Letter of support to IPOPI’s and IUIS’ application on WHO Essential In-Vitro Diagnostics List for Primary Immunodeficiencies

As medical experts and researchers and scientific societies in the diagnosis and management of primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs) brought together by the International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies (IPOPI) and the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), we would like to stress the vital importance of early diagnosis of persons living with PID in the world. PID are a group of inherited and genetic defects of the immune system, when the latter is partly or totally missing or does not function properly. Persons with PID are more prone to a wide range of infections affecting different parts of the body. When left undiagnosed and untreated, PID are chronic, debilitating conditions and, in severe cases, they may lead to permanent organ damage and even death. Early diagnosis is key to avoid a diagnostic odyssey that is distressing to the family, damaging to the patient and wasteful of health-care resources. We call upon the World Health Organisation to include the tests described in the application as essential in-vitro diagnostics such as immunoglobulin plasma levels; plasmatic and urine for protein electrophoresis; complete blood count; vaccine response tests; T cells, B cells and NK cells; antibodies to HIV-1/2 (anti-HIV) test (for the differential diagnosis). We, at the Latin American Society for Immunodeficiencies (LASID) strongly believe that such inclusion in the WHO list of essential in vitro diagnostic tests would greatly optimize access to essential PID diagnostics across continents and regions, thereby significantly improving the care of persons with PID throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Francisco J. Espinosa-Rosales, MD
LASID President 2018 - 2019