

# Partners for Rabies Prevention

Banna, Italy  
April 27 – 29, 2009



**Participants:** (Contact information in Appendix 1) Abigail Tumpey, Alexander Wandeler, Anastasia Pantelias, Anthony Fooks, Carolin Schumacher, Charles Rupprecht, Deborah Briggs, Panayiotis Demetriou, Emma Soto, Emmanuel Yandoko, Ferdinando Borgese, Fernando Leanes, Florence Cliquet, François Meslin, Hervé Bourhy, Jan Vaarten, Julie Gallagher, Karin Jager, Katinka de Balogh, Kim Doyle, Lea Knopf, Leon Russell, Lex Bakker, Louis Nel, Lumlertdacha Boonlert, Michael Atflan, Noel Tordo, Raffy DeRay, Sarah Cleaveland, Thomas Mueller  
**Copy:** Peter Costa, and post on website

## Agenda April 27 – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Monday April 27** Arrival during day in Banna

20:30 Welcome – Informal dinner  
Introductions and Nomination of Chair and Rapporteur(s)

**Tuesday April 28**

### Morning sessions

08:45 – 09:00 Opening, discussion objectives, and brief update from last meeting *D Briggs (ARC)*

09:00 – 11:00 **First Session – Communicating our message**

**Moderator: S Cleaveland (ARC)**

09:00 – 10:15 Lessons learned from WRD: what have we achieved and goals for 2009; *A Tumpey (CDC, US), P Costa (ARC)*

Roundtable: plans for WRD 2009

10:15 – 11:00 Brief report from SEARG, AfroREB, AREB, RIA, RIEA, and RITA meetings: *L Nel (U of Pret, SA)*  
Coordinating efforts for better global communications, is it possible?

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 – 13:00 **Second Session – Educational tools for national rabies prevention**

**Moderator: T Mueller (Wuesterhausen Germany)**

11:15 – 11:30 Preparation of a country specific Blueprint for Rabies Prevention:

Introduction of the concept

*D Briggs (ARC)*

11:30 – 12:30 Two subgroup discussions

Discussion coordinators: *T Mueller (Wuesterhausen, Germany), F Cliquet (AFSSA, France), T Fooks (Weybridge UK), D Briggs(ARC)*

Potential discussion points:

- Animal, human prevention priorities
- What should be included?
- What should be included as a 'first line of defense'?
- What can be added as a second step; third step?



|                      |                                                                                            |                                                                                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:30 – 12:45        | Recap of discussions; Next steps                                                           | <i>T Mueller (Germany)</i>                                                               |
| 12:45 – 13:00        | Rabies in recent outbreaks – Bali and Angola                                               | <i>K de Balogh (FAO)</i>                                                                 |
| <b>13:00 – 14:00</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                               |                                                                                          |
| <b>14:00 – 15:00</b> | <b>Third Session – Informal Discussion</b>                                                 |                                                                                          |
|                      | Future funding strategies<br><i>Gates)</i>                                                 | <i>A Pantelias (B&amp;M)</i>                                                             |
|                      | Informal discussions on canine rabies prevention                                           | <i>S Cleaveland (Tanz), L Nel (S A), R Deray (Phil), H Bourhy (P I), FX Meslin (WHO)</i> |
| <b>15:00 – 18:15</b> | <b>Fourth Session – Pillar workshops (Breakup into discussion groups)</b>                  |                                                                                          |
|                      | <i>15:00 – 16:00 Group 1 : Advocacy &amp; Communication</i>                                | <i>A Tumpey (US)</i>                                                                     |
|                      | <i>Group 2 : Research and Development</i>                                                  | <i>C Rupprecht (CDC, US)</i>                                                             |
| <b>16:00 – 16:15</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                        |                                                                                          |
|                      | <i>16:15 – 17:15 Group 3 : Capacity building</i>                                           | <i>H Bourhy (PI, France)</i>                                                             |
|                      | <i>Group 4 : Pilot projects</i>                                                            | <i>T Mueller (Germany)</i>                                                               |
| 17:15 – 18:15        | Report from Pillar Heads on workshop outcomes (15 min for each pillar) <i>Pillar Heads</i> |                                                                                          |
| 20:00                | Dinner                                                                                     |                                                                                          |

**Wednesday April 29**

|                      |                                                                         |                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>09:00 – 12:00</b> | <b>Fifth Session – Summary and Conclusions</b>                          |                             |
|                      | <b>Moderator: <i>D Briggs (ARC)</i></b>                                 |                             |
| 09:00 – 09:30        | Revisiting appointment of Pillar heads and potential of adding deputies | <i>N Tordo (PI, France)</i> |
| 09:30 – 10:00        | Discussion of communication plan and future media strategy              | <i>A Tumpey (US)</i>        |
|                      | Press release plan: why is it newsworthy? Templates                     |                             |
| <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                     |                             |
| 10:00 – 12:00        | Discussion/Wrap up & Conclusions: Commitments for next meeting          | <i>Chair</i>                |
| <b>12:00 – 13:00</b> | <b>Lunch: Plans for coming year</b>                                     |                             |
| 13:00 – onward       | Depart for home                                                         |                             |



## **Opening reception – April 27<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was opened with an informal dinner. D Briggs began with a welcoming address to all guests and a special note of appreciation to Federico Spinola for opening his private home to host the Partners for Rabies Prevention Informal group meeting.

