

Introduction, Orientation, & Review of Agenda

Dr. Steven Ault, Regional Advisor, DPC/CD, PAHO/Washington, D.C.

Introduction

The RPRG Secretariat, Dr. Steven Ault, greeted the group and provided a brief description of the agenda for the two days of meeting activities.

Objectives

Dr. Ault noted that one of the objectives of the meeting was to give official recognition by PAHO of the achievements of the three countries that had apparently eliminated transmission of LF within their borders (Costa Rica, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago). He commended the country of Costa Rica for its great progress over the last few decades in the fight against LF and said those achievements along with the accomplishments of Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname would be recognized during a dinner event on the second day of the meeting. He explained that letters of commendation would be awarded to declare PAHO's recognition and satisfaction with the great strides made in the three countries to eliminate transmission of the disease.

Agenda

Dr. Ault explained the meeting agenda would include presentations on the advances of the four countries in the region that still had LF transmission focal points (Brazil, Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Haiti). He noted that only three of those countries (Brazil, Dominican Republic, and Guyana) would be represented by their program managers due to constraints caused by hurricanes in the region that prevented the attendance of the program manager from Haiti, Dr. Marie Denise Milord. He said the meeting group would take advantage of the opportunity to hear about program achievements made in the region over the past year, as well as country plans for future work, and that the agenda would include several technical sessions on various program themes, such as disease control and monitoring.

Following his introduction of the agenda, Dr. Ault passed the meeting on to the delegation from Costa Rica to present information on the advances of their national PELF.

Agenda

6th Regional Program Managers Meeting for the Elimination of LF in the Americas

*San José, Costa Rica
26–29 October 2004*

MEETING DAY 1 (10/25/05), Tuesday, Hotel Tryp Corobici, San José

08:00–08:30 Registration

**08:30–08:40 Opening and Welcome
(20 minutes)**

Dr. João Batista F. Vieira, Manager of Endemic Disease Program, Secretariat for Health Surveillance (SVS)/MoH, Brazil, and Chairman, RPRG–Americas

Dr. Steven K. Ault, Regional Advisor in Communicable Diseases (DPC/CD), PAHO/WHO, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Carlos Samayoa, PAHO/WHO Representative in Costa Rica

Inaugural Address

Dr. Delia Villalobos, Vice-Minister of Health, Costa Rica

08:40–08:50 Introduction, orientation, and review of agenda

Dr. Steven K. Ault, Regional Advisor in Communicable Diseases (DPC/CD), PAHO/WHO, Washington, D.C.

Dr. João Batista F. Vieira, SVS/MoH, Brasilia, Brazil, and Chairman of RPRG–Americas

08:50–15:45 Country Presentations: Progress Reports for 2005 & Overview¹ of Plans of Action for 2006

Chair: *Dr. Marthelise Eersel*,* Ministry of Health, Suriname

Rapporteur²: *Dr. Victor Pou*, Dermatologist / Phlebologist, IDCP

COSTA RICA

Dr. Jose Luis Garcés, Minister of Health, Costa Rica: “The Filariasis Elimination Program in Costa Rica—History and Highlights” (25 minutes)

¹ Attention **Program Managers**: Details of the Plan of Action for 2006 will be discussed in the RPRG Meeting, on 27 October. Today, please present only one or two slides of the highlights of your Plan of Action for 2006: Save the details of the Plan of Action for 2006 for presentation in the RPRG meeting.

² **Rapporteurs** are requested to take written notes of the main points of each speaker’s presentation for the meeting records and to facilitate discussions.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*Dr. José Manuel Puello,** Director, CENCET, Ministry of Health, *Dr. Manuel González,* Manager PELF, MoH; and *Dr. Mary Janet Díaz Romero,* Manager of Southeast Foci for PELF: “The Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program in the Dominican Republic—Challenges of Coverage, Scaling Up, and Integration” (30 minutes)

Discussion (15 minutes)

Coffee Break

HAITI

Dr. Patrick Lammie, CDC/Atlanta (on behalf of *Dr. Marie Denise Milord,** Director, LF Elimination and Malaria Control Program, Ministry of Health & Population): “The Filariasis Elimination Program in Haiti: Scaling Up MDA and Incorporating DEC-salt Strategy” (30 minutes)

