



Meeting of the Regional Polio Laboratory Network

Gloria Rey-Benito, PAHO-WDC

Location	Cancun, Mexico
Dates	10-11 November 2014
Participants	Participants from 7 countries in the Region attended the Regional Polio Laboratory Network meeting, representing the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Malbran Institute (Argentina), Fiocruz (Brazil), Evandro Chagas Institute (Brazil), the National Health Institute (Colombia), the Public Health Institute (Chile), the Institute for Epidemiologic Diagnosis and Reference (Mexico) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (TRT). The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the status of the WHO Polio Lab Manual (PLM) revision; present on the performance of PAHO's polio labs on the proficiency tests for virus isolation, intratypic differentiation and sequencing; present a new Environmental Surveillance algorithm adopted by the Global Polio Laboratory Network (GPLN) in June 2014; as well as present the ITD 4.0 algorithm that was adopted by the GPLN, among others.
Purpose	

WHO representative presented an update on the global status of wild poliovirus (WPV) and vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) transmission, as well as the status of the GPLN.

PAHO representative presented a regional update on the Regional Polio Laboratory Network, including performance indicators and workload. Areas for improvement were identified and shared.



Participants at the Regional Polio Laboratory Network Meeting in Cancun, Mexico, November 2014.

Summaries of the performance of PAHO polio labs on the proficiency tests of virus isolation, intratypic differentiation and sequencing were presented. WHO shared the feedback received after pilot testing of the new accreditation checklists for virus Isolation, intratypic differentiation and sequencing, which were implemented in August 2014. The accreditation approach based on the type of test performed in each lab will facilitate the review and accreditation of polio labs.

The representatives of each one of the laboratories presented an update on participation on studies of polioviruses, including VDPV.

Finally, a brainstorming session covered the topics of detection, characterization and molecular epidemiology of WPV, VDPV and Sabin-like polioviruses and environmental poliovirus surveillance.

Additionally, recommendations on routine workload, cell lines, VDPV, proficiency testing, environmental surveillance, information systems, and future trainings/meetings were shared.