



<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Artificial diet complemented with a Human blood factor – Ref <sup>a</sup> . OPP1138841
<b>BRIEF DESCRIPTION</b>	Recently, we identified a human peptide in blood that induces the initiation of oogenesis in <i>Anopheles</i> mosquitoes. Injections and oral administration of this peptide trigger oogenesis in vivo, normally a blocking factor when using artificial diets. We propose that supplementing artificial blood meals with human peptides and therefore guarantee a controlled and stable supply of mosquitoes without the need of blood.
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	To obtain an alternative to blood meal, with similar success on mosquito oogenesis and reproduction.
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	We have tested several human blood peptides to characterise their ability to trigger oogenesis and reproduction. We tested the efficacy of diet supplementation with peptide using standard artificial membrane feeding assays and the sustainability for breeding of captive mosquito populations.
<b>FUNDING AGENCY</b>	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
<b>DURATION</b>	2015 - 2017
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR</b>	Henrique Silveira (GHTM/IHMT)
<b>RESEARCH TEAM / INSTITUTION</b>	Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical/Global Health and Tropical Medicine, Portugal: Joana Marques, Ana Catarina Alves;  Centre of Marine Sciences, University of Algarve, Portugal: João Cardoso, Rute Felix, Deborah Powere;