Disease-specific networks

Mission statement

To strengthen global disease-specific networks of experts and laboratories able to provide technical support to response activities in Member States, particularly developing countries, related to the natural occurrence, accidental release, or deliberate use of biological agents that affect health.
**Anthrax: Project objectives**

1. To establish a global network of anthrax experts and laboratories with defined anthrax capabilities

2. To establish standard procedures relating to anthrax and disseminate information

3. To set up and implement training and quality assurance
1a. A global network of anthrax experts

Working Group members provide advice on:

- reference public health and veterinary laboratories
- key people responsible for dangerous public health pathogens
- other anthrax experts
- existing networks
- questionnaire, guidelines, training materials
- strategy
Current Anthrax Working Group

31 experts in 19 countries

Argentina
Australia
Canada
China
Colombia
England
France
Georgia
Germany
India
Indonesia
Italy
Nepal
Philippines
Russian Federation
South Africa
Thailand
Turkey
United States of America
• Expanding the group?
• Is such a network useful?
• Is it feasible to maintain a such a network?
1b. A global network of laboratories with defined anthrax capabilities

- Develop an inventory of capabilities of reference public health and veterinary laboratories in Member States
- Obtain an understanding of the current gaps
- Support activities to fill them, particularly in laboratories in developing countries
## Disease-Specific Networks: Anthrax

### Questionnaire for Laboratories

### 1. Contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of laboratory</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Post code</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Web site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of director of the laboratory</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of person responsible for anthrax activities</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Your laboratory is affiliated to:
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Other ministries (please specify)
- Universities
- Private laboratories
- Other (please specify)

### 3. Which of the following are used for identification of *B. anthracis* in your laboratory?

- Routine and confirmatory culture
- Serology
- Hemagglutination
- Inoculation
- Page-dye sensitivity
- Gamma phage lysis
- Capsule production in brain (in vitro)
- Capsule production on brain-heart/heart agar plates
- Other (please specify)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced technology tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific (antis) antigen ELISA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time-resolved Fluorescence (TRF) testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular characterization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mission statement

To strengthen global disease-specific networks of experts and laboratories able to provide technical support to response activities in Member States, particularly developing countries, related to the natural occurrence, accidental release, or deliberate use of biological agents that affect health.

World Health Organization
Global Alert and Response
Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response
Collaboration: reaching the laboratories

- Office international des épizooties
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- WHO Collaborating Centres
- WHO Regional Offices
- European Union
- WHO CSR Lyon
- Working Group members
- WHO Global Salm-Surv

E P I D E M I C A L E R T A N D R E S P O N S E
Anthrax questionnaires

Completed questionnaires

(27 March 03)

68 received from 51 countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argentina</th>
<th>Malaysia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Collaboration with other networks, avoiding duplication

• Collaboration between veterinary and public health labs

• Improving surveillance and reporting

• Keeping labs involved and information about the labs up to date

• Expanding the network and helping to strengthen regional networks

• Restricted-access web site
2. Standard procedures

Establish standard procedures relating to anthrax and disseminate information.
3. Training and quality assurance

• Develop a training module on anthrax diagnosis

• Hold an anthrax workshop for one laboratory from each of several WHO regions
Quality assurance

• Establish an external quality assurance programme with trained laboratories

• Establish a reagent bank of selected anthrax diagnostic materials

• Develop a restricted-access web site for communication, ordering of reagents, and reporting of external quality assurance results
• Practical worksheets: topics
• Priorities
• Target audiences
• Anthrax workshop
• Strategy and scope of QA programme
• Standards
• Safety issues
• Costs