

2011 Minutes 12th TropNet Meeting, Barcelona 2011

Friday September 30, 2011

Word of welcome by Joaquim and introduction of CRESIB

1. Report of steering committee and coordinator

Evaluation of the main achievements road map 2011 followed by discussion on most important conclusions of strategy discussion in Basel (November 2010):

2. Introduction to the new TropNet website

Discussion: the main objectives of the website are: 1) internal communication, and 2) to show what we are doing. The 'must have' and 'nice to have' components of the website and the contents of the public and restricted sites were discussed. **Action points** will be taken up by Thomas Zoller and Andreas Neumayr. The website is written using Typo3. The content of the website is managed through a content-management system which allows even laymen/women to learn editing and publishing website contents in a minimum of time. This might be very useful in the future for e.g. individual research groups who will then manage their research project sub-websites by themselves.

- Epi-news has added value for members and non-members
- **Request** to add search filter to Epi-news. **Request** to add web statistics to evaluate number of visits and interests of visitors.
- Invitation to members to volunteer to evaluate leaflet information and to compare this information with own (national) travellers' information sheets. Aim: harmonization of information for travellers
- Website could offer leaflet information for travellers in different languages
- **Request** by members to replace communication through Yahoo Groups by mail alerts, discussion on the technical realization. Need for operating procedure for electronic communication on special cases.

4. It is agreed by the participants that the former TropNetEurop reporting is not appropriate any longer in the light of the activities of EuroTravNet/Geosentinel.

Reporting of rare or unexpected events

Members agree that this activity should be shared with EuroTravNet

Teaching & training within the network

Invitation to the larger centres to accommodate visiting members in sharing knowledge and hands-on training (days to one week). Previous experience has shown that is refreshing for both parties.

3. Scientific session 1

Saturday October 01, 2011

1. Introduction on research by steering committee and coordinator

Invitation to all members to formulate 'burning questions' in daily practice, research, and teaching.

Goal: to generate evidence-based advice (risk-assessment) and disease management

Need to submit protocols for grants

2. TropNet research projects

Leishman

Proposal to put work documents in restricted area website

Madrid reports an outbreak of more than 100 cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis

Action point: Leishman needs active representation from Spanish and Italian site for the November meeting (18 - 19 Nov 2011) in Antwerp.

Severe malaria

Introduction of ARTOS-MAL FP7 program

Study drug: Sigma-Tau artesunate

Efficacy and safety study

Population severe falciparum malaria

Intervention artesunate, 48 - 72 hrs

Control no control arm

Outcome survival, adverse events

Discussion:

This is not an efficacy study, because there is no comparator

Intervention (duration, subsequent treatment should be conform with daily practice as much as possible)

Erythrocytapheresis is an exclusion, but data on such patients are collected prospectively

Pediatric cases should be included through the members

If FP7 is not granted, we need to do study anyway

Sigma-Tau is very unlikely to fund the study

FP7-Dengue tools research initiative

TropNet work package is part of Research Area 3: combining entomological data, climatic conditions, modeling, vectorial capacity of *Aedes albopictus*, and clinical and diagnostic work-up including genomic analysis and case definition comparing imported dengue cases with endemic cases from Sri Lanka

Main objectives: 1) Surveillance of dengue: travelers reflect evolving epidemics

2) Adding viral samples to Spanish initiative on genomic analysis

3) Comparing clinical classification of severity, new definition

ECDC is interested introduction dengue case in *Aedes albopictus* endemic areas

Important: 17 centres need to contribute at least 10 cases per year over 3-4 years

Ethical board clearance pending in Switzerland

Action point: ethical clearance by one European country is not enough for ethical clearance in other European member states.

-> Individual submission to ethical boards

Discussion

- Summer Fever Initiative in Region of Verona will result in large collection of samples

also from outside FP7 collaborating center. How to recognize this contribution in publications? All communication will occur through FP7 collaborating centre.

Possibility for special agreement with contributing partners outside FP7 for recognition of their contribution.

-All suspected clinical dengue cases are included for the questionnaire, only viremic cases will included in the study. Therefore, all fevers with no obvious reason should be included for the questionnaire study (registration of exact times is very important)

- Screening through double rapid test (NS1 and IgM-IgG) if available. Note: there is a window at day 4 - day 5 at which the rapid test may be false negative. Possible solution: repeat serology on day 7.

- Only positive blood samples (obtained before D7) will be sent to Madrid.

All samples should stored at -80C at the collaborating centre (storage 12 mo in hospital) Transport at -80C according to protocol. SOP are currently made.

- Clinical follow-up is not in protocol

- Chikungunya virus infections are also included in Spanish study

- Antonio Tenorio is ahead to provide the SOP for taking and sending the samples to Madrid

SOP research committee proposal

Discussion

- Rules for authorship follow standard procedures (not only by contributing cases)

- In acknowledgements a list of collaborating TropNet centres can be included in such a way that these centres are cited in PubMed

- Review process publication is the responsibility of all authors before publication.

- Research papers using TropNet platform should properly acknowledge TropNet.

- For example TropNet will be included in the publication in Dengue FP7 and severe malaria.

- Policy statements with TropNet in the title have to be reviewed by the steering committee.

Febrile illness in returning travelers and migrants

Slipstream of FP7 study

Questionnaires of febrile illness, not dengue.

Discussion:

- Any incubation period or limitation? Diagnostic tool not sentinel surveillance

- Duration of storage - additional future test (ethical approval, obtain consent)
- Included control visit and diagnostic process
- Why not store all positive samples?
- Plea for standardized procedure of patient care, otherwise collection individual centre experience. No standard procedures would allow comparison between different diagnostic strategies. The questionnaire is standardized.
- Time investment is resource demanding, there is no funding. More focused aim?

Action: first draft

3. **Rare disease tracing**

Unexpected event reporting

Discussion: only epidemiology
 Severe malaria vivax., *P. knowlesi*
 Rare or unexpected should be included
 Suggestion to establish a partnership with Eurotravnet

4. **Contribution of all members**

November 2011 end of year report
 Passive members are not accepted: if no cases were seen also answer required (zero cases)

5. **Next meeting 5 - 6 October 2012. Venue Prague? Berlin? London?**