



GLOBAL SCHISTOSOMIASIS ALLIANCE

*Working Together To Eliminate
Schistosomiasis*

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Year 2024 Marks GSA 10 Year Anniversary

Initial landscape

In 2012 stakeholders sign the London declarations on NTDs. Merck commits 250 million tablets a year. Who is working where and on what?

Why GSA?

A convening platform for collaboration and communication among stakeholders involved in schistosomiasis control and elimination.

In 2014

GSA started with 10 founding partners – 3 working groups, roughly 40 individuals

Now 2024

GSA has 23 partner organisations, over 300 individual members in working groups, and a wide network of stakeholders.

Our Vision, Mission and Approach

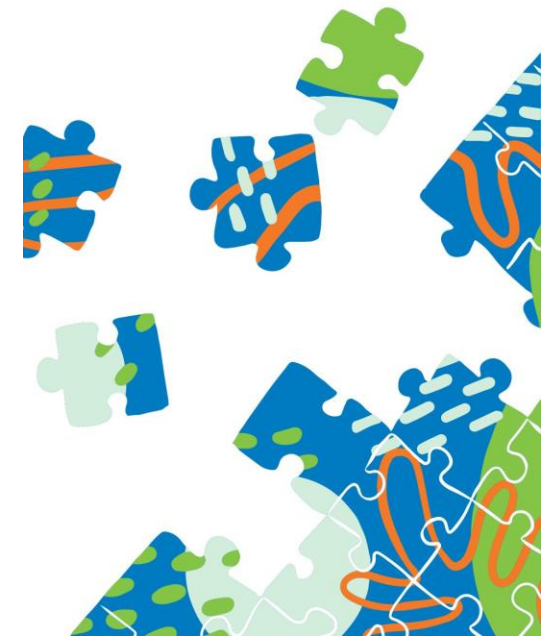
Vision - Elimination of schistosomiasis.

Mission - To be the leading advocate for schistosomiasis elimination.

Approach - To lead and coordinate a multi-stakeholder platform consisting of public and private sector partners across the globe, contributing to schistosomiasis elimination as a public health problem and the ultimate goal of sustained interruption of transmission.



GSA Priority Strategic Objectives



GSA Focus Areas For 2022-2025

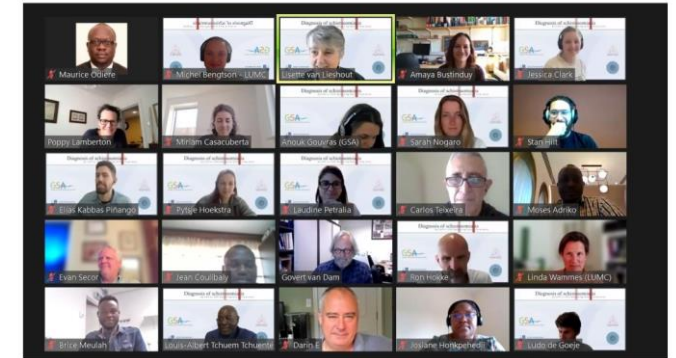
Focus areas	Actions
Resources, Capabilities & Knowledge Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote, support and strengthen schistosomiasis technical and operational capabilities.
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and strengthen ways to measure progress and evaluate interventions. Enable learn & adapt approaches to current and future challenges. Meet verification/validation requirements for schistosomiasis elimination as a public health problem and interruption of transmission.
Integrated solutions to schistosomiasis elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance practices and improve the quality of services, promoting targeted, context & evidence driven interventions, including preventive chemotherapy, snail control and environmental management, WASH, behaviour change communication and health education and cross-sector collaborative interventions.
Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development and adoption of diagnostics to support M&E for MDA, test & treat. surveillance and to facilitate the integration of SCH into all levels of the health system.
Innovation, Integration & Cross-cutting action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote basic, clinical & operational research, to engage with innovations and novel tools from different sector. Encourage collaborative research to facilitate cross-cutting and cross-sector approaches for sustainable elimination of schistosomiasis.

