

Celebrating World Malaria Day 2018 with photos by Pearl Gan

To coincide with World Malaria Day, the Seeing Malaria Asia Pacific Project, by Singaporean photographer Pearl Gan, photo-documents the 'faces' of malaria; from the journey of those suffering from malaria, to the patients, their immediate families and the community care providers.

From this project, conducted over the past two years, Pearl came to see that people who live with malaria in the Asia-Pacific are among the least visible and isolated of the world. She wanted to give them their rightful place and voice through this project and exhibition. This was in collaboration with Professor Kevin Baird, a clinical epidemiologist at Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam.

"We hope that the collection of photographs will raise awareness of the malaria burden suffered by the inhabitants of these remote communities. It is important to help people across the world to see into these isolated and impoverished communities in Asia Pacific, and that this new "visibility" will help boost efforts to reduce the suffering." - Pearl Gan

This photography project was supported by OUCRU, Wellcome and the Eijkman Oxford Clinical Research Unit.

Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam (OUCRU)

OUCRU carries out research to help improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases. The researchers have a particular focus on the most significant infectious diseases in Vietnam, including dengue, TB and malaria.

OUCRU aims to promote better understanding and communication of science and health issues in the social, cultural and historical context of communities. The OUCRU public engagement team aims to bring the local communities together with the scientists by involving them in the research, and by improving understanding of the public's motivations and perceptions. Initiatives such as science theatre productions and media writing generate dialogue and help to develop appreciation of value and need for scientific research.

Pearl Gan

Pearl Gan is a Singaporean photographer. She spent most of her adult years in

Australia and completed her postgraduate studies at Murdoch University. Pearl majored in English Literature. Her photographs are mainly documentary and portraiture style. Pearl based her photographic art on her eye for composition and what she sees in her daily life both at home and abroad. She enjoys travelling and talking to the communities she photographs; learning about their culture and listening to their stories.

One of her photographs in this Malaria project had won the third prize in the "Care Together" category in the Swiss Malaria Photography Contest in April 2017 and was exhibited in Geneva, Switzerland.

Her article "Picturing Health : Making Malaria Visible in the Asia Pacific" was also published in "The Lancet" in February 2017 along with a ten-page photo spread. This achievement had pushed the awareness for her Malaria project to new heights.

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