

### Working Group Interim Report

1	Title of Working Group	Sporothrix schenckii and related species: Cell wall and the host fungus interplay.
2	Name(s) of Coordinator(s)	Leila M, Lopes Bezerra (UERJ, Brazil); Hector M. Mora-Montes (Univ. Guanajuato, México)
3	Objectives	The working group seeks the study of biosynthesis, structure, function and roles in virulence and immune sensing of <i>S. schenckii</i> cell wall components. Also, we had incorporated new goals associated with the <i>Sporothrix</i> Genome Consortium which has concluded the genomes of <i>S. schenckii</i> and <i>S. brasiliensis</i> and will incorporate <i>S. globosa</i> . Therefore we had expanded our goals to projects including genomic and proteomic aspects to address the host-fungus interplay and other factors that can impact fungus virulence.
4	Achievements of the Working Group in last year (250 words)	<p>The Working Group (WG) members gathered during the ISHAM meeting 2012 held in Berlin, Germany, to discuss some aspects about the aims of the WG. The general view was to expand the current goals in order to include the clinical point of view of sporotrichosis, epidemiology and phylogenetics.</p> <p>The concern of the WG members was that the general population is not aware about this disease, and more importantly, nor the Health System Authorities. Sporotrichosis is not properly diagnosed most of the times, and it is not compulsory for</p>

		<p>physicians to report infection cases in most of the affected countries. In this regard, the WG thinks that it is our responsibility to spread the word about this disease, and to convince the Health System Authorities to changes the current policies.</p> <p>The WG has now its own website (<a href="http://www.sporothrix.org">www.sporothrix.org</a>) and this will be shortly linked to the ISHAM website. As part of this site, we are setting e-mailing network to maintain in constant communication the members of the WG and to provide them with relevant news.</p> <p>We have increased the number of WG members and our member's list now includes researchers from <b>Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, Canada, The Netherlands, India, China and Japan.</b></p> <p>Finally we have organized the first International meeting on <i>Sporothrix</i> and sporotrichosis, and this will be held in Rio the Janeiro, Brazil, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. This scientific event will provide a forum to present and discuss the most recent information generated about this fungal pathogen.</p>
5	Is your Working Group going to continue for the next three years?	Yes, it will