

PAHO



Pan American
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AGENDA

Annual Meeting of the Arbovirus Diagnostic Laboratory Network of the Americas (RELDA)

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 15 to
17 August 2023**

15
Years

RELDA
Arbovirus Diagnostic
Laboratory Network



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Introduction

Since 2008, RELDA has been supporting the strengthening of laboratory networks and capabilities for the timely detection of dengue and other Arboviruses, enhancing surveillance and control programs of these diseases in the Region of the Americas. In 2018, the 10-year anniversary of the creation and implementation of the network was celebrated, which originated as the Network of Dengue Laboratories of the Americas (RELDA), and successfully became the operational arm of the laboratory component of the Integrated Management Strategy for Dengue Prevention and Control (EGI-Dengue). Throughout these years, many achievements have been attained which would not have been possible without the efforts and participation of each National Reference Laboratory in coordination with Collaborating Centers and Centers for Excellence.

During the 2016-2023 period, RELDA facilitated training in both molecular and serology diagnosis, external quality assessment and dengue strain sequencing projects (project VIGENDA), support missions, acquisition of equipment and reagents, among other activities. These efforts have further strengthened the laboratories in the region. RELDA also expanded its scope to address the new epidemiological situation in the Americas with the introduction of chikungunya and Zika, evolving into the Arbovirus Diagnostic Laboratory Network.

In this sense it is important to continue strengthening the Network to face the new challenges related to the emergence and introduction and/or reemergence of other Arboviruses, within the context of climate change and globalization.

The objectives for this year's meeting are as follows:

- Present the current situation and challenges faced in laboratory surveillance of the main Arboviruses in the Region.
- Review and update the detection guidelines and methodologies for laboratory surveillance of endemic, emerging, and re-emerging Arboviruses, including neuroinvasive ones.
- Establish recommendations for genomic surveillance of Arboviruses. Present and discuss guidelines for entomo-virological surveillance.
- Discuss the work plan and relevant activities for the period 2023-2025.

Main outcomes of the meeting:

- Plan of activities 2023-2025

- Update of diagnostic algorithms
- Agreements between Collaborating Centers and National Reference Laboratories for the production and distribution of in-house reagents
- Implementation plan for entomo-virological surveillance
- General recommendations for genomic surveillance of Arboviruses.

Daily Program

TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
8:30-9:00	Registration of participants	PAHO
SESSION I: INAUGURATION Coordinator: Dr. Jairo Méndez, PAHO		
9:00-9:30	Welcome and opening greetings from the authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Sylvain Aldighieri, Deputy Director, Health Emergency Department, PHE. PAHO HQ. ○ Dr. Luis Gerardo Castellanos, Acting Director, Communicable Diseases Prevention, Control, and Elimination, Department, CDE. PAHO HQ. ○ Lic. Olivia Brathwaite, Acting PAHO/WHO Dominican Republic Representative. ○ Dr. Eladio Perez, Deputy Minister of Collective Health, Ministry of Health, Dominican Republic ○ Lic. Yvonne Imbert, Director of the Dr. Defilló National Public Health Laboratory (LNSPDD), Dominican Republic
9:30-9:40	Objectives and Expected Outcomes	Session coordinator
9:40-9:50	Participant Introductions	Session coordinator
9:50- 10:10	Presentation of the Dr. Defilló Public Health Laboratory	Lic. Lucia de la Cruz , Head of the Molecular Virology Unit Dr. Defilló National Public Health Laboratory
10:10-10:30 Coffee Break		
SESSION II: SITUATION OF ENDEMIC ARBOVIRUSES Coordinator: Dr. Thais Dos Santos, PAHO		



10:30-12:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Initiative for Arboviruses (10 min) • Endemic and Emerging Arboviruses, Where Are We? (15 min) • Arbovirus Situation in the Region (15 min) • Dengue and Other Arbovirus Situation in Argentina, Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Paraguay, and Cuba (10 min each) • Discussion (10 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Diana Rojas, WHO (virtual) ○ Dr. Jairo Méndez y Dr Lionel Gresh, PAHO ○ Dr. José Luis San Martín, PAHO (virtual) ○ Representatives from the laboratories of the mentioned countries
13:15- 14:15 Lunch		
SESION III: VIGILANCIA GENOMICA DE ARBOVIRUS Coordinator: Dr. Oscar Mesones, CDC		
14:15-15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of establishing genomic surveillance for dengue in the Region (10 min) • Implementation and strengthening of genomic surveillance for dengue and other Arboviruses in the Americas (ViGenDA) (10 min) • DENV sequencing protocol and bioinformatics analysis tools (15 min) • Repositories and collaborative platforms for storing and analyzing Arbovirus sequences (15 min) • Questions and discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Jorge Muñoz, CDC ○ Dr. Leticia Franco, PAHO ○ Dr. Gilberto Santiago, CDC (virtual) ○ Dr. Ana Bento, University of Indiana, Professor (virtual)
15:15-16:45	<p>Round table 1: Genomic surveillance of Arboviruses in the recent epidemics of 2022-2023 (10 min each):</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Luiz Alcantara, FIOCRUZ/ Dr. Jorge Muñoz, CDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session Introduction • Genomic Surveillance of Dengue and Chikungunya in Paraguay • Genomic Surveillance of Dengue and Chikungunya in Argentina • Genomic Surveillance of Chikungunya in Uruguay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Luiz Alcantara. FIOCRUZ MG, Brazil ○ Dr. Cynthia Vázquez, LCSP, Paraguay ○ Dr. Cintia Fabri, INEVH, Argentina ○ Dr. Héctor Chiparelli, DLSP, Uruguay (virtual) ○ Dr. Paquita García, INS, Perú

