



2ND IN-PERSON ORDINARY MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK OF PUBLIC ANTIVENOM MANUFACTURING LABORATORIES (RELAPA)

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil | 13 – 15 May 2025

OBJECTIVES

- To present the progresses, achievements, and the challenges along with its feasible alternative solutions to guarantee the production of safe and effective antivenoms and its timely availability in the region of the Americas.
- To share the technical cooperation opportunities established within the RELAPA framework.
- To understand and assess the antivenom production from a quality and regulatory perspective.
- To discuss the strategies to strengthen RELAPA, in order to meet the WHO objective of achieving a 50% reduction in mortality and long-term effects by snakebite envenoming by 2030.

PLACE AND DATE

Hotel Grand Mercure, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 13 to the 15 May 2025.

PARTICIPANTS

- RELAPA laboratories:
 - National Institute of Biological Production, ANLIS “Dr. Carlos Malbrán” (Argentina)
 - Biological Institute “Dr. Tomas Perón” (Argentina)
 - National Institute of Health Laboratories — INLASA (Bolivia)
 - Butantan Institute — IB (Brazil)
 - Ezequiel Dias Foundation — FUNED (Brazil)
 - Production and Research of Immunobiological Centre — CPPI (Brazil)
 - Vital Brazil Institute — IVB (Brazil)
 - National Institute of Health — INS (Colombia)
 - Clodomiro Picado Institute — ICP (Costa Rica)
 - National Institute of Public Health Research — INSPI — Dr. Leopoldo Izquieta Pérez (Ecuador)
 - National Centre for Biological Products — National Institute of Health — CNPB (Peru)
 - Biotechnology Centre, Faculty of Pharmacy of the Central University of Venezuela — BIOTECFAR (Venezuela)
- PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO
- Regional experts from PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO
- PAHO/WHO Strategic Fund (SF)
- Department of Innovation, Access to Medicines and Health Technologies (IMT), Special Program of the Regional Platform on Innovation and Production (PR) of PAHO/WHO
- Department of Communicable Diseases and Environmental Determinants of Health (CDE) of PAHO/WHO
- National Secretariat of Science, Technology, and Innovation (SENACYT), Panama



PROGRAM

| DAY 1: Tuesday, 13 May 2025 | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 | Opening of the Meeting PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO, IVB, MHP-WHO |
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Introduction to the meeting 's objectives and agenda, and the introduction of all participants <i>Dr. Ma. Elisa Peichoto, PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 9:30 - 10:00 | The evolution of RELAPA from its creation to the present – Project “An integrative approach to improve the management of snakebite envenoming in Latin America” <i>Dr. Marco Vigilato, PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | Questions and discussion |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Break |
| 11:00 - 11:20 | Opportunities and challenges for the availability and access to antivenoms in the region through the Strategic Funds and sustainability of laboratories <i>Dr. Nora Girón, SF-PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 11:20 - 11:40 | Questions and discussion |
| 11:40 - 12:00 | The importance of strengthening and integrating value chains for the production of health technologies, including antivenoms <i>Dr. María de los Ángeles Cortés, IMT/PR-PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 12:00 - 12:30 | Questions and discussion |
| 12:30 - 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 - 14:00 | 2025 Survey analysis: updated regional overview of the situation of public antivenom-producing laboratories Presentation: <i>Dr. Ma. Elisa Peichoto, PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 14:00 - 14:40 | Questions and discussion |
| 14:40 - 15:00 | Break |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | 2025 Survey analysis: updated regional overview on compliance with quality and regulatory standards in the production of antivenoms Presentation: <i>Murilo Freitas Dias, IMT-QR-PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 15:30 - 16:10 | Questions and discussion |
| 16:10 - 17:10 | Joint planning of actions to ensure the availability of antivenoms in the region Everyone (group work and plenary session) |
| 17:10 - 17:30 | Discussion and ending of the 1st day |



DAY 2: Wednesday, 14 May 2025

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 7:00 - 12:30 | Visit to the Vital Brazil Institute (IVB) - Xerem Headquarters: Vital Brazil Center for Herpetology and Research |
| 12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch at Santa Brasa Restaurant |
| 14:00 - 18:00 | Visit to the Vital Brazil Institute (cont.) - Niteroi Headquarters |

DAY 3: Thursday, 15 May 2025

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00 - 9:15 | Summary of the previous day <i>Dr. Ma. Elisa Peichoto, PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO</i> |
| 9:15 - 10:50 | Group Module I Challenges in the production and/or control quality of antivenom: Assessment of the situation in specific local contexts - <i>Dr. Hui Wen Fan</i> , Regional expert (moderator) - Representatives of some laboratories |
| 10:50 - 11:10 | Break |
| 11:10 - 12:30 | Group Module II Perspectives on new trends and scientific-technological innovations in the production of antivenoms - <i>Dr. José M. Gutiérrez</i> , Regional expert (moderator) - Representatives of some laboratories |
| 12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 - 15:20 | Group Modules I y II (the continuation) - Strategic discussion regarding the essential production challenges and innovations for the sustainable development of the ecosystem of public antivenom-producing laboratories - Proposing solutions, improvements, and innovations to address the current and future challenges and demands of regional antivenom production: regional cooperation perspectives Everyone (teamwork) |
| 15:20 - 15:40 | Plenary session of presentations of the results from each group Everyone (teamwork) |
| 15:40 - 16:00 | Break |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | Final discussion: conclusions, recommendations, and agenda proposal for the next years |