

About Biocentis

Biocentis a recently launched biotech start up that aims to develop genetically modified insects to fight vector-borne diseases (other than malaria) and control agricultural pests.

They have licensed a patent (*Gene drive targeting female doublesex splicing in arthropods – WO2019243840A1*) from Imperial College London that was based upon research performed at Imperial by members of the Target Malaria consortium as part of their work to develop a promising new genetically modified gene drive mosquito to control malaria transmission in Africa.

The patent is held by Imperial College because it is the legal entity where the work was conducted.

Biocentis's objective is to determine whether these advances might also be relevant for the development of tools to control other insect pests.

These other pests will require different control measures than malaria mosquitoes, but it is possible that some component of the Target Malaria work, in a different configuration, may be useful in these other contexts.

The license to Biocentis excludes work on malaria control.

Several researchers from Imperial College London that formerly were part of Target Malaria have joined Biocentis and are working full time for the company.

No Biocentis employee has any continuing role as part of the Target Malaria team.

Target Malaria has no affiliation with Biocentis and will not profit financially from its future work.

Biocentis does not receive any funding through Target Malaria for support of its staff, lab space or equipment.