



Working Group Interim report

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| 1 | Title of Working Group | Working group on Paracoccidioidomycosis |
| 2 | Name(s) of Coordinator(s) | Maria Aparecida Shikanai Yasuda, Maria Sueli Felipe (Marcus Teixeira), 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 July2013-April2014 (250 words) | <p>On August 7th, 2013, the organizers of the XLIX Congresso da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical kindly opened room for a meeting of researchers interested in the Paracoccidioidomycosis Working Group. It was a whole-day meeting and 29 people were present. Marcus Teixeira made an overview of the molecular basis of <i>Paracoccidioides</i> species and the unknown facts about clinical implications related to infection with both species. Rosana Puccia showed new data that gp43 can not be used for serological diagnosis of PCM caused by <i>P. lutzii</i>, as detected using <i>P. lutzii</i> p43 recombinant protein and sera from Midwest Brazil, where this species apparently predominates. Roberto Martinez made an overview on mycological diagnostics and Maria Aparecida Shikanai Yasuda discussed with the audience the items for a clinical form to be filled in by the researches participating in a project. The audience particularly asked for a project by the organizers and for the need to use it to apply for a grant proposal. Maria Aparecida Shikanai Yasuda inquired the audience about the methods used in their laboratories to isolate and detect <i>Paracoccidioides</i>. Maria Adelaide, representing the Brazilian Surveillance Secretary, explained that mycoses are neglected diseases in that Secretary. However, we now (since 2007) have chapters concerning the main systemic mycoses included in the Guide of Epidemiological Surveillance on Brazil. The meeting was then opened for the audience to talk about the issues and experience on local PCM. The project is being prepared. The organizers had a couple of skype</p> |

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| | | meetings during the past months about it. The epidemiological form is being tested. |
| 5 | Is your Working Group going to continue for the next three years? | Yes. The topics related to this group are extremely relevant and we need the efforts of many groups of the community to be able to conclude them. |