

## Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ReLAVRA+)

Medellin, Colombia, 11-13 July 2023

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is organizing the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (ReLAVRA+) in Medellín, Colombia, from 11 to 13 July 2023 with the participation of representatives from Latin America, the Caribbean (including the Dutch, French, English and US territories), WHO Geneva and Regional Office for Europe and prioritized partners in regional technical cooperation (CDC, University of Oxford, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands - RIVM, Centre for Genomic Pathogen Surveillance-CGPS, Global Typhoid Genomics Consortium (TyphiNET).

Strengthening surveillance is one of the five key strategic objectives outlined in the global and regional action plans. This work is essential to raise awareness of the AMR problem and inform appropriate prevention actions, treatment guidelines and patient safety measures. The incorporation of new genomic and proteomic technologies, information technologies tools to facilitate data collection, validation and analysis, rapid detection and emergency response, outbreak identification and control are essential to prevent the emergence and spread of AMR.

The overarching objective of the meeting is to strengthen collaboration and exchange of experiences on AMR surveillance and response, and to provide recent advances in the field of AMR. The specific objectives include:

- Outline and agree on a regional strategy for the incorporation of new technologies into ReLAVRA+;
- Address the multidisciplinary approach to early detection and response to AMR in hospital settings and the containment of carbapenem-resistant organisms (CROs);
- Address the post-COVID-19 pandemic challenge of emerging AMR mechanisms and propose standardized identification procedures, including molecular typing;
- Discuss updating the consensus to detect, confirm, characterize and report multidrug-resistant, extensively resistant and pan-resistant pathogens;
- Deepen integrated AMR surveillance strategies, expanding enhanced AMR surveillance and emphasizing the quality, representativeness, and sources of bias of surveillance data, as well as good practices in the use of information for the design of intervention, and
- Identify strategies for support, from surveillance to implementation to infection prevention and control programs.

The agenda of the meeting will consist of expert and country presentations and moderated discussions. These will covering a wide range of the above-mentioned priority technical and policy areas related to enhanced multidisciplinary surveillance of AMR; the use of data for the design of interventions and collaborative work coordinated by PAHO and regional and global partners. The working language of the meeting will be in English and Spanish, with simultaneous translation available.

# 1 Day

## Tentative Agenda

*Tuesday*

Date: July 11, 2023

8:00 - 8:30

**Registration**

**Session 1:**

**Scenario, meeting frame.** Master of Ceremonies: German Esparza (PAHO-WDC)

8:30 - 8:45

**Opening remarks**

Marcela Rojas (Ministry of Health - COL) and PAHO

8:45 - 9:05

**Objectives of the meeting. Opportunities and challenges, review of managerial and operational aspects of ReLAVRA+.**

Pilar Ramón Pardo, Coordinator of the AMR-PAHO Special Program (PAHO-WDC)

9:05 - 9:25

**Colombia advances in surveillance and response to AMR**

Adriana Martínez (Ministry of Health - COL) and Sandra Yamile Saavedra (INS - COL)

9:25 - 9:45

**WHO AMR Diagnostic Initiative**

Silvia Bertagnolio (WHO-Geneva)

9:45-10:00

**Questions and Answers**

10:00- 10:30



**Session 2:**

**Methods of detection and confirmation of AMR and pathogen tracing: phenotypical, genotypical and the role of new technologies.** Moderators: Marcelo Galas (PAHO-WDC) and Nuris Salgado (INHRR-VEN)

10:30 - 11:15

**Update on the phenotypic detection of bacterial resistance. How are we in the region according to Latin America and the Caribbean External Quality Assurance Programs?**

Alejandra Corso (WHO-CC Malbran-Argentina)

11:15 - 12:30

**"Regional Genomic Surveillance Strategy for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response" Integration of AMR in the initiative**

Priscila Lamb Wink (PAHO-WDC)

**International genomics initiatives for the improvement of AMR surveillance:**

- **Centre for Genomic Pathogen Surveillance (CGPS).** David Aanensen (CGPS) (online, ZOOM)
- **Global Typhoid Genomics Consortium (TyphiNET).** Megan Carey (TyphiNET)

