



Working Group Interim report

1	Title of Working Group	Working group on Paracoccidioidomycosis
2	Name(s) of Coordinator(s)	Maria Aparecida Shikanai Yasuda, Maria Sueli Felipe, Eduardo Bagagli, Rosana Puccia
3	Objectives	<p>The main goal of this Working Group is to stimulate basic and clinical research in several aspects of paracoccidioidomycosis (PCM), including the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues related to the serological diagnosis of PCM caused by the possible lack of antigenic identity between <i>Paracoccidioides brasiliensis</i> versus <i>P. lutzii</i>. 2. Molecular identity of the fungal samples. 3. Investigation of the environmental sources of <i>P. brasiliensis</i> and <i>P. lutzii</i> in endemic areas. 4. The possible existing differences among clinical forms of PCM caused by <i>P. brasiliensis</i> and <i>P. lutzii</i>. 5. The response to antifungal therapy of PCM caused by <i>P. brasiliensis</i> and <i>P. lutzii</i>
4	Achievements of the Working Group in last year July2012-April2013 (250 words)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting of the coordinators in São Paulo, August 2012, to organize a workshop on PCM. The idea of the workshop, programmed for December 2012, was emailed to numerous members of the community. Many enrolled as participants of the WG, however the workshop was postponed because few had resources to travel. The aim of the workshop is to prepare participants of a project that we intend to submit containing the aims of the WG. 2. Master thesis showing that PCM patients do not recognize the gp43 ortholog expressed by <i>P. lutzii</i>. The corresponding manuscript is being prepared for submission. 3. Published or accepted papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>Paracoccidioides lutzii</i> sp. nov., a new species within the genus <i>Paracoccidioides</i>: biological and clinical implications. Medical Mycology (in press). -Cryptic species in <i>Paracoccidioides brasiliensis</i>: impact on paracoccidioidomycosis immunodiagnosis. Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (in press).
5	Is your Working Group going to continue for the	Yes. The topics related to this group are extremely relevant and we need the efforts of many groups of the community to be

	next three years?	able to conclude them. We are planning to work in a network of clinical and basic researchers in Brazil and other countries of Latin America interested to find out aspects related to environmental sources, the existence of clinical differences, response to antifungal therapy and serological diagnosis caused by both species <i>P. brasiliensis</i> and <i>P. lutzii</i> . We have scheduled meetings to organize the network and start the definition of the responsibilities and activities of each group.
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