

**Consortium: Setting the Post Elimination Agenda for Kala-Azar in India
(SPEAK India)**

**Vivanta by Taj-Ambassador Hotel
New Delhi, India, 3rd-5th November 2016**

The purpose of this meeting is to launch a consortium of national and international researchers and operational experts aiming to develop a post elimination agenda for Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL): *what is required to sustain the elimination of VL in India?*

The main aim of this first consortium meeting is to reach a consensus concerning the gaps in our understanding of VL transmission that challenge sustained elimination.

The specific objectives of meeting are to:

- review the current situation of VL transmission in India (latest surveillance figures from the National Programme and independent partners),
- outline specific challenges relating to VL elimination including criteria of elimination, surveillance, diagnostics, treatment and management,
- define the research questions for timely implementation of multi-disciplinary research projects in India to improve our understanding of VL transmission through disease modelling and strengthen the post-elimination strategy,
- formulate a road map to transfer the technology on vector biology, disease modelling and diagnostics from international partners,
- plan the strategy to review the programme performance to define mutually agreed data and information required to support on-going and future control interventions,
- agree the structure of the consortium and its terms of reference.

Day 1 – 3 November 2016 – Introducing the consortium

9:30 Arrival and registration

Session 1, 10.00am – 11.10am Welcome, Orientation and Direction
[10mins each = 70mins]

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, DG ICMR
Welcome

Prof. Jagdish Prasad, DGHS, MOHFW
Address

Chair: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, DG ICMR

10.10-10.20: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, DG ICMR
VL in India – the need to achieve elimination and to sustain elimination [The role of ICMR in the sustained elimination of VL]

10.20-10.30: Dr Dhariwal, Director, NVBDCP

The current situation for VL elimination in India – latest figures and distribution [The role of NVBDCP in the sustained elimination of VL]

10.30-10.40: Dr Saurabh Jain, WHO

VL in India – health systems and development [The role of WHO in the sustained elimination of VL]

10.40-10.50: Prof N. K. Ganguly, THSTI

VL in India – maximizing the research infrastructure in India [The role of research in the sustained elimination of VL]

10.50-11.00: Dr Raj Ghosh, BMGF

VL in India – the international effort behind Indian elimination [The role of BMGF in the sustained elimination of VL / The importance of consortia in the sustained elimination of VL]

11.00-11.10: Prof Mary Cameron, LSHTM

The proposed consortium: Board, Steering Committee, initial membership, TOR and aims.

11.10-11:30 Break

Session 2, 11:30 –12:30 Achieving and Sustaining Elimination
[60 mins]

Chair: Dr Jagdish Prasad, DGHS, MOHFW

Co-Chair: Dr Dhariwal, Director, NVBDCP

11.30-11.40: Dr Piero Olliaro, WHO

The challenge of validation of elimination, including the criteria for elimination

11.40-11.50: Dr Suman Rijal, DNDi

The challenge of sustaining elimination, role of asymptomatics and PKDL.

11.50-12.00: Dr Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, SEARO

The linkage between India with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan elimination efforts – the importance of sustaining elimination in SEARO

12.00-12.10: Dr Pradeep Das, ICMR

Elimination efforts in one district of Bihar, India: lessons learned and challenges remaining

12.10-12.20: Dr. Dinesh Mondal, ICDDR

Elimination efforts in Bangladesh: lessons learned and challenges remaining.

12.20-12.30: Dr. Murari Lal Das, BP KIHS

Elimination efforts in Nepal: lessons learned and challenges remaining.

12:30-1:30 Lunch

Session 3, 1:30-3:00 Defining the Challenges

[90 mins]

Chair: Mr. Arun Panda, Addl. Secretary & Mission Director, MOHFW

Co-Chair: Dr Pradeep Das, Director, RMRIMS, Patna

1.35-1.45: Dr Nupur Roy, NVBDCP

The challenges of sustained elimination in India: surveillance (including vectors)

1.45-1.55: Dr R.K. Das Gupta, NVBDCP

When to stop IRS?

1.55-2.05: Dr Shyam Sundar, KAMRC

The challenges of sustained elimination in India: diagnostics for cases and asymptomatics

2.05-2.15: Dr Malcolm Duthie, IDRI

New diagnostic tools for different challenges in VL elimination

2.15-2.25: Prof N. K. Ganguly, THSTI

The role of candidate vaccines in VL elimination.

2.25-2.35: Dr Srikantiah Sridhar, CARE

Recent VL surveillance data and the future in monitoring systems.

2.35-2.45: Dr Sakib Burza, MSF/KalaCORE

Recent VL surveillance data and the future in implementation research.

