

Leadership Team Meeting Teleconference

7 November 2018

Participants

Leadership team members

- Bill Simmons (Chair), President & CEO, American Leprosy Missions
- Takahiro Nanri, Executive Director, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation
- Mauricio Lisboa Nobre, Technical Advisor, The Brazilian Leprosy Program, General Coordination of Leprosy and Diseases in Elimination (CGHDE)
- José Ramirez, Board Member, International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA)
- W. Cairns Smith, Emeritus Professor of Public Health, University of Aberdeen
- Geoff Warne, CEO, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)

Guests

- Jan van Berkel, President, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, (ILEP)
- Fareed Mirza, Head of Healthcare Outcomes and Research, Novartis Foundation (Chair, Research Agenda working group)

Secretariat

- David Addiss, Senior Advisor, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Jessica Cook, Communications Director, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Courtenay Dusenbury, Secretariat Director, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Christine Fenenga, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy

Invited but unable to attend

- Arielle Cavaliero, Leprosy Project Manager, Novartis Foundation
- Erwin Cooreman, Team Leader, Global Leprosy Programme, WHO (observer)
- Alice Cruz, UN Special Rapporteur (observer)
- Anil Kumar, Deputy Director General (Leprosy), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- Roch Christian Johnson, President, International Leprosy Association (ILA)
- Taye Letta, Leprosy Prevention and Control Manager, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- Bart Vander Plaetse, Deputy Director FAIRMED; member of ILEP ITC (Chair, Operational Excellence working group)

I. Welcome and Update by Leadership Team Chair Bill Simmons

- Bill highlighted the productive leadership team meeting in Brussels and the enthusiasm at the COR-NTD meeting. He noted that alignment between partners is growing and the partnership is gaining momentum.

II. Secretariat update (Courtenay Dusenbury, Jessica Cook)

- Courtenay thanked the group for the discussions during the Brussels meeting, and said feedback will be integrated in the Action Framework and 2019 strategic outline.
- From the Brussels meeting a suggestion was made that Amar Timalsina or another person affected from a high-endemic country join the team as an observer or member. Courtenay asked the group for comments.
 - The team agreed that having persons affected from high-endemic countries as members, delegates or observers is important for the partnership. José noted that Amar Timalsina is a member of IDEA and was representing the organization at the Brussels meeting as José could not attend the meeting. If an observer or delegate from IDEA is suggested, IDEA should make the selection of the additional representative. Mauricio noted that several countries, including Brazil, have large associations of persons affected (MORHAN), and perhaps a representative of one of these groups could be added to the leadership team. José responded that IDEA and MORHAN are linked. The Secretariat will explore options for moving forward and make a recommendation to the leadership team. The GPZL will also update the charter to reflect the additional representative when this decision is made.
- Courtenay summarized the WHO SEARO meeting in Sri Lanka. She will follow up with individual country managers to suggest they join GPZL. GPZL will also feature a story about each country from the meeting in the GPZL newsletters. Some countries may be test sites for the Operational Excellence toolkit.
- 2019 strategic objectives and a budget will be shared with the leadership team during the 5 December teleconference.
- The strategy for the Resource Mobilization Working Group is being finalized. The secretariat will suggest initial members of this working group. This will be shared with the leadership team in December.
- Alex Jaucot, Damien Foundation, has offered to contact Queen Mathilde of Belgium to be a possible ambassador for the GPZL.
 - A comment was to define what an ambassador's role would be, and to consider the other ambassadors in the leprosy community. The consensus was to hold this discussion for the March meeting in Greenville, SC, USA.
- Post-2020 WHO strategy: WHO has asked the GPZL for comments on its overall NTD strategy. Courtenay and Erwin will discuss what is the best format and timeline for this information and will report back to the Leadership Team.

- Jessica highlighted the Operational Excellence open call. Announcements will begin on Thursday, 8 November. Audiences include national leprosy programme managers, persons affected, and non-governmental organizations.
- Membership in the partnership also continues to grow, and the membership page has recently been redesigned on the website.