- ▶ Guided by :
 - ▶ 7 Advisory Board
 - ▶ 23 Partners
 - ▶ 21 GSA Ambassadors
 - ▶ 15 Working Group Chairs
 - ▶ Consult with WHO and ESPEN.



Working Together To Eliminate Schistosomiasis

- ▶ Strengthen knowledge sharing and capabilities development
- ▶ Collaborations across stakeholders leveraging working groups and interest groups.
- ▶ Use:
 - ▶ Online meetings
 - ▶ In person sessions & workshops
 - ▶ Digital systems to facilitate collaboration and sharing findings, proposals, protocols, and manuals.
- ▶ Ethos of forum, community of practice & network



Working Together – Working Groups

Behaviour Change and Health Education Working Group

- 29 members
- Chairs Willemijn Zaadnoordijk and Naomi Caplan.

Diagnostics Working Group

- 57 members
- Chairs Jean Coulibaly and Pytsje Hoekstra-Mevius.

Engineering Working Group

- 31 members
- Chairs May Sule and Giulio De Leo.

Implementation working group

- 18 members
- Chairs Anna Phillips and Upendo Mwingira.

Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

- 43 members
- Chairs Khadime Sylla and Stella Kepha.

Research Working Group

- 31 members
- Chairs Justin Komgueb and Derick Osakunor.

Snail Vector Working group

- 99 members
- Chairs Fiona Allan, Tom Pennance and Martina Laidemitt.



Working Together – Interest Groups

- ▶ **Genital Schistosomiasis Community of Practice (175 members)** - researchers and healthcare professionals
- ▶ **Early Career Researchers Network** – in progress. Led by ECR Steering Committee with chair Omosefe Osinoiki
- ▶ Working groups and interest groups have their own communication set up with dedicated email address and shared folder.

Schistosomiasis Early Career Researchers Questionnaire

Number of respondents: 101
 English survey: 89
 French survey: 12

Language	First	Second
English	88	78
French	11*	16
Portuguese	1	2
Spanish	1	3
Kiswahili	0	2

*Three selected French with no other language

Career stage	Number
Junior faculty	8
PhD candidate or other student	51
Post-doctoral - research fellow	13

Country ^a	Repondants
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Cameroun	5
Cote D'Ivoire	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3
Denmark	1
Equatorial Guinea	1
Ethiopia	1
Germany	5
Ghana	2
Italy	2
Kenya	6
Madagascar	6
Netherlands	1
Nigeria	50
Rwanda	3
South Africa	1
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Tanzania	1
	2
	3
	5



Early Career Researchers online café

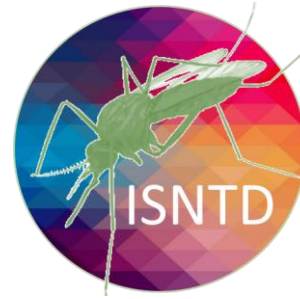
- **Purpose of ECR online café** : an informal online meeting with Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to discuss ideas of what the GSA could do to support ECRs working on schistosomiasis.
- **Objectives:** Identify challenges and needs of ECRs, and ideas of potential support that the GSA could take forward.

27 July 2023



Collaborations beyond GSA groups

- ▶ GSA Collaborates with a number of networks and groups:
- ▶ International Society for NTDs – collaborators on webinars
- ▶ NTD NGO Network - support SCH-STH DSG & collaborate with the WASH WG
- ▶ FGS Integration Group - Sexual and Reproductive Health sector
- ▶ And less formal collaborations as and when needed: COR NTD, LUMC, BILGENSA, Wellcome Trust, African Ministers Council on Water, World Bladder Cancer Patient Coalition, UK Health Security Agency, School Meals Coalition.
- ▶ AND we are excited about working with RNAS+

