P3 drives pyrethroid insecticide resistance in the African malaria mosquito vector*

Anopheles gambiae. Science Translational Medicine, Vol 18, Issue 835, 4 Feb 2026. DOI: [10.1126/scitranslmed.ad06222](https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.ad06222)

Hervé Raoul Tazokong, Magellan Tchouakui, Murielle Wondji, Onana Boyomo & Charles Sinclair Wondji. *Four-year monitoring of the malaria vector Anopheles funestus in central-west Cameroon reveals an escalation of pyrethroid resistance combined with high malaria transmission.* BMC Infectious Diseases [January 2026]. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-026-12708-w>

Mahamat Gadjji, Jonas A. Kengne-Ouafo, Magellan Tchouakui, Murielle J. Wondji, Leon M. J. Mugenzi, Jack Hearn, Boyomo Onana, Charles S. Wondji. *PoolSeq Genome-Wide Association Studies and*

Microbial Signature Analyses Identify Novel Candidates Associated With Pyrethroid Resistance Evolution in Anopheles funestus in Cameroon. Molecular Ecology, First published: 05 January 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.70220>.

Ambrose Oruni, Benjamin D. Menze, Yvan G. Fotso-Toguem, Vanessa B. Ngannang-Fezeu, Riccardo F. Thiomela, Magellan Tchouakui, Jack Hearn, Jonathan Kayondo & Charles S. Wondji. *Chlorfenapyr bednets effectively overcome pyrethroid resistance escalation in highly resistant Anopheles malaria vectors in Uganda.* Scientific Reports volume 16, Article number: 4292 [02 January 2026]. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-34493-3>