Dr Alexander Wandeler was nominated as the Chair of the meeting  
Dr Julie Gallagher was nominated as Rapporteur of the meeting

### **1. Session One – Communicating our message – Moderator S Cleaveland**

#### **1.1. Opening comments – by A Wandeler (Chair) (Appendix 2)**

There continues to be a high incidence of human rabies in developing countries of S Asia and Africa. The highest rates of exposure and incidence of human rabies primarily occurs where the dog population is high. In these areas there continues to be poor surveillance of canine rabies and very low coverage of rabies immunization in dogs. Additionally, the percentage of humans receiving the correct PEP protocol is less than adequate due to a multiple of reasons including: availability of rabies biologicals, economic accessibility, competing medical systems, disease recognition etc. Finally, in some cases there are gender issues associated with accessibility of PEP in that one gender is often considered more expendable than the other, especially in large families. These matters are complex and have hardly been studied. Mental and social health issues complexity of these issues should be seen as important in the complexity of preventing infectious diseases.

#### **1.2. Introduction and progress of the Partners for Rabies Prevention – DJ Briggs**

A brief introduction as to the structure, purpose, goals and mission of the PRP was presented. The following statement had been discussed and agreed upon by the Pillar Heads prior to the meeting. These statements will be posted on the PRP website.

**What is the PRP?** The Partners for Rabies Prevention consists of an informal network of stakeholders working in the field of rabies prevention and control.

**What is the goal of the PRP?** The goal of this informal network is to provide a platform by which to share information and expertise and to exchange and discuss current information in the field of rabies prevention including: global epidemiology; outbreak information; new tools and diagnostic techniques; laboratory surveillance; and educational awareness and advocacy.

**What is the vision of the PRP?** The vision of the Partners for Rabies Prevention is to develop a road map by which to eliminate canine rabies worldwide, to prevent human rabies, and to control rabies in wildlife.



**What is the operational vocation of the PRP?** The Partners for Rabies Prevention does not have an operational vocation. All operational activities that arise as a result of discussions among participants of the informal network of the Partners for Rabies Prevention are completed either through the Alliance for Rabies Control or through one of the institutions involved in the informal network acting on behalf of the group.

**What is the involvement of the stakeholders of the PRP?** The Partners for Rabies Prevention informal network is open to participants that have something to contribute to the discussion and exchange of information.

**What has been the progress of the PRP since its inception?**

- Two meetings have been held – Banna (May 2008) and Atlanta (September 2008)
- The number of stakeholders contributing to the informal network has been increased; ie European Commission – Directorate General Health and Consumers, FEV, PAHO, AREB, AfroREB, SEARG, WSPA, VSF/VWB etc
- A logo has been designed for the PRP and will be available for downloading from the website
- PRP webpage has been launched: [www.partnersforrabiesprevention.org](http://www.partnersforrabiesprevention.org)
- The communications network has been expanded and educational messages and material have been sent to over 55 million people across the world
- Outreach has expanded to 200 countries
- A global rabies network has been established where none existed previously. Thus we now have contacts in most countries; can align inquiries/questions/problems with PRP partners
- Through our informal network of partners letters from MoH offices were sent to GAVI to support rabies
- Through partnerships the stage has been set for discussion about the development of a 'Blueprint' for national rabies prevention document that will guide how individual countries approach rabies prevention

**1.3. Lessons learned from World Rabies Day – A Tumpey (Appendix 3)**

- One of the most important lessons learned relating to the success of WRD was the establishment of strong partnerships and the ability to mobilize individuals and communities with simple toolkits
- The traditional communication strategies were not enough to keep up with the needs required for WRD
- After WRD, reports were received back from 74 countries in association with WRD 2007 and 85 countries in association with WRD 2008 but more countries participated and did not send reports
- Website contact has enabled outreach into 200 countries with 80% of the contacts being attributed to new visitors
- A downloadable educational bank has been established and continues to be expanded with additional materials
- Educational activities have been initiated at a national level in schools (ie Syria and Puerto Rico)
- WRD logo has been translated into 30 languages and continues to be an excellent means through which countries can feel connected to support the common goal of rabies prevention and control
- ARC has received a lifelong grant from Google to support web based advertising equivalent to \$10,000 US per month
- Just a few of the thousands of events for WRD 2007 and 2008 include: vaccination programs in Mozambique and Haiti, national educational activities for children in schools, experts participating in awareness programs, implementation of National Rabies Management plans, inter-country partnerships (Brazil donating vaccines to Haiti)
- Funds raised on WRD through Vet student activities, a partnership with Veterinarians Without Borders in Canada and a private donor have enabled 5 projects focused on community based educational initiatives to be



funded in China, Guatemala, Kenya, Peru, and Vietnam. The call for proposals elicited 45 proposals in 4 different languages from 18 countries.

