### June—July 2010

# U.T.O.L UPDATE

Current Situation of Malaria in the Philippines





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Malaria is a serious mosquito-borne disease that has already been eradicated from North America, Europe and Russia, but still prevalent in Africa, Central and South America, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia including the Philippines. Experts estimate that one to three million people die from malaria every year and that more than 500 million people are affected by it.

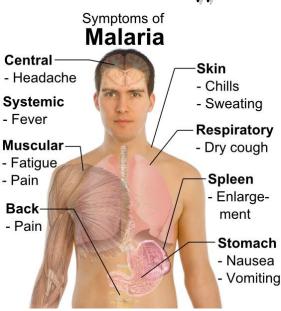
Malaria is still a major health problem in the Philippines although the number of reported cases has been decreasing since 1990. The improvement can be attributed to the anti-malarial program of the government that has been receiving support from international agencies.

Most malaria cases in the country occur in rural areas and especially in forested, swampy, hilly and mountainous regions—the preferred habitat of the Anopheles mosquito that transmits the parasite.

The parasite that causes malaria is a protozoon (i.e., a single-celled organism) that belongs to the genus plasmodium. There are four known species of this genus that cause disease and all of them are present in the Philippines.

The malaria parasite needs both mosquitoes and humans to complete its life cycle. A female mosquito becomes infected when it sucks blood from an infected human. The parasite then develops within the mosquito to a form that is infective to humans. Thereafter, the parasite is transmitted to humans that the mosquito bites.

In humans, the parasites are carried by bloodstream into the liver where they invade liver cells, develop further and multiply.



The liver cells eventually swell and burst, which releases the parasites into the bloodstream where they invade red blood cells, feed on the protein in the blood cells, multiply some more and develop further. In 48 to 72 hours the parasite-containing red blood cell ruptures and releases the form of the parasite that is infective to mosquitoes.

Malaria patients sooner or later develop anemia, but more dreadful and sometimes fatal complications of the disease such as kidney and liver failure, and cerebral malaria occasionally occur.

The risk that a tourist will contract malaria in the Philippines is low especially if he doesn't stray out of urban areas. Nevertheless, additional protection that a course of antimalarial prophylaxis can offer will certainly be welcome.

> By: Eduardo Gonzales, MD http://www.mb.com.ph

## U.T.O.L UPDATE

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

#### Phil 4:6

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Ps 9:10

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

| Cor12:12



# **UTOL MEDICAL CLINIC**

UTOL MEDICAL FOUNDATION in cooperation with RADIANCE OF CHRIST MINISTRIES, INTERNATIONAL will soon open its Medical and Dental Clinic. Situated on 9th Avenue, Cubao, the clinic looks forward to catering not only to members of Radiance but to people who would like to avail of a "complete" check-up.





Doctors were invited to listen to the plan of UTOL MEDICAL FOUNDATION CLINIC in Cubao, Quezon City

UTOL President, Dr. Manuel Sta. Romana and UTOL Mission Director, Dr. Evelyn Cortez, invited 15 to 20 doctors last July 9 to present the plan of the Medical and Dental Clinic and to get their feedbacks for the upcoming clinic opening. Among the doctors who attended were Dr. Z. Arroyo, Dr. R. Sarmiento, Dr. Ted Baldonado, Dr. Madge Gealone, Dr. Tom Jacildo,



Dr. Baebs Legaspi, Dr. Bing Lao, Dr. Grace Banta, Dr. Lisa Basco, Dr. Maryann Yu,

Dr. Amy Sta. Romana and many more.









- The UTOL Medical Clinic -

WATCH OUT FOR THE DATE WHEN UTOL MEDICAL CLINIC SEES ITS FIRST PATIENTS. Furthermore, please pray for the management and board of UTOL as they finalized the list of doctors who are committing to be part of this project.