2.45-3.00: General Comments: what have we not mentioned?

3:00-3:30 Break

Session 4, 3:30-4:30 Defining the Challenges Continued

[the aim is to generate discussion and ideas – defining the questions for Day 2]

Chair: Prof Simon Croft, LSHTM

Panel Discussion: How does the consortium address cross-cutting and stakeholder issues? For example, engagement with the communities through IEC/BCC, integration of new tools over the next 5-10 years, training the next generation, establishing common data management and surveillance systems and their integration into health systems,

Panel (Prof Ganguly, Dr Sakib Burza, Mr.Navdeep Rinwa, Dr Pradeep Das, Dr P.Jambulingam, Dr Saurabh Jain)

4.30-4.40: Prof Don Bundy, BMGF

Reflections of global elimination programmes

4.55-5.00: Prof Simon Croft, LSHTM

Summary of the day

Day 2 – 4 November 2016 – Making progress – what is the consortium going to do?

09:00-09:05: Prof Mary Cameron, LSHTM
Agenda for Day 2

09:05-10:30

Rapporteur/Chairs: Dr Simon Croft, Dr Suman Rijal, Dr Saurabh Jain & Dr Raj Ghosh

The assembly will be divided into four pre-determined, cross-disciplinary groups

Each group will decide on 3 questions that the consortium needs to address.

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-11:30

Chair: Prof Don Bundy, BMGF

Presentations of the questions from the four groups (Simon Croft, Suman Rijal, Saurabh Jain & Raj Ghosh).

11:30-12:30

Divide into four different groups separated according to areas of expertise:

- diagnosis of infection
- clinical surveillance and treatment / case management
- vector surveillance and control
- integrating surveillance into health systems

Discuss the questions raised in the earlier sessions. Each group will nominate a rapporteur to present the group's priorities during the next session.

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 2:00

Chair: Dr Shyam Sundar, BHU

Presentations of the discussion about the questions in the second groups

2:00-3:00

Chair: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, DG ICMR

Co-Chair: Dr N.K.Ganguly, Former DG, ICMR

Discussion of questions –finalise 3-4 questions that the consortium will initially develop. This session will ensure that the questions focus on research and implementation goals – how will the questions change policy?

3:00-3:30 Break

3:30-4:30

Chair: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, DG ICMR

Co-Chair: Dr N.K.Ganguly, Former DG, ICMR

Finalisation of 3-4 questions, and working groups that will prepare documents in the coming 4 months. Nominations for group leaders for each group. Identifying any additional expertise that is needed.

4:30-5:00

Chair: Prof Mary Cameron, LSHTM

The questions, the groups, the timetable.

Day 3 – 5 November 2016 – Drafting research proposals

09:00-10:30 Group work

The 3-4 groups (agreed during the afternoon sessions held on 4th November) will start to flesh out the questions under the guidance of their group leaders. The aim is to produce a 3-4-page document for each question that provides the rationale for the question (essentially a background), and proposals for addressing the question (essentially a case for support).

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 Group work continued

12:00-12:30

Chair: Prof Mary Cameron, LSHTM

Co-Chair: Dr Rashmi Arora, ICMR

Discussion about group progress

Agreement of time lines:

- Documents to be finalized by mid-January 2017 for circulation within BMGF.
- Recruit additional expertise if needed.
- Returned to groups for conversion to grant applications by end February 2017
- Time, venue and additional expertise at meetings in March 2017

12:30-12:45

Dr Manju Rahi, ICMR; Prof Don Bundy, BMGF

Close and thanks

12:45 – 1:45 Lunch

Measures of Success

What does success of Consortium look like after November 2016 meeting?

Objectives from first meeting

- Agreed needs for post-elimination agenda
- Draft of Road Map
- Established working groups
- Build in programme evaluation model

Leadership

- Established Board which accepts role and responsibilities
- Established Steering Group which accepts roles and responsibilities
- Terms of reference for all

Technical

- Key membership and identified expertise of experts in aspects that cover clinical, field, vector, epidemiology, modelling, health systems, organisation/education/communication components
- Assigned roles and objectives for contributions of members
- Identification of gaps in expertise and further recruitment if necessary

Communication

- Website, with membership and roles and terms of reference
- Press release
- Internal memo (coordinated) on outcome to circulate in all member organisations
- Monthly (or quarterly ??) newsletter/updates to be followed by Telecon/Skype

Staff

- Secretariat appointed and established (ICMR/DNDi)
- Research assistant appointed at LSHTM

Organization

- Date and place of next general meeting
- Dates and places of next working group meetings (if deemed necessary)
- Deadlines for all documents
- List with full addresses of all members circulated