

Nigel Hill (1961 – 2010)

It is with great sorrow that we report the death on 5 January 2010 of the medical entomologist, Dr Nigel Hill. Head of the Disease Control and Vector Biology Unit at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Nigel worked on a wide range of insect pests, primarily mosquitoes which for a period of time he researched with the late Professor Chris Curtis. Both he and Chris were pioneers of appropriate technology in controlling insect pests and vectors, and both will be remembered for their contribution to this field.

Nigel gained his first degree by part-time study at the University of East London where I had the pleasure of teaching him. At the time he was working as a research technician in the Entomology Department at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He rose through the ranks and gained his doctorate, always being cognisant of the need for appropriate and relevant methods of vector control and disease prevention. He was also an exponent of the use of techniques that cause minimum environmental impact and subject people to minimal exposure of chemical insecticides. An advocate of integrated pest control, he was always aware of the need to evaluate the full range of available methods and combine them appropriately.

He is best known for his work with Chris Curtis promoting the use of impregnated bednets to protect against malaria-transmitting mosquitoes. He also researched house dust mites and later in his career turned to the control of head lice, demonstrating insecticide resistance and the merit of mechanical removal using purpose designed combs combined with wet hair treated with proprietary conditioner.

Nigel maintained a high regard for scientific rigour and had a great gift for teaching. He will be sorely missed by his students, his colleagues and, most especially, his wife, Theresa, and his children, Rebecca and Jack.

Keith Snow

A few selected publications:

- Cameron, M.M. & Hill, N. (2002) Permethrin-impregnated mattress liners: a novel and effective intervention against house dust mites (Acari: Pyroglyphidae). *Journal of Medical Entomology* 39, 755-62.
- Harris, A.F., Matias-Arnez, A. & Hill, N. (2005) Biting time of *Anopheles darlingi* in the Bolivian Amazon and implications for control of malaria. *Transactions of the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 100, 45-7.
- Hill, N., Moor, G., Cameron, M.M., Butlin, A., Preston, S., Williamson, M.S., Bass, C. (2005) Single blind, randomised, comparative study of the Bug Buster kit and over the counter pediculicide treatments against head lice in the United Kingdom. *British Medical Journal* 331(7513), 384-7.
- Hill, N., Lenglet, A., Arnéz, A.M. & Carneiro, I. (2007) Plant based insect repellent and insecticide treated bed nets to protect against malaria in areas of early evening biting vectors: double blind randomised placebo controlled clinical trial in the Bolivian Amazon. *British Medical Journal* 335 (7628):1023.
- Moore, S.J., Davies, C.R., Hill, N. & Cameron, M.M. (2007) Are mosquitoes diverted from repellent-using individuals to non-users? Results of a field study in Bolivia. *Tropical Medicine and International Health* 12, 532-9.
- Moore, S.J., Hill, N., Ruiz, C. & Cameron, M.M. (2007) Field evaluation of traditionally used plant-based insect repellents and fumigants against the malaria vector *Anopheles darlingi* in Riberalta, Bolivian Amazon. *Journal of Medical Entomology* 44, 624-30.