

International Meeting of countries that are facing outbreaks of Leptospirosis in the Americas



Laboratory Network for Zoonotic Diseases - Articulating Diagnostic Laboratories in Public and Animal Health
Dr. Alfonso Clavijo, Diagnostic Advisor, PANAFTOSA/PAHO

In his presentation, Dr. Clavijo discussed the disadvantages of the isolated work of animal and human health laboratories, such as low quality in diagnosis and duplication of efforts, which is a justification for including the human-animal interface. He continued discussing the basic principles of a network of laboratories that includes: quality standards, competency of laboratory personnel, standardized protocols and teams, adequate bio-security, timely reporting (surveillance), and capacity evaluation through diagnostic scenarios. He talked about the importance of defining the purposes of the network to strengthen laboratory systems and surveillance, as well as to assure and maintain quality. Subsequently, he discussed the steps to create a network of public and animal health laboratories and explained that they would have to define the participants, as well as the short-term and long-term objectives of the laboratories in the network. Quality control should be one of the basic factors that contribute to the future of the network, which includes multiple actions such as: standardization of the reagents, education and training of personnel. He finalized by mentioning the challenges in the establishment of these laboratory networks, stating that one determinant factor is the economic financing of these actions.