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12:30 - 13:30



**Session 2  
continued:**

**Methods of detection and confirmation of AMR and pathogen tracing: phenotypical, genotypical and the role of new technologies.** Moderators: Marcelo Galas (PAHO-WDC) and Nuris Salgado (INHRR-VEN)

13:30 - 15:30

**Working groups:**

**G1 (Ceiba Room 1): Need for incorporation of new diagnostic methods**

**G2 (Ceiba Room 3): Implementation of Genomics for AMR and integration with other areas**

**G3 (Main Room): Incorporation of Mass Spectrometry as a tool and networking in ReLAVRA+**

**G4 (Ceiba Room 2): Workshop implementation of cascade report (Table 1-CLSI M100).**

Facilitators: G1, Genara Romero (PAHO-WDC), Agustina Forastiero (PAHO-WDC) and Carolina Satan (INSPI-ECU); G2, Priscilla Lamb Wink (PAHO-WDC) and Ana Paula Assef (Fiocruz, Brazil); G3, Grisel Rodriguez (PAHO-URY), Juan Carlos Hormazabal (ISP-Chile) and Monica Prieto (Malbran-ARG ZOOM participation); G4, Trish Simner, Antonieta Jimenez, and Marcelo Galas Clinical and Laboratory Standard Institute (CLSI).

15:30 - 16:00



16:00 - 17:00

**Plenary: Presentation of the working groups.**

Moderator: Marcelo Galas (PAHO-WDC), and Kereann Nelson (Jamaica). 10 min per group and 20 min of discussion.

# Day 2

## Wednesday

July 12

7:30-8:30

**Working breakfast: Project implementation, evaluation of the activity of Cefiderocol and other traditional and new antibiotics.** Moderator: Priscilla Lamb Wink.

Main Room

Session 3:

**Surveillance: aggregated and isolation level data.** Moderators: Marcelo Galas (PAHO-WDC), Jessica Edwards (The Bahamas) and Terrence Mawie (Suriname)

8:30 - 9:15

**Achievements and lessons learned from other networks:**

- **WHO-EURO-CAESAR.** Marcello Gelormini (EURO-WHO)
- **GLASS.** Carmem Pessoa (WHO Geneva)

9:15 - 10:00

**Source of errors, deviations, and biases in AMR surveillance systems.**

Carolien Ruesen (RIVM-The Netherlands)

10:00 - 10:30



**GROUP PHOTO**

10:30 - 11:10

**Collection, validation, analysis, and publication of regional data through the PAHO AMR Information Platform (PAP)**

Luis Gutiérrez and Jenny Hsieh (PAHO-WDC)

**PAP Country Collaboration Sites. What do they contain? How to enter? How do we navigate them?**

Luis Gutiérrez and AMR PAHO-WDC team

11:10 - 12:30

**Working groups: identification of opportunities for improvement of regional surveillance.**

**G1 (Ceiba Room 1): Bias in AMR surveillance data.**

**G2 (Ceiba Room 2): Making country collaboration sites more useful**

**G3 (Main Room): Incorporation of new samples and pathogens in enhance surveillance at the isolate level.**

Facilitators G1, Xavier Villavicencio (PAHO-WDC), Germán Esparza (PAHO-WDC) and Maria Victoria Ovalle (INS-COL); G2, Marcelo Galas (PAHO-WDC) and Shazeema Shaw Guyana (GPHC); G3, Agustina Forastiero (PAHO-WDC), Genara Romero (PAHO-WDC), and Ivonne Imbert (DOM).

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12:30 - 13:30



**Session 3**  
(continued):

13:30 - 14:30

**Plenary: presentations by the groups.**

Marcelo Galas (PAHO-WDC), Jessica Edwards (The Bahamas) and Terrence Mawie (Suriname). 10 min per group and 30 min of discussion

14:30 - 15:30

**National surveillance experiences** Moderator: Verónica Teresa Medrano Romero (BOL):

- **Barbados** Songee Beckles (BAR)
- **Belize** Aldo Sosa (BLZ)
- **El Salvador** María José Luna Boza (SLV)
- **Uruguay** Leticia Caiata (URY)
- **St Vincent and the Grenadines** Haze John (SVG)

15:30 - 15:45



15:45 - 17:00

**Round Table: Information Technology Platforms and tools for AMR surveillance** Moderator: Valusnor Compere (HAI) and Genara Romero (PAHO-WDC)