Discussion

BRAZIL

Dr. Helen Freitas, National Coordinator for Elimination of LF (PCF), Secretariat for Health Surveillance (SVS), MoH: “The Filariasis Program in Brazil—Urban Challenges, Focal Elimination, and Its Verification” (10 minutes)

Mr. Herbert Charles S. Barros. “Recent Progress in Epidemiological Situation and Morbidity Survey in Maceió” (10 minutes)

Dr. Tereza M. Lyra. “MDA Upscaling in Recife” (10 minutes)

Lunch Break

Discussion (15 minutes)

15:30–15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45–17:50 Special Topics Session: Partners, Decision-Making, & Operational Research

Chair: *Dr. Celsa Sampson,* PAHO/WHO, Brazil

Rapporteur: *Dr. D. Fermín Arguello,* CDC / Atlanta

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- 15:45–17:50 **Special Topic 1–1: Reports from Key Partners in the Americas (55 minutes)**
- 15:45–15:55 *Dr. Steven K. Ault*, PAHO/WHO, on behalf of GPELF, WHO/Geneva. “A Global Overview of the Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis: Progress, Financing, Directions” (10 minutes)
- 15:55–16:00 **Discussion** (5 minutes)
- 16:00–16:10 *Dr. Patrick Lammie*, CDC/Atlanta (on behalf of *Ms. Joan Fahy*,* GAELF Secretariat and Liverpool LF Support Centre, UK). “Global Alliance for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF)” (10 minutes)
- 16:10–16:20 **Discussion** (10 minutes)
- 16:20–16:30 *Mr. Larry M. Mulligan-Gibbs*, Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program, GSK/USA “Contributions of and Challenges for GSK” (10 minutes)
- 16:30–16:40 **Discussion** (10 minutes)
- 16:40–16:55 **Special Topic 1–2: Decision-Making about Program Integration and MDA (15 minutes)**
- 16:40–16:55 *Ms. Margaret (Maggie) Fraser*, Doctoral student, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), with *Dr. Manuel González*, Manager, PELF, MoH, Dominican Republic: “Integration of Lymphatic Filariasis Program into Primary Health Care Services in the Dominican Republic: The Experience So Far” (20 minutes)
- 16:55–17:35 *Dr. Calum MacPherson*, St. George’s University, WINDREF: “A Peek at WINDREF: Who, What, When, Where, How” (40 minutes)
- 17:35–18:20 **Group Guidelines (Introduction & Guidelines/Questions for Group Discussions to be held on Day 2 presented by Group Facilitators)** (45 minutes)
- Chair: *Dr. Humberto Montiel*, PAHO/WHO, Costa Rica
 Rapporteur: *Dr. Dave Chadee*,* UWI, Trinidad & Tobago
- 17:35–17:45 **Facilitator, Group 1:** *Dr. Eric Ottesen*, Emory University. Theme: “**Identifying Alternatives for Financing National PELFs from 2006: Need for a Regional Plan and Way Forward**”
- 17:45–17:55 **Facilitator, Group 2:** *Dr. Ana Maria Aguiar*, Research Centre Aggeu Magalhães, Fiocruz/Recife (CPqAM/Fiocruz/Recife). Theme: “**Developing a Work Plan for 2006–2007 To Advance Morbidity Control in the Americas**”
- 17:55–18:10 **Facilitator, Group 3:** *Dr. Patrick Lammie*, CDC/Atlanta. Theme: “**Verification of Elimination of LF in Individual Foci—Task for the RPRG, or Whom?**”
- 18:10–18:20 **Sign up (for 1 of 3 work groups) and distribution of work group guidelines**
- 18:20 **Adjourn (Day 1)**

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MEETING DAY 2 (10/26/05), Wednesday, Hotel Tryp Corobici

