



The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

October 2018

Also available at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

October Meeting

Friday, October 26, 2018, 6:30pm

The Dolan Law Firm, 1438 Market Street, SF 94102

SHRINKING THE WORLD MALARIA MAP: 1900-2040

Professor Sir Richard Feachem, FN¹⁶, K.B.E., Ph.D., DSc(Med), FEng, Hon FFPH, HonDEng, HonMD

Malaria is one of the oldest diseases of human kind and may have killed more members of our species than any other disease over the past 300,000 years. Back in 1900, with a very few exceptions, every country in the world had endemic malaria, including parts of Russia north of the Arctic Circle. From that time, there has been a steady process of malaria elimination country-by-country; a process which we call Shrinking the Malaria Map. It generally proceeds from north to south in the northern hemisphere and from south to north in the southern hemisphere. Today, we face a

situation where half of all countries in the world have eliminated malaria and the other half are working towards this goal.

Sir Richard will present a colorful account of the process of shrinking the malaria map up to the present day and the collective ambition to eradicate malaria completely by 2040, with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific Region. Sir Richard will make reference to the geopolitical and military dimensions of malaria control and elimination and tell some fascinating stories, including Roosevelt's Rough Riders and the Battle of Megiddo.



Professor Sir Richard Feachem is Director of the Global Health Group at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Institute for Global Health Sciences and Professor of Global Health at both UCSF and the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a Visiting Professor at London University and an Honorary Professor at the University of Queensland.

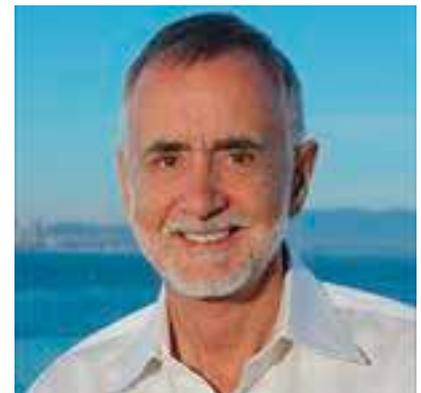
From 2002 to 2007, Sir Richard served as founding Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Under Secretary General of the United Nations. From 1995 until 1999, Dr. Feachem was Director for Health, Nutrition and Population at the World Bank. Previously (1989-1995), he was Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Professor Feachem served as Chairman of the Foundation Council of the Global Forum for Health Research; Treasurer of the Inter-

national AIDS Vaccine Initiative; Council Member of Voluntary Service Overseas; and on numerous other boards and committees. Professor Feachem serves as Chair of the Lancet Commission on Malaria Eradication. He has also served on the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, the Commission on HIV and Governance in Africa, the Commission on Investing in Health, and numerous other boards and committees. He has published extensively on epidemiology, public health and health policy.

Professor Feachem holds a Doctor of Science in Medicine from the University of London, and a PhD in Environmental Health from the University of New South Wales. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering by the University of Birmingham and an Honorary Doctorate in Medicine by the University of Queensland. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Col-

lege of Physicians and of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and a member of the US National Academy of Medicine. Among other honors, Sir Richard was awarded the Sir Frank Whittle Medal by the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Richard T. Hewitt Award by the Royal Society of Medicine. Sir Richard was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2007.



Friday September 21 Meeting

THE MITES THAT LIVE AROUND OUR FACE Michelle Trautwein, PhD, California Academy of Science Photos provided by the speaker (unless otherwise noted)

Dr. Michelle Trautwein's talk in September introduced us to face mites, a subject that wasn't really known about not so long ago. Face mites are tiny arthropods that live in the hair follicles and pores of humans! That is, they are exoskeletons, just like lobsters and crabs, with 8 legs and with a body that sometimes looks, under a microscope, like a worm-shaped blob with tiny legs that can hardly be seen. Trautwein's research began with flies, then evolved when she learned about face mites. She began to study them by gathering samples from a volunteer population and studying the mite's DNA.

