

Infectious Diseases Labs

ID LABS

ID LABS SEMINAR SERIES

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Prof Photini Sinnis

Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute

Join zoom meeting <u>here</u> Meeting ID: 928 5878 9112 Passcode: 615641

Wednesday, 23rd March 2022 8am to 9am (SGT)



Webinar is open to all No registration required

The Establishment of Malaria Infection: Parasite Bottleneck and Point for Intervention

Malaria is initiated when mosquitoes inoculate motile sporozoites into the dermis as they search for blood. This 'skin phase' of infection is the longest period of time the parasite is extracellular in the mammalian host and thus, a point of vulnerability. I will discuss our recent findings on sporozoite movement through the dermis, the transmission dynamics of sporozoites, and new findings on a functional role of the sporozoite's major surface protein.

Prof. Sinnis is a professor of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute. Her research focuses on the early stages of malaria infection as well as transmission of these stages by infected mosquitoes. Using classic biochemistry, mutational analysis, intravital imaging and a panel of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays, the Sinnis laboratory aims to elucidate the molecular interactions between the parasite and its mosquito and mammalian hosts, and to leverage this knowledge to make better vaccines.