

# BUSM STUDENT FIGHTS MALARIA IN MADAGASCAR

Second-year BUSM student Paul Krezanoski returned to Madagascar—the country where he had served as a Peace Corps volunteer—to spend the summer working to reduce malaria in the native population.

Krezanoski's Peace Corps work involved the efficacy of distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets to aid in the prevention of malaria. This July and August he did follow-up research on the sustained use of the nets, which also included offering household-level economic incentives if individual family units in the village could demonstrate use of the nets.

"This pilot study will provide important evidence to the Madagascar Ministry of Health for its future planning for scaling up malaria control efforts," said Davidson Hamer, MD, associate professor of international health at BUSPH and associate professor of medicine at BUSM.

"His is a novel approach to improving the use of insecticide-treated bed nets for the prevention of malaria in high-risk populations like children and pregnant women in rural villages in Madagascar."

Krezanoski also spent a portion of his time establishing a micro-loan program to provide seed money (\$30) to women to start small businesses. The program is a part of the nonprofit organization, Opportunity Solutions International, which he co-founded with his wife ([www.opportunitiesolutions.org](http://www.opportunitiesolutions.org)).

Chosen by the Massachusetts Medical Society to receive one of its few International Health Studies grants, Krezanoski also garnered support from the BUSM International Health Summer Scholarship Program and the Global Health Education Consortium.

"It is the social aspects of medicine that interest me," said Krezanoski. "That is why I chose BUSM for medical school, because of its focus on helping disadvantaged people."



**Paul Krezanoski, BUSM Class of 2010, with some of the village children of Ambalavao, Madagascar.**