The meeting aims to raise awareness of the severe shortage of animal sera of assured quality for treating rabies and envenomings. It will consider obstacles to and means of increasing animal sera production, as well as the support needed to underpin strategies to tackle this neglected public health issue.

09:00–09:15 Welcome and introductions
Dr Howard Zucker, Assistant Director-General
Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals

09:15–09:30 A neglected public health issue
Dr Hans Hogerzeil, Director
Department of Medicines Policy and Standards
A brief comment on WHO's decision to focus increased efforts and resources on this issue, and an invitation to participate in those efforts.

09:30–10:00 Scene setting: epidemiological and geographical distribution of rabies and envenomings, and the need for more good-quality animal-derived sera
Dr David Warrell, United Kingdom
Overview of what is currently known about the burden and distribution of rabies and envenomings and appropriate clinical management.

10:00–10:30 Animal sera production: quality, safety and efficacy problems/issues
Dr José-Maria Gutiérrez, Costa Rica
Overview of some of the quality, safety and efficacy problems that hinder production of animal-derived sera of assured quality.

10:30–11:00 Coffee/tea break

11:00–11:30 Issues related to distribution and appropriate use
Dr Fan Hui Wen, Brazil
Issues related to distribution and correct use of animal-derived sera, and their use in the field.

11:30–12:00 Global animal sera production capacity: inadequate to meet demand
Dr Abdul-Salami Nasidi, Nigeria and Dr Omala Wimalaratne, Sri Lanka
Gaps between current availability of rabies and antivenom sera and estimated treatment needs.

12:00–12:30 Discussion and issues of clarification

12:30–13:30 Lunch break
13:30–14:30 Panel discussion 1: 
**Collecting the evidence: epidemiological and health economics studies**
*Chaired by Dr David Warrell, UK*

**Panelists:**
- Community-based studies on snake & dog bites: Dr Sanjib Sharma, Nepal
- Scorpion stings in Northern Africa: Dr Mohammed Hassar, Maroc
- Need for antiserum coverage in Africa: Dr Jean-Philippe Chippaux, Bolivia
- Need for anti-venom & anti-rabies sera in India: Dr Suresh Jadhav, India

This session aims to determine what studies are needed to refine estimates of treatment needs, and the economic costs of failing to treat rabies and envenomings.

14:30–15:30 Panel discussion 2: 
**Assuring sustainable quality production of animal-derived sera to meet public health needs**
*Chaired by Dr José-Maria Gutiérrez, Costa Rica*

**Panelists:**
- Needs of antiserum production centres: Dr Sumana Khomvilai, Thailand
- Prequalification & impact of regulatory systems: Dr Lembit Rago, WHO
- Large scale antivenom productions: Dr Cassian Bon, France

This session aims to discuss the problems that must be solved if production of animal sera is to be maintained to meet public health needs, and the cost-effectiveness of treatment ensured. Potential for increasing production and prequalification schemes will also be addressed.

15:30–16:00 Coffee/tea break

16:00–16:30 **WHO project: improving the safety and availability of animal-derived sera**
*Dr Ana Padilla Marroquin, Scientist*
*Department of Medicines Policy and Standards, WHO*

Outline of key components of a global strategy to facilitate access to rabies and antivenom treatments to respond to urgent public health needs

16:30–17:15 General discussion

17:15–17:30 **Next project steps and closing remarks**
*Dr Hans Hogerzeil, Director*
*Department of Medicines Policy and Standards*