This year's World Malaria Day theme was "Harness innovations to reduce global malaria disease and save lives," according to the World Health Organization. The theme was combined with the RBM "Advance Equity, Build Resilience, and End Malaria" and the local theme "Domesticating Malaria" in Uganda. The colloquium was rich in themes addressed in several presentations, however the topics were divided into three categories: Case management studies directed at the malaria causative agent, the plasmodium, integrated vector control studies aimed at the malaria vector, and behavioral change and communication studies.
The colloquium featured a lively presentation that highlighted the way forward in the fight against malaria. Dr. Annet Kisakye of the World Health Organization gave a presentation on a non-randomised controlled trial to assess the protective effectiveness of five cycles of sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine and amodiaquine for seasonal malaria chemoprevention in children aged 3 to 59 months as she launched the malaria vaccine on behalf of the WHO. “There was a 29% reduction in severe malaria in children who took part in the clinical trials for a four-dose regimen.” According to Dr. Annet Kisakye.

Dr. Victor Asua gave an interesting presentation on the emergence and expansion of P.falciparum with PfK13 Polymorphisms Potentially Associated with Artemisinin Resistance in Uganda, and in his presentation he revealed that preliminary results for samples collected in 2020 out of 952 samples with available data from dideoxy sequencing, he observed 22 PfK13 polymorphisms, 4 with prevalences above 5% at individual sites. Two polymorphisms, 469F and 442L, were found at sites in south western Uganda at prevalences of up to 29.7 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively, when older samples were considered. Analysis of flanking microsatellites in samples from 2018-19 suggested local emergence and clonal expansion of mutant isolates. His findings revealed the rise of P. falciparum with genetic variations that may reduce the efficiency of ACTS in Africa.

Dr. Victor Asua giving his presentation
The IDRC team had the honor of being one of the lucky participants in the World Malaria Day cycling race, which was held to raise awareness about malaria. The IDRC crew not only got to pedal push their way to spreading malaria awareness, but they also received an endorphin rush from dancing in the extremely fun aerobics class. We were also fortunate to have a second opportunity to present the IDRC malaria exhibition.
World Malaria Day Bicycle Race