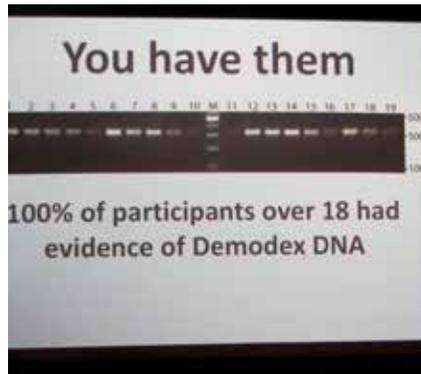


Face mite sizes are on the order of a micron, so they can only be detected and photographed or videoed using an electron microscope. But all that gives you is a picture. How to describe it? Shapes vary. Studying their DNA is a rigorous approach that Dr. Trautwein has found to be workable.

Found on most but not all humans, face mites live in hair follicles and pores on the hairy parts of the face, and they exhibit their own characteristic DNAs, just like all living creatures. It is that characteristic DNA that provides researchers with the means to analyze their origins, specifically when and in what part of the world they evolved.

It has been shown that certain face mites correlate with specific racial and/or cultural groups, and that they tend to congregate in 'families'. Populations of humans that tend to stick together will all have face mites that exhibit the same DNA. There is sharing of

face mites between people in close contact. The geographical distribution of the DNA of face mites becomes supporting data for the study of the routes of migration of the humans on which they live. The face mites that we inherited from our ancestors could tell us about our own evolutionary history.



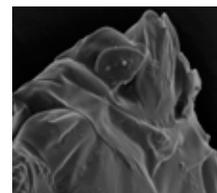
Face mites are studied by trapping them on swabs, then dissolving them for a chemical analysis to get the DNA. Once that has happened, the DNA from individuals can be studied and categorized. So far about 150 different species of Face Mite have been described, swabbed from people around the world. It is the analysis of the mite DNA taken off volunteers around the world that has resulted in some recognition of the DNAs from different parts of the world.



Demodex folliculorum is one of eight species of mite that have, so far, been shown to live in association with humans and other mammals around the world. About 150 species of mite have been identified so far in the world, but scientists suggest that there could be thousands of different mite species, with specific groups of species found on specific animals.



Trautwein showed a video of a face mite not unlike the worm-like illustration included here. The mite on the video had little legs and appeared to be 'giving birth' to an offspring. She suggested that such mites had a sex life, with females hanging around a pore and males "cruising around". . An interesting concept.



In answer to questions the following was suggested: face mites probably eat dead skin; and face mites have about a 2-3week life span. What happens to the face mite when the human dies was perhaps one question too far..... AJ

Below are some of the 45 attendees who learned about face mites.



Wendy Crowder, Allan Nichols



Vice Chair Lesley Ewing, Ann Bessey



Keith Kvenvolden, Art Ford

Von Hurson



Allan Nichols, Bob Schmieder

Von Hurson



Anders Jepsen, Joy Durighello, Barbara Berg, Tom Patterson, Paul Freitas

Von Hurson



Chair Steve Smith, Speaker Michelle Trautwein

PAID DUES HONOR ROLL

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Amaral, Julia
Beer, Michael
Berg, Barbara
Bekins, Joan
Blake, Rick
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Cheeseman, Ted
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Day, Peggy
Dehmel, Rick
Diggle, Mike
Dolan, Daniel
Dolan, Tom
Durbin, Thom
Dutcher, Susan
Dvorak, Don
Dvorak, Elaine
Dyal, Palmer
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Art
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Graber, David
Griffith, Jerry
Hemming, Peter
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Hicks, Harry
Higgins, Robert
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Isherwood, William
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Klein, Ronald
Klotz, Suzanne
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
LeBonte, Alison
Lidicker, William Jr.
Lingl, Herb
Macbeth, Pierre de St. J.
Mason, William
McMillan, Peter H.
Meniketti, Marco
Miller, Gregory
Nichols, Alan
Prigoff, James
Rygh, Rebecca L.
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Robert
Skade, William
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Tarter, Jill
Von der Porten, Ed
Wagner, Hugo
Weil, James
Whiteside, Dede
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Barnes, James
Boothe, Barry
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Cooper, William Scott Jr.
Crowder, Wendy
Durighello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Engstrom, Dafne
Gorenberg, Pete
Heyneman, Louise
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Judd, Kathy
Kidd, Joe
Langan, Karine
Loew, Tim
Longo-Cohn, Mary
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Phelps, Laura
Saber, Aldeana
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark

