

## Summer 2025 Undergraduate Research Internship

### **Project Name**

Social/Behavioral Factors Associated with Malaria in Western Uganda

### **Faculty Mentor**

Dr. Ross Boyce (Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases)

### **Project Description**

Now in its fourth year of hosting UNC students, the Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiology, Ecology, and Response (VEER) Laboratory, led by Dr. Ross Boyce, MD, MSc, has recently completed a randomized clinical trial of insecticide-treated baby wraps (NCT05391230), used to carry infants and young children, in western Uganda. As part of that trial, we conducted 400 home visits and administered detailed surveys regarding demographic, health, and care-seeking characteristics. Participants were then followed for 6 months and regularly monitored for malaria.

### **Scope of Work for Internship**

With the dataset now complete, there are a number of potential sub-projects available outside of the primary and secondary analyses. One project would be to examine potential associations between demographic and/or household factors at baseline and subsequent development of malaria. We also have GIS data for each household if a student wanted to explore geographic factors such as elevation, proximity to water, etc. The student will be able to lead the data analysis under supervision of the PI and our Biostats team.

### **Expected Deliverables**

Data analysis, potentially leading to poster/abstract or even manuscript. Opportunity to present findings to the Ugandan team.

### **Preferred Skills**

Statistical programming experience (ideally Biostats courses)