- Global partnerships enabled 22,000 posters to be distributed to 21 African countries. These posters are mainly visual with short messages and can be translated for use as needed. These posters are currently being edited for distribution in Asia
- WRD has initiated novel partnerships and we should be looking for more ways to partner, ie with pet food companies
- Novel opportunities have produced new channels for communications, ie the US Navy 4<sup>th</sup> fleet has invited a partnership to join the US Comfort on an educational outreach program to several countries in Latin America.
- The reason for the success with little financial support is attributed to the strong partnership support
- Some of the more successful media campaigns included: E-communications, Google earth to track events,
- Future strategies include: translating educational materials into more languages, a 6 month fellow to focus on communications for WRD at CDC in Atlanta Georgia; to move WRD from being 'one day of action' to rabies being a yearlong commitment involving PRP, ARC, CDC and other partners; establish Alliance regional POCs; outreach to Vet clinics, shelters, engagement of novel partners; expand e-communications capacity (You tube, Face book, Widgets, Content syndication, Twitter etc); develop regional and national educational material; creation of an 'Adopt a Village' program; work on establishing partnerships between Min of Health and Min of Agric for national programs; work with the European Veterinary week to support WRD

#### 1.4. Roundtable discussion – Plans for WRD 2009 – A Tumpey

##### *Brainstorming and discussion comments included the following:*

- A good example of what can be done for WRD might be to look at the highlights from World Malaria Day where they successfully used Twitter and Video Games to raise funds (AP)
- Google links are exciting, is it possible to ask Google to promote the logo of WRD on September 28<sup>th</sup>? (AF)
- Google is hesitant to highlight a 'Health Day' in this manner because they may become 'overwhelmed' with requests from advocates of other diseases (AT)
- Why not try to engage celebrities? (CR)
- A short video clip "I am one" put out by West Nile advocates is a good example of how to engage people. (<http://www.westnile.ca.gov/resources.php>) (AF)
- We are working on this approach through CDC contacts. (AT) An 80 min educational video is available and could be used for short clips on the e-communications networks. It is a good idea to have a large image bank available for downloading onto the e-communications networks (MA)
- **NOTE: The networking to secure the videos has already been initiated MA, AT and DB**
- The EU Commission has moved the 2009 EU Vet Week celebrations to the same week as WRD and will promote rabies awareness as part of those activities. They are promoting the "One Health Campaign" throughout the EU and are developing a short video on rabies. One of the key messages is why pets need to carry 'Pet Passports' when travelling to or in the EU. (ES)
- The Alliance will be hosting a blog from Dr Robin Hughes, the veterinarian that will be accompanying the US Navy ship Comfort through several countries in L America (DB)
- There are several examples of how working Vet services can be successfully utilized including programs on Swine fever, and the movement of dogs (FL)



- A list of communicators as POCs at each of the Partner's establishments would be helpful to help coordinate messages and allow swifter movement of ideas (AT)
- **NOTE: A list was compiled during the meeting and given to AT**
- There is a need to work harder with the Veterinary services. FL asked for a specific message to be sent to the General Director of OIE (FL)
- The message promoting rabies will work if it is continually pushed but it must have strong advocates to make sure that this happens. Perhaps Canada could send a message to OIE? (FL)
- More animal welfare partners should be involved (SC)
- Confirmation that WSPA, HSUS and ARC already in partnership. WSPA was a key partner for the last two years in initiating outreach to Asia and other endemic regions. (AT)
- Invitation extended to ARC to speak at the Virology meeting in San Rafael around the same date as WRD (NT)
- Vet services are already dealing with many diseases, some have more impact on human health and food than rabies. How do we leverage energy and enthusiasm that is present to target government bodies as well as Veterinary and Animal health sectors (CS)
- Confirmation that specific materials are already designed and available via ARC and CDC to target governments (AT)
- This year it may be more cost-saving to locate local printers in country for distribution of posters (KdB)
- The launch of the KZN project will be on WRD 2009 and it will be an opportunity for additional press (LN)
- Tanzania is also planning a 'launch' of the Gates project in country (SC)
- ARC Patron (Alexander McCall Smith), the author of 'First Ladies Detective Agency' series is planning on filming footage in the Serengeti and this will provide opportunities for press coverage. Parts of the filming could be put on You Tube, Twitter etc (SC)
- There is a big opportunity to engage the Animal Conservation NGOs in a major way (SC)

#### **1.5. Report on global conferences and organizations focused on rabies – L Nel**

This session will discuss what is going on with regional rabies programs without focusing on who is bigger, better, older, wealthier etc.

