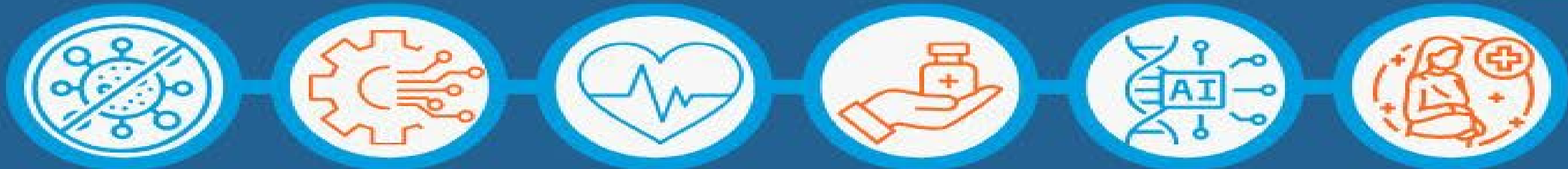


Synergies for Universal Health: Leveraging PAHO's Flagship Initiatives and the Role of PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centres



9-10 September 2025

WHO Collaborating Centre in Rabies (BRA-75)

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How the Collaborating Centre is contributing or can contribute in the future to the achievement of the PAHO Flagship Initiative

- The Instituto Pasteur (IP/SEESP) has been designated a WHO Collaborating Centre (WHOCC) in Rabies since August 22nd, 2014. Due to its extensive expertise in laboratory diagnosis, research and development, as well as rabies surveillance and control, IP/SEESP has been collaborating with Latin American countries through training and technical support, assistance in antemortem rabies diagnosis, genetic characterization of rabies virus, and the provision of supplies, under the PAHO/WHO leadership.
- During the last ten years, IP/SEESP collaborated with the *antemortem* rabies diagnosis from El Salvador and Bolivia, and analysed samples for rabies virus genetic characterization from 9 countries.
- The fluorescent anti-rabies conjugate, produced in-house by IP/SEESP, have been provided to 10 countries under PAHO requirement.
- Professionals from Cuba, Argentina Uruguay and Ecuador, were trained in rabies diagnostic techniques, including the conventional and the molecular diagnostic techniques, in addition to viral serum neutralization tests.
- Additionally, the OPS has organized specific missions to strengthen rabies surveillance and control in Latin America countries, enabling professionals from Institute Pasteur to participate and contribute with their expertise in laboratory diagnosis. These technical visits aim to reinforce rabies diagnosis, surveillance and disease control in theses strategic countries, with the ultimate goal of achieving the elimination of human rabies transmitted by domestic dogs by 2030. Until the present data, the Institute Pasteur participated of six missions.

Main Deliverables (period of 2022-present, as per the Workplan)

- 1.Provided Rabies virus genetic characterization for Costa Rica (2 samples), Paraguay (1 sample)
2. Provided fluorescent anti-rabies conjugate for Venezuela, Nicaragua, Guyana, Costa Rica, Paraguay and El Salvador.
3. Promoted training in rabies laboratorial diagnosis for two professionals from Uruguay.
4. Participated in Rabies Missions promoted by OPS/OMS in Dominican Republic (2023), Venezuela (2023)
5. Technical support in rabies diagnosis to Uruguay and Bolivia through virtual meetings with the rabies expert
6. Coordinated the National Seminar on Rabies Surveillance and Control and the 1st Seminar on Surveillance of Zoonoses and Animal-Related Diseases in São Paulo, with 277 in-person attendees and 404 online participants. The event brought together surveillance groups, agricultural defense offices, reference laboratories, researchers, and universities from across Brazil, aiming to provide technical and scientific updates in rabies surveillance and control (November 2023)
7. Held three events “World Rabies Day – Pasteur Institute with Open Doors”, welcoming the general public to learn about its structure, mission, and activities, and to raise awareness about rabies. Combining the audience in 2022, 2023 and 2024, more than 4,000 people attended, reinforcing public understanding of the impact of rabies on humans and animals.
8. Training sessions on CNS sample collection and submission for rabies diagnosis, combining theory and practice, targeted at professionals in rabies surveillance and control.



Photos: IP/SEESP



Key Recommendations to improve the collaboration among CCs and PAHO/WHO

1. Strengthen Communication Channels
Establish regular meetings and direct lines between CCs and PAHO/WHO.
2. Harmonize Protocols and Methodologies
Promote standardization for diagnosis, surveillance, and research.
3. Shared data and evidence
Create accessible platforms for exchange of data, best practices, and scientific evidence.
4. Capacity Building and Training
Joint initiatives for technical training, workshops, and technology transfer.
5. Facilitate Resource Mobilization
Collaborative strategies to optimize funding, reagents, and infrastructure.
6. Enhance One Health networking
Strengthen One Health approaches by linking human, animal, and environmental health sectors.
7. Prioritize Regional Needs
Align research and public health actions with country-specific rabies control challenges.
8. Joint Publications and Projects
Stimulate collaborative research outputs to increase visibility and impact.
9. Evaluate and Monitor Collaboration
Implement indicators to assess progress and outcomes of CC–PAHO/WHO partnerships.

General Scope (Terms of Reference)

1. At PAHO/WHO's request the proposed institution will support the Organization's efforts to strengthen rabies diagnostic laboratory services and surveillance.
2. At PAHO/WHO's request the proposed institution will support the Organization's efforts to strengthen rabies diagnosis in humans and animals
3. Under PAHO/WHO's leadership the proposed institution will support PAHO/WHO in antigenic and genetic studies of Lyssavirus rabies.
4. At PAHO/WHO's request the proposed institution will support the Organization's efforts to build capacity through on training for rabies diagnosis and rabies human prophylaxis.