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genomic Surveillance of Dengue in Peru • Genomic Surveillance of Dengue in Brazil • Strengthening Genomic Surveillance in the Dominican Republic • Genomic Surveillance of Dengue in Costa Rica • Questions and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Felipe Naveca, FIOCRUZ, Brazil ○ Dr. Isaac Miguel, LNSPDD, Dominican Republic ○ Dr. Mauricio González, INCIENSA, Costa Rica
16:45-17:15	Workgroups: Proposal of Guidelines to Strengthen Genomic Surveillance of Arboviruses.	All participants
17:15-17:30 Coffee Break		
17:30-18:30	Continuation of Workgroup Sessions	All participants
19:00-22:30 Cocktail		

WEDNESDAY, 16 AUGUST 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
SESSION IV: INTEGRATED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE OF ARBOVIRUSES Coordinator: Dr. Lionel Gresh, OPS		
9:00-10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika Case Definitions (10 min) • Recommended Laboratory Algorithms (10 min) Discussion (20 min) • Virtual Cooperation Spaces in Countries (VCS) (20 min) • Data Reported by Virological Surveillance in the Americas (20 min) • Questions and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Gamaliel Gutiérrez, PAHO (virtual) ○ Dr. Jairo Mendez, Dr. Lionel Gresh, PAHO ○ Dr. Thais dos Santos, PAHO ○ Dr. Gabriel González, PAHO
10:45-11:00 Coffee Break		
11:00-12:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Presentation by Dengue Serotype in a Pediatric Study in Managua, Nicaragua 2004-2021 (30 min) • Discovery of New Viruses in Mosquitoes (20 min) • RELEVA and the Future of Entomovirological Surveillance (20 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Angel Balmaseda, CNDR, Nicaragua ○ Dr. Ana Cecilia Ribeiro Cruz, IEC, Brazil ○ Drs. Ana Cecilia Ribeiro, Leticia Franco, PAHO y Edmundo Morales, PAHO (virtual)
12:10-12:45	Discussion and Next Steps	
12:45-14:00 Lunch		
SESSION V: NEUROTROPIC AND EMERGING ARBOVIRUSES		

Coordinator: Dra. Livia Carisio Martins, IEC		
14:00-15:00	Roundtable 2: Surveillance and Diagnosis of Neurotropic Arboviruses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference Testing for Neuroinvasive Arboviruses (20 min) Neurotropic Arbovirus Surveillance in Argentina (20 min) Discussion and Next Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Eric Mossel, CDC Dr. Alejandra Morales, INEVH
15:00- 16:00	Roundtable 3: Emerging Arboviruses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oropouche Outbreaks in Various States of the Northern Region of Brazil in 2023 (20 min) Other emerging Arboviruses (20 min) Discussion and Next Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Felipe Naveca, FIOCRUZ RJ Dr. Livia Carisio Martins, IEC, Brazil
16:00-16:20 Coffee Break		
16:20-17:00	Keynote Lecture: Yellow Fever in the Americas	Dr. Pedro Vasconcelos, University of Pará, Brazil (virtual)
17:00-17:15	Conclusions of the Second Day	PAHO
17:15- 17:30 Group Picture		

THURSDAY, 17 AUGUST 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
SESSION VI: EVALUATION AND USE OF COMMERCIAL TESTS (10 min each) Coordinator: Dr. Cristina Domingo, RKI, Germany		
9:00-10:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IEC INEVH IPK InDRE Pasteur Institute, French Guiana Questions and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Livia Casseb, IEC, Brazil Dr. Alejandra Morales, INEVH. Argentina Dr. Lupe Guzman, IPK, Cuba Dr. Claudia Rosales, InDRE, Mexico Dr. Anne Lavergne, IP French Guiana
SESSION VII: REDLA COORDINATION ISSUES (10 min each) Coordinator: Dr. Alejandra Morales, REDLA Coordinator		
10:10- 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the new REDLA website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Leticia Franco and Mgr. Ximena Terrazas, PAHO

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory Capacity Survey of the Network for 2022 and 2023 • Activity Plan for 2023-2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Gabriel González, PAHO RELDA Technical Secretariat and Coordination
11:00-11:15 Coffee Break		
SESSION VIII: CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF RELDA Coordinators: RELDA Coordination and Technical Secretariat		
11:15- 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words From PAHO • Words from RELDA Coordination • Commemorative 15-Year Video • Recognition Awards for RELDA's 15 Years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Luis Gerardo Castellanos, PAHO ○ Dr. Alejandra Morales, RELDA Coordinator ○ RELDA Technical Secretariat and Coordination
13:00-15:00 Lunch and End of the Meeting		