##### **SEARG – South East Africa Rabies Group – L Nel (Appendix 4)**

- Africa has 20.3% of the world's landmass and is known for having the poorest countries in the world
- Dr Arthur King organized the first meeting in Zambia in 1992
- SEARG has some main objectives:
- Enable communication, raise awareness, link with other global stakeholders,
- Improve epidemiological data, improve surveillance by creating better links,
- Promote demonstration projects and use them as a blueprint for rabies elimination among SEARG countries

##### **AfroREB – African Rabies Expert Bureau – E Yandoko (Appendix 5)**

- Created in 2007 as an informal group of rabies experts from francophone Africa
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the AfroREB was held in Senegal in March 2009
- Meetings to be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> year – opposite years as the SEARG
- Will work with SEARG to have cross-representation at each meeting
- Aim to publish meeting reports and position papers
- Increase collection of epidemiological data



- Adopt a common case definition of human rabies
- Increase awareness, advocacy, accessibility of PEP to all patients, increase proper use of RIG for Cat III wounds

**AREB – Asian Rabies Expert Bureau – R DeRay** (Appendix 6)

- Informal group of experts from 9 Asian countries
- Annual meetings
- Aim to elaborate a consensus on practical solutions to specific problems
- Support rabies awareness in AREB countries and identify the best networks for dissemination of information
- Support the implementation of PreP in children living at high risk of exposure in endemic countries

**RIA – Rabies in Asia – F Meslin**

- Conference is organized by the RIA Foundation (President is Dr MK Sudarshan, Bangalore India, and the Vietnamese National Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene in Hanoi Vietnam (NIHE), Dr Hanh is the Deputy Director of NIHE
- Next meeting to be held on September 9, 10, 11 2009 in Hanoi
- Draft program agenda can be found on RIA Foundation website at:  
<http://www.rabiesinasia.org/riacon2009/notice.html>

**RIEA – Rabies in Eurasia – A Fooks**

- First meeting was held in 1985 and have had several meeting since
- Proceedings and recommendations from these meetings are published

**RITA – Rabies in the Americas – C Rupprecht**

- Twentieth annual meeting will be October 17 – 23, 2009 in Quebec City Canada
- For more information see website: [www.rita2009.org](http://www.rita2009.org)
- Aim is to improve communications especially as an operational directive
- Promote technology transfer between countries
- Significant progress has been made since the inception of RITA in improving surveillance, diagnostics, discontinuation of NTV, use of oral dog vaccine, widespread publications and joint working between countries and regions

**Summary – L Nel**

- Execute synergy of communications/information exchange when needed
- Should highlight meetings and dates
- Links to various websites and meeting dates should be available on the PRP website and sent to AT and Peter Costa (ARC)



## 2. Session Two – Educational tools for national rabies prevention – Moderator T Mueller (Appendix 7)

### 2.1. Preparation of a country specific Blueprint for Rabies Prevention

#### 2.1.1. Introduction of the concept – D J Briggs

- There is a lot of information in press about how to prevent and control canine rabies but it is sometimes difficult to find and to interpret
- Many times professionals in countries wanting to implement a canine rabies control program do not know where to start
- There are many things that can be strategically laid out in a stepwise manner to assist governments and ministries in canine rabies endemic countries that wish to consider this as an option to reduce the number of human rabies cases
- Therefore the idea is to prepare a document that would serve as a 'Blueprint' whereby the strategy to implement a canine rabies control program can be easily understood and put into action
- Dr Betty Dodet and Dr Thomas Mueller and his colleagues had drafted some discussion topics to begin the discussion
  
- **Discussion strategy:** Participants were divided into two groups to make participation and discussion more efficient.

#### 2.1.2. Report from Group One – A Fooks

- Need to have the document delivered in a short time
- Need to make it user friendly – web based and accessible
- Should be a totally new 'concept' from what is currently available
- There are good examples of programs for other diseases that have worked quite well, many of which are based on a Question and Answer type of format
- The format is proposed to be a simplified Q & A along with flow charts to maneuver through the process in a relatively easy manner
- The questions and answers should be relevant to the audience that will be utilizing the program
- It should be pitched to be at a high school level
- Most questions could be answered directly in the program and if this is not possible due to the complexity of the question, a 'yellow pages' could be included that would provide contact details for specific rabies experts
- The target audience should be for everyone, government ministries and Vets, medics in the field etc
- Should be in a language that can be understood by all





### **2.1.3. Report from Group Two – D Briggs**

- Working from the draft document prepared by B Dodet the discussion focused on a more traditional approach and outlined the document by different chapters
- The chapters should have a limited number of pages, be short and concise listing the objectives of the chapter, what happens if it is not implemented correctly etc
- The suggested topics should include: How to write and establish a National Rabies Control Program; budget requirements; rabies should be a notifiable disease; need for intersectorial support; rabies epidemiology; list of stakeholders; communications and education tool kits
- Should separate the major sections into human and animal
- Reference back to WHO, OIE, and other existing documents
- Q&A may also be added