III. **Research Agenda Working Group (David Addiss, Fareed Mirza)**

1. David and Fareed described the sessions at COR-NTD, saying it was a rich exchange of ideas and discussion. The 8 sub-group presentations were succinct and aligned, and showed a cohesive view of leprosy research. Fareed is very pleased that there are over 140 working group participants who have been generous with their time and expertise in support of the effort. David commented that there was a very good sense of people being open and listening to one another, not holding entrenched views.
 - Sub-group reports are being revised now and will be submitted for integration with the research agenda.
 - The Research Agenda will include a summary that highlights priorities and chapters for each sub-group. A draft will be available at the end of this year. Discussion:
 - Jan highlighted the importance of alignment of the GPZL Research Agenda with that of LRI, and asked if David might attend the LRI Spring meeting. David noted that, along these lines, David Scollard, from LRI, invited David to participate in an LRI teleconference next Monday, which will be focused on LRI's annual call for proposals, which is due next month.
 - Christine asked if the Research Agenda will be revised to reflect ideas from the Operational Excellence working group. David said it will be a living document. The future Research Working Group will need to have close links to, and be aligned with, the Operational Excellence working group, as emerging challenges in implementation may call for further research.
 - Geoff asked about the timeline and if the Research Agenda becomes the document for advocacy and funding. David noted that the timeline may be delayed by 2-3 weeks; it is anticipated that a draft document will be available by the end of December 2018. After input from the NTD community at the COR-NTD meeting, some sub-groups will meet to incorporate that feedback and adjust their sub-group reports.
 - David said that the Research Agenda will have several functions. First, it will indeed be useful for funding, as it will demonstrate to funders that the leprosy community is aligned and has given serious thought to the research needed to achieve zero leprosy. Second, it will highlight crucial needs other than specific research studies. For example, several of the draft priorities call for standardized diagnostic methods, laboratory protocols, best practice guidance, which is possible only if the leprosy research community further aligns around priorities for specific research topics, such as PEP, diagnostics, digital technology, vaccines, or epidemiologic modeling. Thus, the Research Agenda is ultimately useful for the leprosy community itself, serving as a roadmap to advance the field towards zero leprosy.

- A COR-NTD report will be sent to the leadership team next week. A session summary from Liesbeth Mieras will also be available.

IV. Operational Excellence Working Group (Christine Fenenga)

- A list of facilitators and chairs for operational excellence working group is confirmed.
- Christine said the WHO SEARO meeting was a good opportunity to create awareness of GPZL among the programme managers. In addition, GPZL and WHO will work together with countries on mid-term reviews.
- Preparations are underway for the 6-7 December meeting in Amsterdam. This meeting will be with facilitators and chairs. One objective is to better define best practices and what is meant by a toolkit.
- Mauricio asked about the status of persons from Brazil that he had suggested for the working group. Christine responded that the initial list does not include all the recommended names (some were not available) but she hopes everyone will apply for the open call.

V. Updates and comments from Leadership Team members

- Geoff said ILEP's Technical Commission is looking for ways to engage with the Operational Excellence Working Group and will schedule a conference call.
- Jan asked about WHO leprosy targets post-2020; the secretariat will circulate a unified mechanism to respond to that.
- José acknowledged Kofi Nyarko and his recent honor of the Wellesley Bailey award.
- Mauricio will circulate the operational excellence call to various contacts in Brazil.
- Bill closed the meeting by saying different perspectives are being heard, and affirmed the approach of real collaboration and buy-in.

Action Items for the Secretariat

- A COR-NTD report will be sent to the leadership team the week of 12 Nov.
- A 2019 strategic outline and budget will be presented to the leadership team for discussion during the December meeting.
- The secretariat will suggest initial members of the Resource Mobilization Advisory Group to the leadership team in December.