With over 300 million people affected by malaria every year and no immediate prospects of a vaccine, scientists keenly seek new ways to tackle this disease, which is transmitted by the female *Anopheles* mosquito. Around 50 Department of Life Sciences staff are dedicated to breeding mosquitoes and analysing their interactions with the malaria parasite *Plasmodium* in labs in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building. Mosquitoes are kept at a tropical 80 per cent humidity and 28°C, similar to conditions in their natural habitats in Africa, India and Asia.

Imperial’s laboratories are home to tens of thousands of mosquitoes that are specially bred to help researchers understand and prevent the spread of devastating diseases.