### **Comments from participants included:**

- Many tools and data are already available through PAHO that could be included (FL)
- Canine rabies should be the first focus (TM)
- There is no need to prepare the proposed document under discussion simply to replace other texts that are in print. We need a new concept, we need to prepare a simple document that is easily accessible and can be updated regularly and without a great deal of cost and effort (CR)
- Some professionals will need the written text (MA)
- OIE has some funds for ‘twinning’ laboratories from developing countries with those OIE CC established laboratories in the western world and this information could be included (LK)

### **Summary:**

- It was agreed that the two groups were basically discussing the same issues it was the format that was different.
- The participants agreed to proceed with preparation of the Blueprint utilizing a completely new format as proposed by Group 1 based on a question and answer format
- Additionally, complementary written documents that can be downloadable in pdf format will also be prepared
- Tiziana Lembo will be contacted to ask if she would be interested in coordinating the animal prevention part and Betty Dodet will be contacted to ask if she would help with the human prevention part of the document
- DB confirmed that the leaders of the two groups concluded that the simple approach described by group 2 is the preferred option
- Emphasis will be to keep the language simple
- SC provided an example of a model with a few sample questions and answers on canine rabies and that case studies could be very useful
- Four of the main topics included:



1. Roles and Responsibilities
  2. Infrastructure, Legislation framework and funding
  3. Communication plan
  4. Operational activities
- AT indicated that it would be impossible to get this entire interactive web based learning activity up and running in the 4 months prior to WRD and the group agreed that stakeholders in the field of rabies had waited many years to put a useful document together and therefore the fact that some extra time would be required was not a critical issue and it would be important to prepare the Blueprint in the most useful manner
  - CS stated that Q and A should reflect “best practice”
  - The use of flow charts would be helpful as a tool to better understand the strategy to control canine rabies
  - MA and HB expressed reservations at the simplicity of the Group 2 proposal. Felt that the document will need to be in more detail
  - It was agreed that more detail could be hyperlinked which would allow original document to remain simple and clear
  - CR indicated that it may be more effective to use hyperlinks to specific information that already existing on the website
  - NT discussed the importance of validation of any document before release, and AT agreed and discussed specific methods whereby this could be accomplished.

***Allocated groups to work on each of the four main groups are as follows:***

**1. Roles and Responsibilities**

K d Balogh (FAO), Lea Knopf (OIE), J Vaarten (FVE), CS(Merial), FM(WHO), FL (PAHO)

**2. Infra structure , legislative , frame word and funding**

SC (Univ of Glasgow), HB (Past Inst)

**3. Communications**

AT (CDC), KJ (Intervet)

**4. Operations**

- This topic was subdivided as there are a lot of specific issues to be addressed including: design and implementation of a dog vaccination program; planning, collection and compiling data; epidemiology (what do I need to know?); writing a regional plan/framework/proposal; defining cases; diagnoses; human prevention; program evaluation – did it work?
- Individuals signed up for specific areas to avoid duplication of effort
- It was agreed that this manual should be prepared for Vets in the field and in the preparation process, it would be important to ‘think’ like someone in the field
- AW suggested that the previous WHO outline from 25 years ago was a good place to begin. This is an excellent document but needs to be updated
- JG suggested keeping the format simple for use of people in the field
- HB indicated that it would be important to provide a document that could also be used by professionals working in governmental offices
- DB suggested that both would be important and we would attempt to accommodate both needs



- TOPICS to be considered and volunteers to help with Operations included (**Bold** POC in charge):

1. What do we have to know? (Epidemiology)  
**L Nel**, K La Roux, A Wandeler, T Mueller
2. What do we need to buy (Budgets and provisioning)  
**F Leanes**, S Cleaveland, C Schumacher, F Cliquet
3. Who do we need to train (Availability of people, resources etc)  
**C Rupprecht**, H Bourhy
4. What are we going to do? Dog and Human  
Dog – **S Cleaveland**, F Leanes, L Nel  
Human- **D Briggs**, M Attlan, R DeRay
5. What is the impact/indicators? (Evaluation)  
**A Wandeler**, S Cleaveland

- NOTE: Both Tiziana L and Betty D have been contacted and agreed to help. Tiziana will be able to help full time at the end of June. Meanwhile questions and descriptions from above topics can be compiled by those volunteering to do so***

## **2.2. Rabies in recent outbreaks – K de B** (Appendix 8)

The recent outbreak of canine rabies was discussed by K de Balogh who had recently visited the island of Bali on behalf of FAO.

