

Leadership Team Meeting Teleconference

6 June 2018

Participants

Leadership team members

- Arielle Cavaliero, Leprosy Project Manager, Novartis Foundation
- Erwin Cooreman, Team Leader, Global Leprosy Programme, WHO (observer)*
- Roch Christian Johnson, President, International Leprosy Association (ILA)
- Takahiro Nanri, Executive Director, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation
- Mauricio Lisboa Nobre, Technical Advisor, The Brazilian Leprosy Program, CGHDE
- W. Cairns Smith, Emeritus Professor of Public Health, University of Aberdeen
- Tanya Wood, CEO, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)
- Bill Simmons (Chair), President & CEO, American Leprosy Missions

Invited guests

- Fareed Mirza, Head of Healthcare Outcomes and Research, Novartis Foundation

Secretariat

- David Addiss, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Courtenay Dusenbury, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Christine Jonesteller, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy

Invited but unable to attend

- Jan van Berkel, President, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, (ILEP)
- Taye Letta, Leprosy Prevention and Control Manager, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia*
- Bart Vander Plaetse, Deputy Director FAIRMED; member of ILEP ITC
- José Ramirez, Board Member, International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA)*
- Carmelita Ribeiro Filha, Secretariat of Health Surveillance, Ministry of Health, Brazil
- Jessica Cook, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy

*Attempted to attend but unable to due to technical barriers

I. Welcome and Update by Leadership Chair Bill Simmons

- Bill Simmons and David Addiss discussed the draft report from the International Task Force on Disease Eradication (ITFDE) meeting, held 23 April, 2018. The draft report acknowledges progress made since the last ITFDE meeting in 2001 and includes several encouraging comments about the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL). It states leprosy is not eradicable with the current tools available and encourages the work of WHO and the GPZL and its research agenda. The report is positive but scientifically conservative.
 - The Secretariat will send the draft report to Leadership Team (LT) members on Monday 11 June. Please keep the report confidential and return optional comments to David Addiss by 12 June 2018.
- The next leadership team meeting will take place 10 (full day) – 11 (half day) October in Brussels, Belgium. It will be hosted by Alex Jaucot and the Damien Foundation team. The ILEP members will conduct their biannual General Assembly earlier that week.

II. Secretariat Update

- Courtenay Dusenbury travels to India 7-20 June 2018 to visit various sites in Bihar Province, attend the WHO “Review Meeting of Special Projects as Part of Global Leprosy Control,” and meet with Anil Kumar in Delhi. Courtenay appreciates the work of ILEP members, who coordinated the Bihar visits.
- The Charter was revised to reflect the Leadership Team’s decision to appoint the Deputy Director General (Leprosy) of the Government of India to the leadership team. A formal letter will be sent to Anil Kumar.
- Communications – Courtenay Dusenbury, on behalf of communications director Jessica Cook, announced that the zeroleprosy.org website is now live as of 4 June 2018; the feedback from the LT has been very helpful. The LT is encouraged to promote the website. There is a newsletter sign-up form on the website; the first newsletter will go out in late June 2018.
- Advocacy & Resource Mobilization – The strategic outline for advocacy and resource mobilization, and terms of reference for an advisory group, were briefly presented. These have been sent to the LT for review and feedback. LT members noted that it will be important for the partnership to have support from governments and persons affected. The products of the two working groups will be the basis of advocacy and resource mobilization efforts. Courtenay Dusenbury will follow up with LT members individually.

III. Research Agenda Working Group

- Fareed Mirza presented the list of proposed working group members and welcomed feedback. Courtenay Dusenbury explained the process for nominating and approving the members. The aim is to ensure full representation of various scientific disciplines and persons affected while ensuring equitable geographic and gender representation.
- This list will be circulated back to the LT as soon as possible. Finalizing the members of the working group is an urgent priority.

IV. Operational Excellence Working Group

- Tanya Wood reports that the search for the Operational Excellence Coordinator continues. ILEP will begin reaching out to specific individuals for the role. A process for naming working group members, similar to that for the research working group, will begin shortly.

V. Other Comments or Questions

- WHO guidelines: Erwin Cooreman provided a documented update during the call. The guidelines have been approved by the Guidelines Review Committee in WHO headquarters and permission to release is awaited.
- COR-NTD meeting abstract proposal: David Addiss provided an update on the proposal process and the expectations for this scientific meeting in New Orleans, LA, USA 26-27 October 2018. This meeting is an important opportunity to present a draft of the research agenda to key audiences. The LT was asked to comment on the draft abstract, which must be officially submitted by June 15. David Addiss will facilitate the panel and will follow up with various LT members.
- The next monthly LT conference call will be Tuesday, 10 July 2018, and all reminders and call details will be shared accordingly.

Action Items for the Secretariat

- Official invitation letter to join the Partnership to be sent to Anil Kumar, the Deputy Director General (Leprosy) for the government of India.
- Share the official ITFDE report with the LT (once available).
- Consolidate the LT suggestions for the Research Agenda working group, and continue discussions with Fareed Mirza; circulate member list to LT.
- Begin organizing a process for the Operational Excellence working group.
- Collect feedback from LT about the proposal (shared on 30 May) for the panel discussion at the COR-NTD meeting on 26-27 October 2018. All feedback needed by 13 June 2018.
- Gather feedback from LT on persons and skills needed to support a strong Advocacy and Resource Mobilization group.