

Smallpox Eradication Commemoration 2010 (SEC2010) 30th Anniversary Scientific Meeting, 2010

BACKGROUND

- Under the leadership of the World Organization, with strong support from the 31 smallpox endemic countries identified in 1967 and multilateral and bilateral agency partnerships, the number of naturally transmitted smallpox cases in the world decreased from 10-15 million in 1966 to zero in October, 1977.
- In the thirty years since smallpox was declared eradicated by the World Health Assembly, many decision makers have acquired little knowledge of the synergistic interaction of community partnerships, health worker commitment, evolution of surveillance and containment strategies, orthopoxvirus and vaccinology research, logistics and finance that enabled smallpox eradication.

HYPOTHESIS

- Experience in smallpox eradication has been fundamental to the development of many global health programs and has the potential to contribute to the development and implementation of strategies to address current global health priorities.
- Decision makers can utilize smallpox and legacy programs experience to strengthen current and future programs.

PROPOSAL

- A global symposium on smallpox eradication and its relevance to current and future health priorities will be convened in 2010.

OBJECTIVES OF AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

- Experiences and data from selected countries in four WHO Regions will be shared, highlighting key smallpox eradication components.
- Current programs, utilizing smallpox eradication principles, practices, and lessons learned will be presented.
- Global health challenges and solutions for the 21st Century will be discussed in the context of smallpox eradication.

A four day event, highlighting the genesis of the smallpox eradication program, its implementation, lessons and legacies will touch upon the following.

- **The smallpox eradication program (SEP):** illustrative country highlights and lessons from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and European (importations) experiences.
- **Programs deriving directly from the SEP:** Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Polio Eradication Initiative, Dracunculiasis (guinea worm) Eradication.
- **Related activities:** Other infectious diseases elimination initiatives (malaria; TBC; neglected tropical diseases, i.e. onchocerciasis, trachoma, filariasis, Chagas disease).
- **Disease surveillance:** emerging infections including monkeypox; the demographic and epidemiologic transition (including selected chronic diseases).
- **Research:** Discovery and deployment of new tools for elimination and eradication: diagnostics, vaccines, drugs, vector control, social science, and health service delivery innovations.

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- **Proceedings:** A summary of the meeting will be prepared as will a series of papers from the presentations; these will be published as a supplement to a journal or in another format.

ORGANIZING AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Organizing Committee is charged with administrative arrangements. The Scientific Program Committee is working on the content, speakers, and outcome of the meeting. Members of the Committee are from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australia, and Europe.

COORDINATION

Dr. Joel Breman of the Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, is chairing the Symposium Committee and coordinating activities tied to this event.

PROCEEDINGS

A special publication of the papers resulting from the scientific meeting will be published for wide circulation.

LOCATION AND PARTICIPATION

The Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Rio de Janeiro, has kindly offered to host the symposium. Approximately 350 persons are expected to attend from throughout the world. Videoconferencing to colleagues globally is desired.

APPROXIMATE COST

Estimated at \$600,000 for the meeting and publication. A detailed budget is in preparation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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