- Initial findings indicated that there is a poor awareness of rabies on the island of Bali
- On the island, the veterinary laboratory could only perform the Seller's test for rabies
- At the time of the mission there was no functioning fluorescent microscope in the lab
- There has been low coverage of dogs and the local vaccine requires frequent boosters
- There is a lack of emergency resource
- Dogs have been eliminated using controversial methods
- Poor communication between Medical and Veterinary sectors
- Shortage of PEP, intradermal is not used
- Rabies in dogs was likely introduced through dogs brought by fishermen to Bali
- There is concern about spillover into other species
- There is an urgent need to accelerate canine vaccination and to increase awareness
- Suggest that the private sector get involved especially due to the effect on tourism
- Question and problems in how to deal with the inaccessible dog population



### **3. Session Three – Informal discussions**

#### **3.1. Future funding strategies – A Pantelias**

Rabies was the first new disease to be added to the B & M Gates Foundation portfolio for a long time. With the current global financial situation, funding strategies for the B & M Gates Foundation have had to adapt accordingly. There is unlikely to be extra money for funding rabies projects in 2009 and 2010 but the Foundation is committed to funding the three projects that have been agreed upon. AP predicted that the funding situation would improve in the next five years.

#### **3.2. Canine rabies prevention –FX Meslin, S Cleaveland, L Nel, R DeRay, and H Bourhy**

##### ***Information on Gates Projects***

- Initial visits to three sites have completed or are in the process of being scheduled
- Government of each country are committed to project
- Contracts have been secured with Univ of Glasgow and financial support of the ARC for hosting of PRP meetings have been agreed upon
- There was a request for photos and information to be published on the PRP website and in the ARC Newsletter

##### ***Tanzania***

- Financial contracts have been set up
- M of Livestock is in partnership to commence dog vaccination campaigns
- Currently searching for a campaign coordinator, will be a Vet or Medic
- Districts will be covered one by one; campaigns to be repeated every 6 months
- Researcher working with Microsoft programmer to set up text messaging system to notify central database when a human bite occurs and text message is returned informing where vaccine is available
- Have applied for a MRC grant to support modelers and analyze data further

##### ***Kwazulu Natal***

- Financial contracts have been set up with M of Agric
- Launch date has been established to coincide with WRD 2009
- Collaboration with WSPA established
- Program is not brand new as canine rabies control is an ongoing project in the region, the support of the Gates Foundation allows the program to be expanded and heightens the interest

##### ***Philippines***

- Assistants to the Program Coordinator (Dr Raffy Deray) at Central and Regional levels are being recruited by the WHO office based on one of three major groups of islands
- Year program will allow for 70% of dogs to be vaccinated
- Information on the implementation phase of the 3 B&M Gates Foundation and WHO coordinated projects can be found at: [http://www.who.int/rabies/bmgf\\_who\\_project/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/rabies/bmgf_who_project/en/index.html).



### ***Information on other ongoing projects***

#### ***Morocco***

- 120 clinics provide PEP free of charge at a cost of 1.4 million USD annually
- Large distribution of Vet services
- 200 – 400 cases of rabies are reported annually
- Census of dog population is needed
- 9 provinces were selected for canine vaccination
- Funding proposals to the WHO coordinated and B&M GATES Foundation were unsuccessful
- Participants suggested applying to other funding sources: UBS Optimus Foundation, VSF/VWB Canada

#### ***Discussion among participants included:***

- There was a question about how the various experts involved in rabies could get involved in the projects
- SC stated that these projects are incredibly important to develop additional research projects and suggested that there are opportunities for researchers and their students to conduct projects in association with the ongoing projects
- DB suggested that the projects be promoted to increase the interest of other countries to begin to develop their own projects
- FL suggested that the Government of Brazil forge partnerships between Portuguese speaking countries in Africa.
- AP discussed that there are timelines and deliverables that must be agreed upon and achieved according to the contract
- AW suggested that an extra layer of oversight was not needed and that the group was available if problems occurred, they could be brought back to the group
- AP stated that current contract stated dates for annual reports and that was sufficient; that a balance was needed between continual reporting and actually doing the work. AP confirmed that the projects are opened and public information but annual reports might have to be adapted accordingly before wider distribution
- AT summed up that members of the PRP group are passionate about these projects and that it would be good to disseminate information once reports are received and processed
- FM indicated that there would be a WHO meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October that part of the meeting was private but that there would be a public part and that members of the PRP group are invited



#### 4. Session 4. Pillar Head workshops and discussion – A Wandeler

##### 4.1. Research and development – C Rupprecht

- There are 3 areas of focus for the R & D pillar including:
  - Population management: Immunocontraceptive (particularly Gonacon); Design and construction of a recombinant rabies vaccine including an immunocontraceptive; proof of concept and investigation into any interference
  - Vaccination: Oral vaccines; canine adenovirus; investigation into potency, safety and efficacy with regards to making sure that there are no safety issues with the general public; there are exciting products in development but all have issues to be resolved
  - Delivery systems: Moving away from synthetic vaccine container toward a more edible bait
- There was discussion about whether human prevention is an area to be targeted and the discussion was tabled and decision was to focus on dog rabies elimination recognizing that there were not large moneys available and that active partners would need to bring sufficient funding to cover costs.