FROM THE CHAIR

Our attendees agree - our new dinner lecture season is off to a great start. During our last meeting, Dr. Michelle Trautwein, from the California Academy of Sciences entertained and informed us with her descriptions of the arthropod species that live on each of us – our very own face mites. It was fascinating (and a bit unnerving) to learn that they have been with us for a very long time and that their genetics can even bring insight to the migration patterns of early humans. Michelle finds these bugs lovable; I'm not sure I would go that far, but I will agree that they are intriguing. Thank you Michelle for sharing your research and your enthusiasm!

Soon after our last dinner meeting your Board of Directors gathered to discuss Chapter operations and planning. Many topics were covered. I'm pleased to report that, driven by Board member Paul Freitas, our new roster is nearing finalization. The roster will be provided to dues paying chapter members and Sirdars. It will also be made available only in printed form. Although that may feel 'retro', your Board believes that this will lessen the opportunity for distribution of its contents to entities outside the chapter. Other items discussed included our planning for a number of field trips this season, possible development of 'outreach' programs, and our desire to develop the capability to produce video of our meetings. Our call for assistance in these areas is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lastly, on a personal note, some of us took part in a Stanford study of the drug Diamox this month. Over three days in the White Mountain range (just north of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest) we tested the implications of dose timing of this drug for the lessening of altitude sickness. Diamox (acetazolamide) is commonly used by high-altitude climbers. At the end of the study, a few of us successfully made the summit of White Mountain (14,252 ft., 3rd highest in California). It's a fairly arduous non-technical hike to the peak, but I recommend it. The Stanford study repeats next year, consider signing up.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the 26th. Get your reservations in early! Once again, please note the special phone number included in this newsletter. If you are late to a meeting it may be your only chance to gain entrance.

Stephen E. Smith FN'96

URBAN ART PART 2

10-Story-high Wall Mural of Johnny Cash
16th and L, east side of Residence Inn
Sacramento, California
Artist: Shepard Fairey; 2018,

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, our most senior Chapter Member, Jim Prigoff, MN'67, has spent the last few decades exploring the world with his camera, focussing on what used to be called graffiti and is now called Urban Art. This art form has evolved from gang-related turf statements to shapes and signals on buildings and vehicles to building-sized spray paint wall creations; and the artists have gotten world wide recognition. This one of Johnny Cash is seen on the route that passes near to Folsom Prison, the subject of one of his songs.. Jim has amassed thousands of photos of the best of this art form, and has allowed me to include one in each of the last two newsletters. I'm hoping that you enjoy them as much as I do. AJ



Jim Prigoff

ON TO HIGHER EXPLORATIONS

We are sorry to report that we have lost yet another long-time member of our chapter. We have only just learned that **Peter Overmire, FN'84** passed away in January of this year. Peter was extensively involved in mountain climbing and led trips all over the world including climbs of sacred mountains in Tibet that included meetings with the Dali Lama. We send our condolences to his family. Peter will be missed by all of us. SS

October 2018 Issue
Northern California Chapter
 Established 1973



Officers and Team

Chair: Stephen Smith
 Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing
 Secretary: Yvonne Hurson
 Treasurer: Joan Boothe
 Newsletter: Anders Jepsen
 Webmaster: Mike Diggles

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Directors (Past Chairs)

Joan Boothe
 Lesley Ewing
 Lee Langan
 Anders Jepsen
 Alan Nichols
 Bob Schmieder
 Rick Saber
 Stephen Smith

