

**Eighth Partners for Rabies Prevention Meeting
Wolfsberg, Switzerland, May 5th – May 8th 2015**

MEETING SUMMARY

The main objectives of the 8th PRP meeting were to (1) take stock of the tools and evidence base built by GARC and the PRP over the last 7 years and to (2) build consensus and collaboration around a strategy that would ensure the promotion and optimal application of these tools and evidence base in our quest to meaningfully advance the goal of canine rabies elimination. The meeting consisted of 39 delegates representing industry, academia, donor organizations, animal welfare NGOs and the tripartite intergovernmental agencies with their reference and collaborating centres.

GARC developed a strategy that revolves around the creation of Pan Continental Rabies Control Networks in Africa and Asia. The latest version (3rd) of the Canine Rabies Blueprint, with the inclusion of the Stepwise Approach towards Rabies Elimination (SARE) and the Surveillance Blueprint will be promoted within these Continental networks. In this strategy, government representatives from both health and veterinary sectors will be encouraged to work together to develop and implement national rabies control strategies. Participation in World Rabies Day as a global advocacy tool will also be promoted amongst all countries.

Partners from many sectors, including the tripartite (FAO, OIE and WHO) agreed to participate in these same meetings, bringing their range of expertise, including initiatives such as rabies vaccine banks to provide additional support and leadership to country representatives. As a component of this strategy, activities for enhancing advocacy for rabies control were shared and discussed. This strategy includes an appeal to a wider partner base and to new potential funders to support global canine rabies elimination efforts. In this context, the Global Rabies Meeting in December, hosted by WHO in collaboration with the OIE, FAO and GARC, presents a unique opportunity for increasing advocacy efforts.

Specific areas of applied research that require further work were considered. These include the refinement of simplified rabies diagnostic tests and reporting systems most suitable for field application; the development of immuno-contraceptive vaccines for dogs that could significantly enhance humane dog population management programs; and the development of an economics-based modelling tool with wide application to the development of rabies control programs at national and regional levels.

As a final outcome of the 8th PRP meeting, partners were able to consider those areas of the strategy for canine rabies elimination where they would be able to most meaningfully contribute. The outcome of this process is herewith attached, and will be revised on an annual basis as dictated by our progress and evolution.

The GARC secretariat wishes to thank all the delegates to the 8th PRP for a successful and progressive meeting that will allow us to build on past achievements. We also thank our sponsors the UBS Optimus Foundation, Sanofi Pasteur and IDT Biologika.