##### 4.2. Communications and advocacy – A Tumpey

- Discussion items in breakout group:
  - Marketing –
    - How can we market the success of this initiative and work in the pilot projects?
    - What are some additional audiences we can target with our marketing? (Foundations, etc.)
  - Media –
    - What are potential ways in which to leverage media between the partners?
    - How do each of the partners handle media
  - Comm/Education –
    - How can we assist countries in better addressing educational gaps?
    - What can each partner do to improve communications/education?
  - Partners –
    - Are there other partners we need to include in PRP or WRD?
    - Are there non-U.S. partners we need to target?
    - Are there other novel partnerships we need to target?
- Results of discussion:
- Try to link WRD with various news items – Need to reinvent the WRD media hook each year. It is not newsworthy enough that it is WRD.
- This year, there will be 2 dedicated journals, resulting in ~30 different rabies publication coming out around the beginning of September. These will be used to launch the media into WRD.
- There are specific problems associated with a large press release coming from the PRP group due to restrictions of the various organizations represented.
- There will be various press releases coming out in association with the Gates pilot projects, ie WHO and Tanzania in June; KZN will also be working on a press release



- Collectively the partners have specific reporters that cover their activities; need to work together on a regular basis to get larger coverage
- Need to disseminate information across all partner's communications services
- POCs for communications for all participants was collected
- ARC has utilized partner institutions to send out messages across the globe

#### **4.3. Capacity building – H Bourhy and M Attlan**

- Discussion focused on the fact that this group has lost several members and if it is to work efficiently there will be a need to bring in more members to support – request expansion of the group members
- There are no financial resources to build out capacity in various countries therefore the information gathered by this pillar needs to be forwarded to appropriate International Organizations
- There was a list of 47 countries that should receive a questionnaire to determine if rabies was a notifiable disease (proposed at the last PRP meeting in ATL), to date, 15 french-speaking countries have filled out the questionnaire
- The aim of the group is to determine the specific needs for rabies prevention in developing countries and investigate the gap between legislation and activities
- New members that joined included A Wandeler, F Leanes, L Russell

#### **4.4. Pilot projects – T Mueller**

- The Gates projects are high priority for assistance and support as requested
- Coordinators of the National Projects will provide updates and request help when required
- There are opportunities to bring researchers and students into projects if others have specific projects in mind they should contact Coordinators directly
- It would be good to have a list of other pilot projects going on around the world to help promote them as well, ie the Marwar Trust in India is doing an excellent job and could be highlighted in press releases
- Need to be innovative to try to find potential funding for other pilot projects
- EU Veterinary Fund is restricted to state-run eradication activities in EU Member States. In special cases and where there is disease threat to EU Member States, vaccination may be financed in neighboring countries.
- The possibilities for funding rabies related projects in developing countries through the development, humanitarian aid or neighborhood EU policies should be investigated.
- In 5 years the next round of projects could be submitted to Gates for evaluation
- Swiss government has addressed FAO concerning a 'table-top' exercise for rabies and this may be of value for the Blueprint and other countries
- Blueprint for canine rabies prevention is a major priority

### **5. Session 5 – Summary and Conclusions – Moderator D Briggs**

#### **5.1. Revisiting pillar heads – N Tordo (Appendix 9)**

- The question was raised as to whether there a need to change pillar heads or add deputies; some of the pillar heads have already added members to their group that were involved in the topics of concern
- Capacity group would like to bring in more members, especially veterinarians
- To bring in a large group to join the PRP meeting in Banna may provide more scope but could also be detrimental to functionality



- The group should not try to duplicate the efforts of other International Institutions (WHO, FAO and OIE for example)
- The value of the PRP is that it has the ability to approach others in a rapid manner that it is sometimes difficult for large organizations to do (FM)
- There are 4-5 projects that PAHO is involved with that PRP group might be able to play a part in –i.e. donation of vaccines. These projects are mainly government funded but PAHO does provide some additional funds (FL)
- Main role is advocacy, research and communications (ES)
- AT will step down as pillar head of Communications but will pass the lead on to Peter Costa and the new communicator at CDC, Christopher Cox. AT will remain available for consultancy (AT)
- TM indicated that there are plenty of pilot projects to get involved with and requested an additional deputy to help with the Pilot Project Pillar
- **NOTE: A Wandeler agreed to assist TMueller with the Pilot Project Pillar**