Elected Directors

Jim Hurson
 Sandra Cook
 Paul Freitas

New Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

chair@explorersnorca.org (Stephen E. Smith, FN'96)
 vicechair@explorersnorca.org (Lesley C. Ewing, FN'93)
 treasurer@explorersnorca.org (Joan N. Boothe, MN'07)
 secretary@explorersnorca.org (Yvonne Hurson, MN'10)
 newsletter@explorersnorca.org (Anders F. Jepsen, FN'03)
 webmaster@explorersnorca.org (Michael F. Diggles, FN'92)
 fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org (Richard G. Blake, FN'01)

Late arrival phone number for Monthly meeting at the Dolan Law Center. The door will be locked and unattended after 7:15 p.m.
 Chapter Phone: 415.236.3459 (for message or locked door entry).

Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
 925-934-1051(messages only)
 ecnca@oceaneearth.org
 Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
 lesleycoastal@gmail.com
 Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
 Trekking@sonic.net
 Treasurer: Joan Boothe MN'07
 hoodooskr@aol.com
 415-233-1697
 Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
 Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
 ajviking@aol.com
 925-322-8893

Chapter Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2018

September 21 Michelle Trautwein
 Meet your face mites: Dolan
 October 26 Sir Richard Feachem
 Shrinking the World Malaria Map Dolan
 November 30 Leon McCarron
 Exploration by Walking Dolan
 December?? Holiday Party TBA

2019

January 25 Pat Scannon
 Recent Discoveries Dolan
 February 22 James Nestor
 Outdoor adventure. Dolan
 March 22. Paul Saffo
 Dynamics of Change. TBA

Earlier Chapter Events

2017

June 24 Chapter Picnic
 Angel Island
 September 22 Dr. Anders Jepsen
 Drones to map landmines Grace Luth Ch
 October 27 Dirk Rosen
 Save Deep Sea Corals Grace Lutheran Ch
 November 17 Jordan Fisher Smith
 Engineering Eden Grace Lutheran Ch
 December 17 Holiday Party
 Home of Joan and Barry Boothe

2018

January 26 Dr. John All
 Climate Change on Mt. Everest. Dolan
 February 23 Dr. Sherry Wren
 Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis Dolan
 March 30 Kimberley Chambers
 Swimming With Sharks Before Breakfast . Dolan
 April 27 Alan Eustace
 The Stratospheric Jump Dolan
 May 25 3 Term EC Members
 Term Members Research/Annual mtg Dolan
 July 21 Chapter Picnic in Novato

Send address changes and
 corrections by email to
 ecnca@oceaneearth.org

VIDEO ASSISTANCE REQUESTED!!!

Your Northern California Chapter is interested in preparing videos of our meeting presentations. Our primary goal is to allow non-attendees to enjoy the presentations that they may have been unable to attend. Your Board believes that this would be of significant benefit to our both chapter members and those of other chapters whose distance makes attending our meetings impractical. The Australia Chapter has already undertaken this process and we believe that our chapter should remain in the forefront.

There are a number of technical issues that need to be solved in order to accomplish this task. We are seeking your help us with this project. If you have expertise in shooting videos and/or video editing, or know someone who could help us with the process, we really “really” want to hear from you. Join our video committee and make a difference to the Chapter. Please contact Chapter Chair Steve Smith, chair@explorersnorca.org, or Vice Chair Lesley Ewing, vicechair@explorersnorca.org, with your ideas.

**CHAPTER MEETING
 Friday, October 26, 2018**

Place: The Dolan Law Firm
 1438 Market Street
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 Time: 6:30 - reception
 7:15 - dinner; 8:00 - program
 Meal Options: Chicken marsala or Stuffed pork tenderloin
 veggies option - pasta primavera
 Cost: \$49 in advance, \$60 after 23 October; Students: \$35.
 (2018 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)
 Please mail reservations, checks to Joan Boothe
 2435 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.
 Or email Joan [hoodooskr@aol.com]
 or call Joan at 415-233-1697

You can sign up and remit your meal costs online.
 Go to the website (www.explorersnorca.org) and use the convenient payment buttons there.