- **Advances in the WHONET Program: Facilitating the Flow of Data between Surveillance Levels.** John Stelling (WHO-CC BWH Harvard)
- **SEDRI-LIMS: regional pilot**
  1. **Developer Experience, Oxford University UK** Matthew King (Oxford University)
  2. **Field experience in CEMAR-Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina** Fernando Ariasca (CEMAR Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina)
- **Public-private partnerships for the development and strengthening of information systems.**  
Gabriel Pedone (Global Health Department - Strategic Partnerships Director BioMerieux)

17:00 - 17:30

**AMR Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.** Jenny Hsieh (PAHO-WDC)  
**Implementation of AMR indicators at country level.** Nancy Melgarejo (LCSP-PAR)

3  
Day

Thursday

July 13

7:30 - 8:30

**Working breakfast: update of the consensus for the detection, confirmation, and communication of MDR, XDR, PDR and DTT pathogens. Optional for national coordinators.** Moderator: Antonieta Jimenez (INCIENSA), Main Room

Session 4:

**Emergencies: Alert and response.** Moderators: Juan Carlos Hormazabal (ISP-CHL) and Agustina Forastiero (PAHO-WDC)

8:30 - 8:40

**Introduction: Regional alerts during the COVID-19 pandemic**  
Genara Romero (PAHO-WDC)

8:40 - 9:30

**Communication of National Alerts during COVID-19 pandemic** 5 min per country, 3 sheets

- **Guatemala: *Candida auris*, OXA-48, triple carbapenemases in PAE** Carmen Mazariegos (LNS-GTM)
- **Ecuador: double carbapenemases** Carolina Satán (INSPI-ECU)
- **Peru: OXA-48, Double carbapenemases, *C. auris* and Mucormycosis** Ronnie Gavilán (INS-PER)
- **Haiti: carbapenemases in Enterobacterales** Valusnor Compere (LNSP-HAI)

**A regional approach to understanding the capacity to detect, respond to and contain carbapenem-resistant organisms**

Carolyn Herzig and Cecilia Bardossy (CDC-USA)

**Round table discussion (15 min)**

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9:30 - 9:50

**Global Health Action Network Initiative-AMR Module (GAIHN-AR).**

Dr. Chris Elkins, and Ines Staneloni (CDC-USA)

9:50 - 11:20

**Round Table: Implementation of GAIHN in Latin America: a paradigm shift.** Conduction: Fernando Otaiza and Marcelo Galas PAHO-WDC

**Country presentations on challenges and achievements:**

- **Argentina** Laura Barcelona (MSAL-ARG) (10 min)
- **Chile** Juan Carlos Hormazabal (ISP-CHL) (10 min)

**Panel discussion:** Antonieta Jiménez (INCIENSA-CRI), Carolina Satán (INSPI-ECU), Aldo Sosa (CML-BLZ), Leticia Caiata (DLSP-URY), Alejandra Corso (INEI-ARG), Laura Barcelona (MSAL-ARG), Juan Carlos Hormazabal (ISP-CHL), and Trish Simmer (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine) (60 min)

**Topics to be addressed:**

- **Strategy for implementation**
- **Development of protocols and tools**
- **Integration of Laboratory and IPC**
- **Information systems**
- **Indicators**
- **Sustainability**

**Session 5:**

**Roundtable: One Health - AMR integration of veterinary, food, environmental and human data.** Moderators: María Victoria Ovalle (COL) and Pilar Ramon

Pardo (PAHO-WDC)

11:20 - 12:30

- **Good practices in integrated AMR surveillance: using information to guide interventions. CIPARS Canada**  
Richard Reid Smith (CIPARS) (Zoom, TBD)
- **AMR in the hospital environment, evaluation, and impact.**  
Lorena López Cerero (Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena: Sevilla, España)
- **Cuba's Experience in Integrated AMR Surveillance**  
Dianelys Quiñones (IPK-CUB)

**Session 6:**

**Closing session**

12:30 - 13:00

**Strategic directions for the next biennium – commitments**

ReLAVRA+. PAHO-WHO

13:00 - 14:00



14:00 - 16:00

**“Training experiences to change your way of thinking and working”**

16:00 - 16:30

**Closing Cocktail**

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