## 5.2. Discussion of communication plan and future media strategy – A Tumpey (Appendix 10)

- PRP logo and website information ([www.partnersforrabiesprevention.org](http://www.partnersforrabiesprevention.org)) were presented
- PRP will be promoted through the partners
- Goal, purpose, structure, list of partners will be on website (with approval of partners to list their names)
- It is important to investigate what we have that is newsworthy and how we can capitalize on various activities
- We have a lot of competition from other diseases (Swine flu for example) and so we should work together to promote various stories through our partnership communications networks and coordinate core messages that could be sent as press releases
- Those partners that cannot do specific press releases could release other information (website features, listservs, newsletters, etc.)
- We should promote ongoing activities and progress of the Pilot Projects
- Action items:
  - Contact communicators at each of the partner locations
  - Provide PRP statements to all partners
  - Provide logo to all partners
  - Develop 2-3 core messages and talking points about the role of PRP for all partners
  - Collective timetable among the communicators of when we will be pushing information

## 6. Discussion and Conclusions

### *Concluding comments from Chair, A Wandeler*

- Sincere thanks to Federico Spinola and his team for their very kind hospitality
- It is sometimes good to take a step back and look at what is needed on a local level, for example some research would be helpful to determine how locals actually access their own health systems; why are people still dying of rabies when everything is available to save their lives
- There are many excellent rabies projects that are currently going on around the world that we did not mention during the meeting, two of which include the Blue Cross project and the Marwar Trust project in India





### ***Summary and concluding comments from D Briggs***

- Goals of the PRP informal group were restated (see opening comments)
- Congratulations to team for the logl and website
- Summarized current programs being funded
- Looking ahead we should not lose sight of the opportunities that might present themselves when the financial crisis is over, ie GAVI
- We have made major progress in moving forward with a revolutionary document that will serve as a Blueprint for canine rabies prevention
- Our next meeting will be held in Quebec City in association with the RITA meeting, we will try to secure a reservation for the Sunday afternoon prior to the opening reception
- We will also try to reserve an additional meeting in the spring of 2010 in Banna
- JG raised the issue that there is a need to include more physicians for medical input
- DB agreed that the group was fluid and as needs arise, those individuals whose expertise is needed should join
- Finally, it was stated that we should never lose sight of why we are all working on rabies. It is to prevent one more person from dying of this horrific disease
- Today, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 is the birthday of one of the recent victims of rabies, Zach Jones.
- Zach died on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the age of 16. He died before he was able to fulfill his life dreams He wrote a poem that is included here.

### **Adolescence**

Adolescences is the beginning  
Adolescences in the start  
It is my time to start planning  
To keep my life from falling apart  
When I reach middle age  
I want to be wealthy  
I want to be content  
And I want to be healthy  
And when the years catch up to me  
I want to be set  
I do not want any regrets  
Nor to have any debts

- by Zach Jones, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2006

- There are 55,000 Zach Jones across the globe. We must not forget them.



| ACTION ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | WHO                                              | DATE                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Date of next PRP – in conjunction with RITA – Quebec City September 18, 2009 in the Loews Hotel La Galleria Room from 1 PM to 4 PM<br>2. Next Banna Meeting – Tentative date between May 17 – 20 2010                                                                                                                                   | DB<br>DB, KD                                     | COMPLETE<br>June 15/09   |
| 3. Compiling questions and answers for Blueprint by participants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | All                                              | June 15/09               |
| 4. Contact T Lembo and B Dodet to confirm coordination for the Blueprint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | DB                                               | DONE                     |
| 5. Draft blueprint to be prepared for presentation at next PRP meeting in Quebec City                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | All, coordinated by T Lembo/ B Dodet             | Oct 18/09                |
| 6. List of all ongoing pilot projects around the world to be sent to T Mueller                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | All to send to TM                                | June 30/09               |
| 7. Video clips from movies or films to be forwarded to AT or Peter Costa for review and uploading onto the website.<br>Upload available video clips that are currently available from a film being completed by Sanofi                                                                                                                     | All to provide any video clips<br>AT, MA, DB, PC | July 15/09<br>Sept 28/09 |
| 8. Communications and press release. Confirm policy for simultaneous publication by involved PRP organizations willing to support the press release and decide what will be the next press release of the group                                                                                                                            | AT, PC                                           | July 15//09              |
| 9. Each pillar head should define objectives for next 6 months for report back to next PRP meeting. I.e. Capacity building will complete the pillar team, finalize & validate questionnaire for dissemination to 47 countries and send it out to various networks (SEARG, AREB, RIA, Etc), compile data output and suggest recommendations | AT, PC, DB, CR, TM, MA, HB                       | October 18/09            |
| 10. The WHO document on prevention of canine rabies that was published over two decades previously should be circulated                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | DB                                               | June 15/09               |
| 11. Contact communicators at each of the partner locations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PC, AT                                           | July 15/09               |
| 12. Provide PRP statement to all partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | PC, DB                                           | June 15/09               |
| 13. Provide logo to all partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | PC, DB                                           | June 15/09               |
| 14. Develop 2-3 core messages & talking points about the role of PRP for all partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | PC, AT, DB                                       | June 15/09               |
| 15. Collective timetable among the communicators of when we will be pushing information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | PC, AT                                           | July 1/09                |