



Regional Meeting of the Tuberculosis Laboratory Network

(Mexico City, 6–8 September 2004)

Preliminary Agenda

The Regional Program on Tuberculosis of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), with support from the PAHO Country Office in Mexico, the Secretary of Health of Mexico and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is holding a meeting of the Regional Tuberculosis Laboratory Network from 6–8 September 2004 in Mexico City.

Objectives

1. Analyze and discuss aspects related to the three areas fundamental for tuberculosis (TB) laboratories to develop and work properly:
 - a. Quality control.
 - b. National Tuberculosis Programs (NTPs) using current and new techniques.
 - c. TB Laboratory Networks managing information.
2. Become acquainted with the experiences of selected countries that have successfully dealt with the three aforementioned key areas.
3. Get to know the work of the laboratories that are currently carrying out reference functions in the Region.
4. Distribute and discuss some regional proposals in the three aforementioned key areas.
5. Promote networks of collaboration and communication among those in charge of TB Laboratories and the Heads of National TB Programs.

Websites

For this meeting

<http://www.paho.org/english/ad/dpc/cd/tb-labs-2004.htm>

For other activities this week

- National TB Programs (NTPs): <http://www.paho.org/english/ad/dpc/cd/tb-pnts-2004.htm>
- TB-HIV/AIDS Co-Infection: <http://www.paho.org/english/ad/dpc/cd/tb-hiv-2004.htm>

6 September 2004 (AM)

- 8:00 Registration, participants submitting requested material and picking up conference materials.
- 8:30 Opening speech by an official of the Secretary of Health.
Welcome by Head of PAHO/WHO Country Office in Mexico.
Dr. José Figueroa, PAHO/WHO Representative
Dr. Mirtha del Granado, Regional Advisor/Head of PAHO/WHO Regional Program on TB
- 9:00 Meeting Objectives, Methodology and Logistics; Review of Agenda
Regional Advisor, PAHO/WHO
- 9:15 Presentation by the Host Country (Mexico):
Laboratory Networks, Their Strengths and Weaknesses
- 9:45 Role and Functions of Supranational, Subregional, National, and PAHO/WHO Collaborating TB Laboratories
Dr. Andrea Luna, PAHO/WHO

10:15

Experiences of Reference Laboratories

Supra-National Reference Laboratories (SRL) and Collaborating Centers (CC)

Reference Laboratory for the English-Speaking Caribbean: Current Situation and Proposal for the Future

CAREC: Dr. Dense Clarke (15 minutes)

Activities Developed as a TB SRL: Current Situation and Proposal for the Future

CDC: Dr. Beverly Metckoch (15 minutes) (confirmation pending)

Activities Developed as a TB SRL: Current Situation and Proposal for the Future

Massachusetts State Laboratory: Dr. Alexander Sloutsky (15 minutes)

11:15

Coffee Break

11:30

Activities Developed as a TB SRL

Supranational Reference Laboratory (SRL), Chile: Licda. Rosario Lepe (15 minutes)

Activities Developed as a TB CC

Emilio Coni Institute (INCO), Argentina (10 minutes)

Activities Developed as a TB CC

Pedro Kouri Institute of Tropical Medicine (IPK), Cuba: Dr. Ernesto Montoro (10 minutes)

Panel Discussion (*WHO, PAHO, Dr. Luna, CDC, CAREC, Massachusetts State Laboratory*)

13:00

Lunch

525 23rd St., N. W., Washington, D.C. 20037-2895, U.S.A.

Telephone: (202) 974-3000

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6 September 2004 (PM)

14:00

Quality Module

Experiences with the Quality Control (QC) Program in Colombia: A Global Focus
Biol. María Consuelo Garzón, Colombia

Experiences with a New Model in Mexico for External Quality Control
Biol. Susana Balandrazo, Mexico

Chile's Classic Experience with External Quality Control
Licda. Rosario Lepe Chile

Unfocused Direct and Indirect Experience with a Combined Model
Dr. María Cecilia Matamoros, Costa Rica

Panel Discussion (*WHO, PAHO, CDC, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica*)

15:45

Coffee Break

16:00

Currently Used and New Technical Modules

Rational Stages in Diagnostic and Support Techniques That Should Be Carried Out for TB
Maritza Velasco, SRL-Chile (10 minutes)

INCO Project: Stage of Advancement in New Diagnostic Techniques
Dr. Ernesto Montoso, Cuba (15 minutes)

Molecular Epidemiology and Its Application in National TB Programs
Dr. Marcos Burgos, University of New Mexico (UNM), USA (15 minutes)

New Diagnostic Techniques for TB
Dr. Alexander Sloutsky, Massachusetts State Laboratory, Boston, USA (15 minutes)

Panel Discussion (*WHO, PAHO, INCO, UNM, Massachusetts State Laboratory, Chile*)

17:30

Information-Management Module:

Proposal for the Formulation of Regional Laboratory Indicators
Dr. Andrea Luna, PAHO/WHO

7–8 September 2004: Laboratory and TB Program Activities

7 sep

General framework, analysis of global and regional situation, action Regional TB Program action plan, presentation of situation of TB programs in the countries.

8 sep

Discussion and proposals for country action plans
Certificates awarded to laboratory personnel.

A more detailed schedule of the activities taking place on these two days will be handed out at the meeting.

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