

AnoSpEx: A Spatially-Explicit Predictive Computational Model for Studying *Anopheles* Metapopulation Dynamics towards Malaria Control

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A PhD THESIS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES, SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

2012

CERTIFICATION

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DECLARATION

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this PhD thesis to the living God who helped me to succeed; to my late grandfather, Pa. A.O.E Falako; and to my aunt, Mrs. Nike Aduloju.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely appreciate God Almighty for granting me the gift of life to successfully complete the writing of this PhD thesis. I thank Him for his protection, guidance, presence, wisdom, knowledge, might, strength, understanding and blessings.

I sincerely appreciate the great contributions of my supervisors Prof. Ezekiel Adebisi and Dr. Jason Rasgon of whom, out of their great wealth of experience, I have been endowed with the required knowledge for the success of this PhD programme. I appreciate their supervision, kindness, understanding and patience.

I thank the United States Government, especially the Fulbright Scholarship Board (FSB) and the Institute of International Education (IIE) of the United States, for believing in me and awarding me a Scholarship to conduct my PhD research in the United States of America. I thank Dr. Jason L. Rasgon, an Associate Professor in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA for accepting me into his laboratory to conduct my PhD research. Furthermore, I also wish to thank my research colleagues in Rasgon's laboratory, especially Ben Blumberg, Guodong Niu, Ping Xue, Xiaxia Ren, Hitoshi, Song, Katie and Kyle for their friendship and various supports.

I thank Dr. Tao Xie, an Associate Professor, in the Department of Computer Science, North Carolina State University, USA for the mentoring role he extended towards me through the online mentornet program. I also thank him for taking time to visit me

during my PhD research work at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA.

My immeasurable gratitude goes to the family of Mrs. Adenike Aduloju for her support and instruction from my undergraduate days at the University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. I want to use this opportunity to thank Prof. C.K Ayo for his support during the early stage of my academic career.

I also wish to use this opportunity to extend my thanks to those who took time to ask after my welfare during my study period in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

I like to thank and appreciate the Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Aize Obayan, and the Management of Covenant University, Nigeria.

Finally, my genuine friends and well wishers, I appreciate you all. God bless you.

Olugbenga O. Oluwagbemi

August, 2012

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABM – Agent-Based Model

AnoSpEx: *Anopheles* Spatially-Explicit

CD_t : Cumulative Development of *Anopheles*

CDC: Center for Disease Control

CBT: Cattle Baited Trap

CIMSiM : Container inhabiting Mosquitoes Simulation Model

GUI: Graphical User Interface

HLC: Human Land Catch

ITNs: Insecticide Treated Nets

IRS: Indoor Residual Spraying

RH_0 : Development rate per hour at 25°C assuming no temperature inactivation of the critical enzyme (hr^{-1})

DHA: Enthalpy of activation of the reaction catalyzed by the enzyme (cal/mol)

DHH: Enthalpy change associated with high temperature inactivation of the enzyme (cal/mol)

R: Universal gas constant

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ABSTRACT

Human malaria is one of the most important public health problems in many African countries, associated with high rates of mortality and morbidity. The disease presents a spectrum of complications ranging from mild and self-limiting illness to life threatening pathology. Malaria incidence has increased in Africa due to climate change, insecticide and drug resistance, and social/economic issues. As an infectious disease, malaria is most commonly transmitted through the bite of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Thus, one of the most effective methods to control the disease is by controlling the *Anopheles* mosquito vectors that transmit the parasites. Along this line, we developed a C++ based, stochastic spatially-explicit predictive computational model, which is biologically rich, weather data-driven, and parameterized by field data, to simulate *Anopheles* metapopulation dynamics towards understanding and validating the seasonal dynamics of this vector. This is aimed at providing a potential tool towards achieving the reduction and suppression of this vector. It is also to provide insight into effective, efficient and novel control strategies that can help achieve greater control of malaria. Understanding the seasonal dynamics of *Anopheles* mosquitoes would provide better platform for improving traditional and novel control interventions at suppressing and reducing the spread of malaria. Results produced by the model from several simulations were validated with real-life CDC light trap, CBT and HLC (Human Landing Catch) *Anopheles* mosquitoes field trap collection data from Macha, Zambia. The resulting model was shown to be a good, effective and potential tool for malaria control.

