

"Iron, Malaria, and the Brain"

Thursday, July 25, 2013, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. United States Eastern Time

Presenter: Chandy John, MD, MS, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Director of the Division of Global Pediatrics, University of Minnesota

Chandy John, M.D., M.S., is Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine and Director of the Division of Global Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. Dr. John holds the Marguerite Dugger, Ed.D., and James Dugger, M.D., Endowed Professorship in Pediatrics. Dr. John joined the faculty at University of Minnesota in 2005, where he established the Division of Global Pediatrics, the first division of Pediatrics devoted to global child health in the United States. He and Dr. Cynthia Howard created the University of Minnesota pediatric global health track for pediatric and medicine-pediatrics residents, which pioneered new developments in global child health education, including the first competency-based curriculum in global child health.

Dr. John's research focuses on malaria epidemiology and immunology and the interactions between infection, nutrition and child neurodevelopment. He has had NIH-funded research studies and training grants in Kenya since 1999 and Uganda since 2003. Dr. John served as an appointed member of the Clinical Research and Field Studies study section of the National Institutes of Health, and has served on numerous other study sections and review boards. Dr. John is the author of 85 peer-reviewed research publications and 24 book chapters. He was awarded the Bailey K. Ashford Medal from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 2011 for his contributions to tropical medicine research.

ABSTRACT: Malaria and iron deficiency are common health problems in children living in sub-Saharan Africa, and both can lead to neurobehavioral and cognitive impairment in children. Treatment of iron deficiency can put a child at greater risk of malaria. How do we treat iron deficiency without increasing the risk of malaria?