WHO R&D Blueprint

novel Coronavirus

COVID-19 Animal Models

WHO Working Group

WHO reference number

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Background

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO Blueprint team has established an ad hoc Expert Group focused on COVID-19 disease modelling (WHO-COM). The goal of the disease modelling group is to advance the development of COVID-19 medical countermeasures (vaccines, therapeutics and/or drugs). This is being achieved by providing a platform to share data to help reduce duplication of effort and to accelerate learning by sharing outcomes in a secure and confidential workspace. In addition, the principles of reduction, refinement and replacement are being addressed by this international effort.

Terms of Reference

- Review progress towards the identification of animal models for testing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.
- Coordinate preclinical studies to ensure data reproducibility and to avoid effort duplication.
- Identify gaps in knowledge about COVID-19 pathophysiology and immunity. Ensure data sharing across group members to facilitate the identification of disease biomarkers and correlates of immunity.
- Coordinate efforts with other WHO groups focused on COVID-19 control and development of medical countermeasures.
- Accelerate a vaccine assessment pathway to guide how global resources should be applied to the current COVID-19 global response.

Composition

Experts

Chairs:
Dr. William Downling, CEPI; Dr. Simon Funnell, PHE and Dr. César Muñoz-Fontela, BNITM.

The chairs have the following responsibilities
- To chair the weekly meetings
- To liaise with the WHO R&D Blueprint
- To review meeting reports and reports from any interim recommendations
- To represent the WHO-COM at technical meetings as requested

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