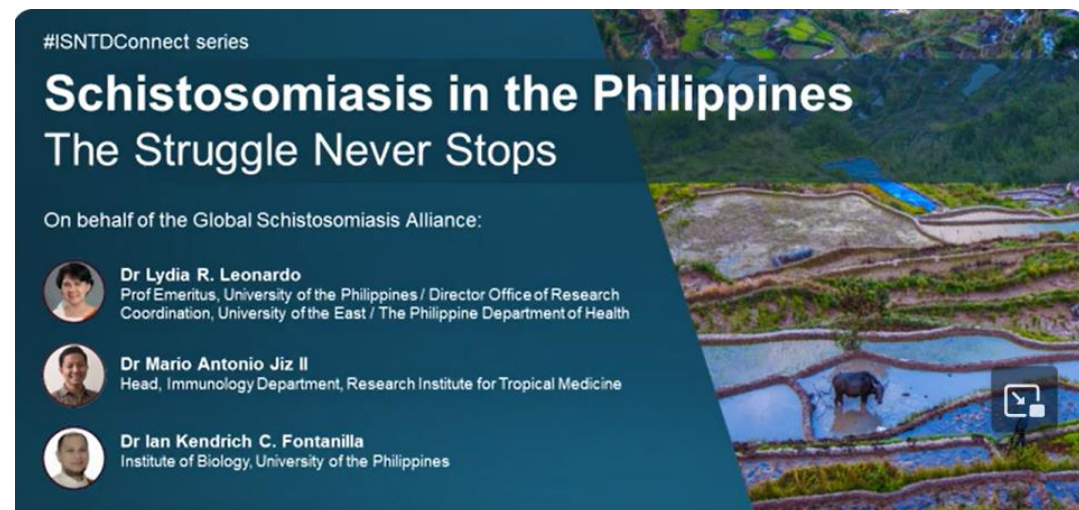


[FIG] TOGETHER TO END FEMALE GENITAL SCHISTOSOMIASIS



A platform and network for schistosomiasis

- ▶ Newsletters (763 mailing list):
 - ▶ Schisto Bulletin (3-4 a year)
 - ▶ Schistosomiasis Research Update (5-7 a year)
 - ▶ Special announcements to mailing list: (3 special announcements 2023)
- ▶ Social Media:
 - ▶ X/Twitter (4,609 followers)
 - ▶ LinkedIn (1,433)
- ▶ Webinars with ISNTD – over 20 webinars since 2020
- ▶ Webinars and meetings with other partners (Gates Foundation, FIG, NNN, COR NTD, BILGENSA, NIPD, LUMC, Kikundi)



What is the GSA newsletter?

- ▶ A subscription-based mailing list. We use MailChimp. Email based –direct to inbox.
- ▶ Newsletter contains short summaries of news from schisto community. Each short summary has a link where you can find out more.
- ▶ Two newsletters:
 - ▶ Schisto Bulletin – regular with general Schisto news.
 - ▶ Research Update – frequent, targeted for researchers (grants, training, conferences etc).
- ▶ Newsletters are in English and French.
- ▶ We need to think about geographical reach. Solutions welcome!
- ▶ Example – June Research Update.

GSA website – One-Stop-Shop for Schisto

Communication piece on commercially available diagnostic tests

05 APR 2021

The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance Diagnostic Workstream has a communications piece listing all commercially available diagnostic tests for schistosomiasis.

English | [Communication piece on available diagnostics 09.04.2021](#)

Español | [Pieza de comunicación pruebas diagnóstico disponibles 09.04.2021](#)

Português | [Peça de comunicação diagnósticos disponíveis 05.04.2021](#)

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Genomic DNA extraction from freshwater snail tissues

Protocol modified from original description in Winnepeninckx et al. (1993) Trends in Genetics 9(12): 407. DOI: [10.1016/0168-9525\(93\)90102-n](https://doi.org/10.1016/0168-9525(93)90102-n)

This protocol (version 2) has been adapted by Kaitlin Bonner (STFU), Stephanie Bollmann (OSU), Coenraad Adema (UNM), Lijun Lu (UNM) and Tom Pennance (WU), and reviewed by other members of the [GSA Snail Vectors working group](#). This protocol is to help researchers working with freshwater gastropods related to the transmission of schistosomes, and particularly those looking at extracting high quality intact DNA

TEACHER TOOLKIT



Teacher Toolkits for Schistosomiasis

of urogenital, and mixed-schistosomiasis kits for Prevention, Treatment of schistosomiasis in schools.

