

MALVAX+

Lay Summary

Malaria is the world's most prevalent parasitic disease, and represents a severe threat to persons living in the poorest regions of the globe, as well as to those travelling to those areas. An effective vaccine remains central to answering the United Nations call to "an end to the malaria epidemics". Immunization with live, attenuated malaria parasites, termed whole-sporozoite (Wsp) vaccination, offers the greatest hope for protection against this disease. A novel Wsp vaccination approach, based on genetically modified rodent malaria parasites was recently validated in the clinic, with very promising results. However, despite its huge potential, this vaccine needs to be further refined to maximize its efficacy and scope of action. We will employ an innovative set of genetic modifications to generate and preclinically validate new vaccine candidates against the two deadliest human-infective *Plasmodium* species, and deliver the most promising candidates, ready for clinical development.