Snakebite

Snakebite is a potentially life-threatening neglected tropical disease (NTD) that is responsible for immense suffering among some 5.8 billion people who are at risk of encountering a venomous snake.

Survivors of untreated envenoming may be left with amputation, blindness, mental health issues, and other forms of disability that severely affect their productivity. Most victims are agricultural workers and children in the poorest parts of Africa and Asia. The economic cost of treating snakebite envenoming is unimaginable in most communities, and puts families and communities at risk of economic peril just to pay for treatment.

The world produces less than half of the antivenom it needs, and this only covers 57% of the world’s species of venomous snake. Barriers to treatment are driven by challenges plaguing antivenom production and use, characterized by a 19th century technology, which continues to have high manufacturing costs and remain unaffordable and inaccessible to the poorest people who are most in need. Moreover, multi-venom treatments commonly used in Africa and India have weak, unreliable effectiveness against the venom of any single snake species and may even have harmful side effects, such as anaphylactic shock.

In 2019 with £9 million of funding from the UK government through the Department for International Development (DFID) through March 2021

SRPNTS LAUNCHED

In 2019 with £9 million of funding from the UK government through the Department for International Development (DFID) through March 2021

SRPNTS

The Scientific Research Partnership for Neglected Tropical Snakebite (SRPNTS), a consortium of partners in five countries, constitutes a significant investment in snakebite therapy research. SRPNTS aims to treat critical illness from snake venom in sub-Saharan Africa and India - regions with the highest snakebite morbidity and mortality burden.

Funded through a generous grant from the UK government through the Department for International Development (DFID), SRPNTS seeks to develop novel next generation snakebite therapies (NGSTs) with unparalleled efficacy, safety, and affordability to reduce morbidity and mortality of venomous snakebite.

“The DFID grant is a unique opportunity that will usher in new snake antivenom therapies, applying state-of-the-art science in advanced immunology and monoclonal antibody and recombinant protein technology.”

Prof. Abdulrazag G. Habib,
Bayoro University, Nigeria
The Centre for Snakebite Research & Interventions

For 50 years, the Centre for Snakebite Research & Interventions at LSTM (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine) has conducted a diverse portfolio of research activity to better understand the biology of snake venoms and use this information to improve the efficacy, safety, and affordability of antivenom treatment of tropical snakebite victims.

Partner organisations, K-SRIC (Kenya Snakebite Research and Intervention Centre) and N-SRIC (Nigeria Snakebite Research and Intervention Centre), undertake multi-disciplinary research and clinical activities leading to better diagnosis and therapies for snakebite, while working towards community-based model intervention systems with the primary goal of saving the lives and limbs of those afflicted with snakebite.

The Indian Institute of Science

India’s leading institution of advanced education and research in the sciences and engineering.

Our Partners

K-SRIC

A non-profit scientific research organization. Their mission is to translate scientific discoveries into affordable, globally accessible public health solutions.

Scripps Research

Scripps Research advances scientific understanding, educates the scientists of tomorrow, and impacts human health across the globe. They are science changing life.

Our Donor

"UK AID can make a real difference"

"UK aid has invested in research to identify the complex antibodies needed to develop affordable, accessible, effective treatments. This is a fantastic example of how UK aid can make a real difference in the world."

UK International Development Secretary, May 16, 2019

Medically Important Snakes

The world’s biggest hidden health crisis

Snakebite.

Both a consequence and cause of tropical poverty.