LUMC SOPs | Collection of sample material for molecular diagnosis (PCR) of parasites

04 JUN 2024

Standard Operating Procedures* for the collection of human samples for molecular diagnosis of parasites.

Shared courtesy of GSA partner Leiden Clinical Parasitology Group, Department of Parasitology; Leiden University Medical Center; The Netherlands

Brazil Standard Operation Procedures

15 NOV 2023

FIOCRUZ

Standard Operation Procedures* for the identification of *Biomphalaria* snails, infectivity and infection status of *Biomphalaria* snails.

Shared courtesy of GSA partner FIOCRUZ

FIOCRUZ has shared the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) used by the National Reference Service for Schistosomiasis in Brazil:

- Biological Identification of *Biomphalaria Molluscs*
- A Extraction from Biological Samples by Wizard Kit
- Molecular Identification of *Biomphalaria Molluscs*
- Activity Test of *Biomphalaria* Collected in the Field
- Biomphalaria* sp. Infectivity Test Flowchart
- Activity Test of *Biomphalaria Molluscs* by LS PCR

WHO Resources

08 MAY 2024

WHO | Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2024

The Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2024 depicts encouraging advancements in the battle against NTDs. It highlights key challenges, ranging from a slow post-COVID-19 recovery to funding uncertainties, from geopolitical disruptions to climate change, from

13 MAR 2024

ESPEN | Practical and Precision Assessments Manual

This manual describes the Schistosomiasis Practical and Precision Assessment (SPPA) methodology for schistosomiasis impact assessments.

WHO / ESPEN Tool Kits and Guides

22 FEB 2024

WHO report | Climate change and elimination

36th meeting of the International Task Force for Disease Eradication = 36e réunion du Groupe spécial international pour l'éradication des maladies

World Health Organization Report

22 December 2023

WHO WER9851 | Schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiases: progress report, 2022

WHO Weekly epidemiological record on Schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminthiases: progress report, 2022

WHO Report

25 NOV 2023

WHO | Control, elimination, and eradication efforts for neglected tropical diseases

Ending disease in Africa: control, elimination, and eradication efforts for neglected tropical diseases, scoping review of the literature in the WHO African Region since 1990.

WHO AFRO

11 DEC 2023

WHO priorities | R&D of age-appropriate medicines for treatment of NTDs

WHO releases first ever list of priority paediatric formulations for five NTDs to target research and development in addressing the specific needs of infants and children: human African trypanosomiasis, onchocerciasis, scabies, schistosomiasis, visceral leishmaniasis.

GSA website – One-Stop-Shop for Schisto



All Resources

Here is your one-stop-shop for resources on schistosomiasis.

This is a searchable collection of resources. You can search this collection by:

- using a **keyword** (e.g. WHO, research, snails)
- choosing from a dropdown menu list of themed **Tags** (Implementation, Behaviour Change, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation etc)
- choosing from a dropdown menu list of **Resource type** (e.g. toolkits & guides, research article, strategy document, video etc)

And you can refine your search by Year.

We hope you find this useful. If you have any suggestions for useful resources that should be on this list please contact us by email: anouk.gouvras@eliminateschisto.org

Keywords

From

-Year ▾

To

-Year ▾

Tags

- Any - ▾

Resource type

- Any - ▾

Source

- Any - ▾

Search

Reset



A platform and network for schistosomiasis

- ▶ Next steps - Increase accessibility
- ▶ Diversify language use (French in progress, Portuguese, other captions & interpretation).
- ▶ Exploring other platforms (e.g. Telegram).
- ▶ Need to consider how to expand our reach to wider geographical regions.

