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NTU scientists say new finding opens way for malaria vaccine

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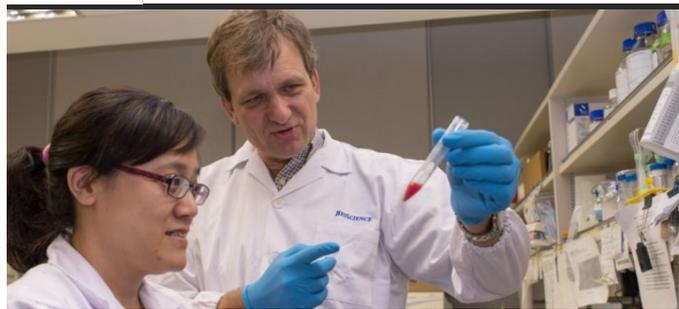
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Scientists from Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have found a way to block the attack of the malaria parasite on the blood cell.

PHOTOS



Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) Professor Peter Preiser and his team have found a way to block the attack of the malaria parasite on the blood cell. (Photo: NTU)

CAPTION

SINGAPORE: Scientists from Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have found a way to block the attack of the malaria parasite on the blood cell.

In a statement on Monday, the university said the finding opens the way for a low-cost vaccine against malaria to be developed.

It said it is looking to collaborate with the industry to speed up the process, with the hope of having a vaccine within five years.

Lead scientist of the project Professor Peter Preiser said the breakthrough should pave the way towards wiping out malaria in the long run.

The work of his team was published in the journal Nature Communications in November.

Citing the World Health Organisation, the statement said about 3.3 billion people -- or about half of the world's population -- are at risk of malaria.

The mosquito-borne disease causes fever and headache, and in serious cases, can cause a patient to go into a coma or result in death.

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