

As in all regions of the world, the Region of the Americas set up a Regional Certification Commission for the polio endgame (RCC). The Commission is made up of seven recognized experts in the Region in the fields of public health, epidemiology, pediatrics, virology, infectious diseases and immunology. The members of the RCC are appointed by the Director of PAHO/WHO for a period of 3 years, and may be re-elected for additional periods, in accordance with the requirements of the *Polio Eradication Endgame Strategic Plan*. Among its tasks, is to carry out a careful and detailed review of the documentation that each country presents to demonstrate its progress and contributions to the eradication of polio. Additionally, every country of the Region established a National Certification Committee (NCC) whose task is to collect, review and validate the information provided by the Ministries of Health, and send the documentation to the RCC.

The responsibilities of the RCC are to:

1. Assess the fulfillment of polio eradication certification requirements in the Region of the Americas, as defined by the Global Certification Commission (GCC), with particular consideration of immunization coverage, surveillance, containment, risk assessment, risk mitigation, and outbreak preparedness;
2. Define, and update as necessary, the documentation required from each country of the Region to demonstrate maintenance of polio-free status;
3. Review updated polio eradication documentation from each country of the Region on an annual basis and report those findings and required actions to the PAHO Regional Director and to the National Certification Committee in each country;
4. Conduct site visits to countries, as required, to review or verify their polio-free status (including laboratory containment of wild, VDPV, and Sabin polioviruses);
5. Work closely with National Certification Committees and provide recommendations to fulfill the requirements for global certification;
6. Review and validate national reports and documentation on laboratory containment of all polioviruses in order to assess progress to minimize poliovirus facility associated risk and recommend actions necessary to achieve laboratory containment goals within the Region.

## Regional Certification Commission



Dr. Angela Gentile  
RCC Member



Dr. José Félix Sánchez Largaespada  
RCC Member



Dr. Arlene King  
RCC Chair



Dr. Mark Pallansch  
RCC Member



Dr. José Luis Díaz Ortega  
RCC Member



Dr. Rosa Alba Salas  
RCC Member



Dr. Eliseu Waldman  
RCC Member