

# **S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub> Public Lecture Series**

## ***Assessing the sterile insect technique for malaria mosquitoes in a South African setting***

**Speaker:** Prof. Lizette Koekemoer  
Vector Control Reference Laboratory;  
Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical and Hospital Infections,  
National Institute for Communicable Diseases

**On:** Wednesday, 5 September 2012

**At:** 17h15 (to 18h15)

**Venue:** Sci-Enza, Main Campus, University of Pretoria  
(Note: Please use the Prospect Street entrance. See  
<http://s2a3.up.ac.za/directions.php> for directions and a map.)

As part of the implementation of its business plan, the Nuclear Technologies in Medicine and the Biosciences Initiative (NTEMBI) has embarked on a project to assess the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) against malaria mosquitoes in South Africa. The project has been designed for the next five years and is being implemented by a consortium of South African Institutions including Necsa, the Vector Control Reference Laboratory of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and the Medical Research Council's Malaria Research Unit. The project has attracted the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

The current project is being implemented in two phases:

Phase 1: The pre-feasibility phase of the project – this is defined as the establishment and successful rearing and mating compatibility demonstration of local genetic sexing strains (GSS);

Phase 2: The feasibility study –field trials in two selected sites.

The ultimate goal will be to establish an industrial scale mass rearing facility where appropriate GSS strains will be produced and sterilized in sufficient numbers to support larger scale area-wide SIT field programmes in malaria infected areas in our country and continent.

The lecture will provide a short description of the project as well as results obtained thus far on entomological aspects including mating compatibility studies, irradiation of mosquitoes and the establishment of a local Genetic Sexing Strains.



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