Act Now. Act Together.
Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases



GSA | World NTD Day 2023 - Act now. Act Together. Invest in NTDs.

GSA Online Network and Directory

Find schistosomiasis experts!

Engage with the GSA

GSA Online Network and Directory

Do you work on schistosomiasis?

Becoming a member of the GSA's Online Network means joining a community of like-minded people working on the control and elimination of schistosomiasis. By registering you will have access to a GSA directory of schistosomiasis experts. Please register to become a member of network on the right.

Remember that to receive our updates and news from the schistosomiasis community you need to also [sign up here to receive our emails!](#)

Join us

Want to be on this list?

[Register for membership](#)

Already a member?

[Log in](#)

Search

Area of interest

- Any -

I am based in:

- Any -

GSA group

- Any -

I am working in these countries:

- Any -

WHO region

- Any -

[Search](#)

[Clear all](#)



Working Together To Eliminate Schistosomiasis

Find out more:

www.eliminatesthisto.org

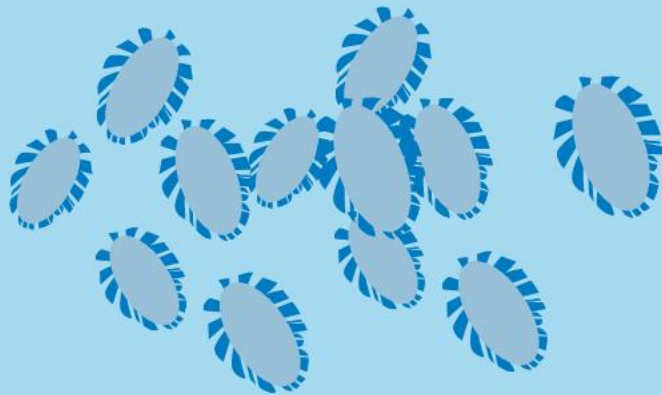
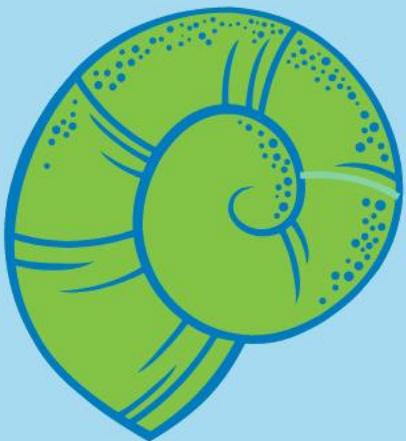
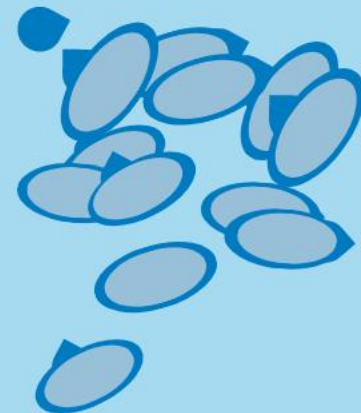
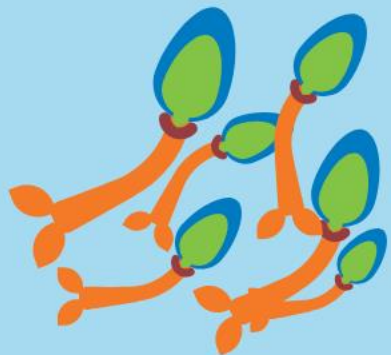


Thank you to GSA
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Thank you to all the
chairs, members and
collaborators working
with us!

Thank you for your
time and attention
today!





GSA
GLOBAL SCHISTOSOMIASIS ALLIANCE