- 09:00–12:30** **Group Discussions** (3.5 hours)
Chair: *Dr. José Luis Garcés F.*, PELF Coordinator, MoH, Costa Rica
- Group 1.** Facilitator: *Dr. Eric Ottesen*, Emory University
Rapporteur: *Dr. Calum MacPherson*, WINDREF
- Group 2.** Facilitator: *Dr. Ana Maria Aguiar*, CPqAM / Fiocruz / Recife
Rapporteur: *Dr. Victor Pou*, IDCP
- Group 3.** Facilitator: *Dr. Patrick Lammie*, CDC/Atlanta
Rapporteur: *Dr. Gilberto Fontes*, UFAL
- 10:30–10:45 **Coffee Break** (15 minutes)
- 10:45–12:30 **Group Discussions (cont.'d) and
Preparations for Group Presentations (Plenary Session)**
- 12:30–14:00** **Lunch – Hotel Tryp Corobici** (1.5 hours)
- 14:00–15:30** **Group Presentations (Plenary Session)** (1.5 hours)
Chair: *Dr. José Luis Garcés F.*, PELF Coordinator, MoH, Costa Rica
- 14:00–14:15 **Group 1: Margaret Fraser (Fundraising)**
14:15–14:30 **Discussion**
- 14:30–14:45 **Group 2: Dr. Victor Pou (Morbidity)**
14:45–15:00 **Discussion**
- 15:00–15:15 **Group 3: Dr. Eric Ottesen (Verification of Elimination)**
Presentation: *Story of Salvador*
- 15:15–15:30 **Discussion**
- 15:30–15:45** **Coffee Break** (15 minutes)
- 15:45–16:00** **Discussion (site selection for 2006 Regional Meetings)**
(15 minutes)
- 16:00–17:00** **Special Topics Session: HealthMapper and Belém, Pará, Brazil**
Chair: *Dr. Tereza M. Lyra*, Municipal Secretariat of Health, Recife, Pernambuco,
Brazil

- 16:00–16:15 **Special Topic 2–1: HealthMapper**
Dr. João Batista F. Vieira, SVS, MoH, Brazil. **HealthMapper for Lymphatic Filariasis and Other Neglected Diseases in Brazil: Results after Two Years of Use—Where Should We Go with This Technology in the Americas?**
 (15 minutes)
 Rapporteur: *Dr. Celia Riera*,* PAHO/WHO Dominican Republic
- 16:15–16:25 **Discussion** (10 minutes)
- 16:25–16:45 **Special Topic 2–2: Belém, Pará, Brazil**
Dr. Reinaldo Braun, Director of PELF, Municipal Secretariat of Health, Belém, Pará, Brazil. **The Case of Belém, Pará, Brazil: History of a Focus from Discovery in the Decade of the 1950s to Elimination in the Decade of 2000** (20 minutes)
 Rapporteur: *Dr. Gina Watson*,* PAHO/WHO Trinidad & Tobago
- 16:45–17:00 **Discussion** (15 minutes)
- 17:00–17:30 **Wrap-Up, Highlights, and Perspectives** (35 minutes)
Dr. Eric Ottesen, Emory University, Atlanta, USA: Wrap-up and Highlights
Dr. José Luis Garcés F., PELF Coordinator, MoH, Costa Rica: Perspectives
- 17:30–17:40 **Closing Ceremony**
Dr. José Luis Garcés F., PELF Coordinator, MoH, Costa Rica
Dr. Marthelise Eersel,* Acting Director of Health, MoH, Suriname
Dr. Carlos Samayoa, PAHO/WHO, Costa Rica
Dr. João Batista F. Vieira, Chairman, RPRG–Americas
Steven K. Ault, Regional Advisor, PAHO/WHO, Washington DC
Dr. Teresa Solano, Director of Epidemiology, MoH, Costa Rica
- 17:40 **Adjourn**

Cocktails, Dinner and Folk Show
20:00 – 22:00 hours, Evening of 26 October
Place: Hotel Tryp Corobici
Dress style (clothing): social
 (Hosted by PAHO/WHO)

1. **Cocktails and Welcome** by *Dr. Carlos Samayoa*, PAHO/WHO, Costa Rica
Official Recognition for the Governments and Ministries of Health of Suriname, Costa Rica, and Trinidad & Tobago for Their Efforts toward the Interruption of LF Transmission—Presented by *Dr. Carlos Samayoa*, PAHO/WHO Representative in Costa Rica, and *Steven K. Ault*, Regional Advisor on Communicable Diseases, PAHO/WHO, on behalf of *Dr. Mirtha Roses Peragio*, Director of the PASB / Pan American Health Organization, PAHO/WHO, to:
 - a. **Costa Rica**: *Dr. José Luis Garcés F.*, representing the *Hon. Dr. María del Rocío Saénz*, Minister of Health, Costa Rica
2. **Dinner**
3. **Folk and Cultural Show of Costa Rica**

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