

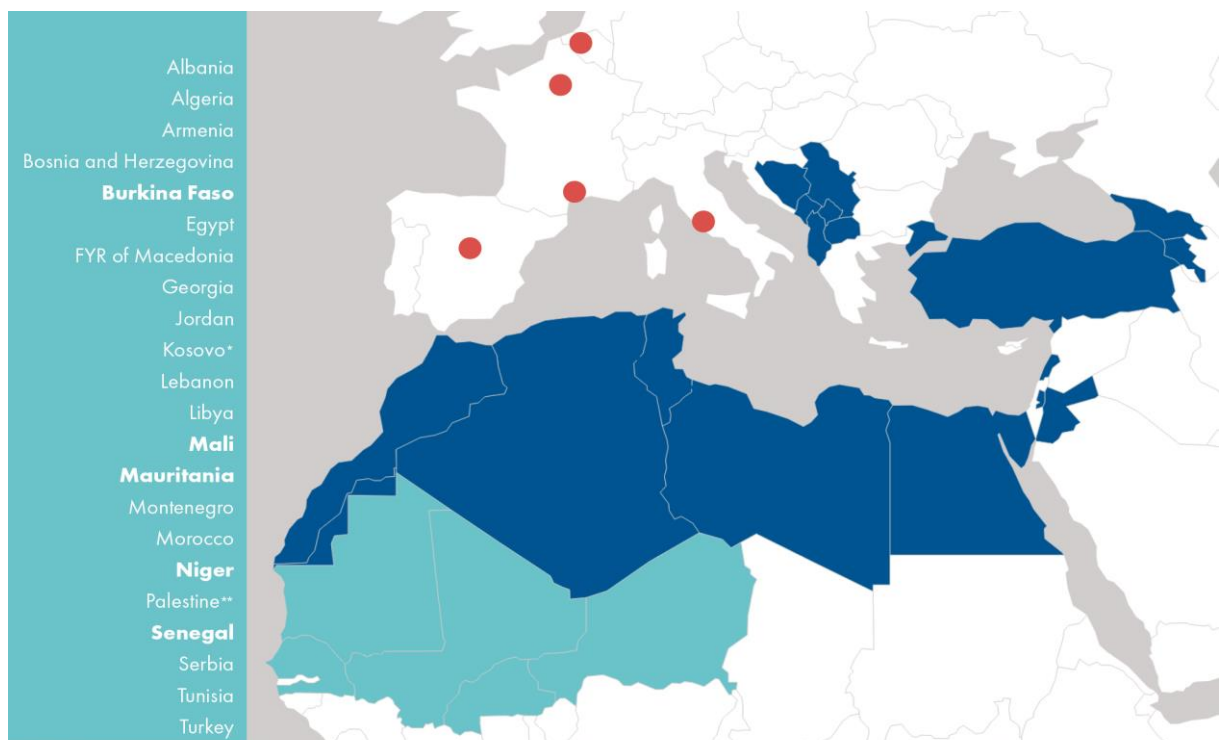


MedilabSecure (WP1) – Newsletter n°4 – June 2019

HUMAN VIROLOGY NETWORK of MEDILABSECURE

Newsletter #4

The newsletter from the human virology group of MediLabSecure



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICI Advisory opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence
**This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of EU Member States on the issue

- Participating countries during the first phase of the project (2014-2018)
- 5 implementing institutes
- New targeted countries

- [Human Virology group activities](#)

- [New laboratories from Sahel](#)

As advertised previously, we are now welcoming to MediLabSecure five new laboratories from the Sahel region. The main reasons for such enlargement lie in climatic variations coupled to population movements that might have implications on diseases distribution. The identification and selection of the candidate laboratories have been similar to the procedure previously used during the first phase of MediLabSecure.

We are pleased to welcome in the human virology group:

Burkina Faso:

Dr Dramane Kania
Laboratory of virology
Centre Muraz

Mali:

Pr Mamadou Sounalo Traoré
Laboratoire de virologie médicale et des maladies émergentes
National Institute of Public Health Research (INRSP)

Mauritania:

Pr Mohamed Abdellahi Bollahi
Laboratoire de virologie
National Institute of Public Health Research (INRSP)

Niger:

Dr Sani Ousmane
Bactériologie-Virologie
Centre de Recherche Médicale et Sanitaire (CERMES)

Senegal:

Dr Ousmane Faye
Pôle de virologie
Institut Pasteur de Dakar

[Welcome to our new colleagues from the Sahel!](#)

- [Workshop on NGS data analysis](#)

The first workshop of MediLabSecure's second phase for the human virology working-group will be organized **next October 2019** at the **Institut Pasteur in Paris**. This workshop will focus on **data analysis for NGS technology**.

This workshop, co-organized with the Center of Bioinformatics, Biostatistics and Integrative Biology (C3BI) at the Institut Pasteur, will host 12 participants from three working-groups: human virology, animal virology, and medical entomology. Participants have been selected and will soon receive an official invitation for the workshop.

➤ **Training for third generation sequencing (MinION)**

By the end of June 2019, the laboratory *Environment and Infectious Risk Expertise Unit* (ERI) at the Institut Pasteur will welcome a young molecular biologist for one week, Maja Kuzmanovska, from the **Laboratory for Virology and Molecular Diagnostics** of Dr Golubinka Bosevska, in Skopje, **Republic of North Macedonia**. Maja will be trained on the sequencing technology **MinION** from Nanopore.

This training is co-financed by the Laboratory for Virology and Molecular Diagnostics of Skopje and MediLabSecure.

➤ **Training for seroneutralization of WNV**

Our colleague Dr Aissam Hachid from the **Institut Pasteur in Algiers** offered to train our colleagues from **Tunisia** on **Seroneutralization for WNV** next July. The aim of this training is for our Tunisian colleagues to learn the technics and to transfer it to their laboratory at the Institut Pasteur in Tunis.

We would like to thank warmly Aissam who accepted to dedicate his time for this training. This training is supported by the MediLabSecure project.

➤ **Site visit in Algiers**

On September 2019, the coordination team of the human virology working group will visit the laboratory “Laboratoire des Arbovirus, Département de Virologie humaine” at the **Institut Pasteur in Algiers**. This visit will be the opportunity for us to discover this laboratory and its team and for consulting and advice on the recently built BSL3 laboratory of the IP Algiers.

➤ **Permanent activities:**

- ❖ **Support for diagnostics** whenever needed. If you ever find yourself in need of help in a diagnostic, do not hesitate to send us a message. One of our mission as a network is to support each other! We can give a hand with technics you do not master or to attempt to identify an unknown disease.
- ❖ **Support for reagents and protocols** of relevant pathogens. In case of emergency, we are here to help!
- ❖ **Experts’ exchange:** we can support the cost for an exchange of experts between two laboratories of the network (including with other specialties).
- ❖ **Support for scientific publications** (for partners publishing a scientific paper related to the MediLabSecure project).

- **General info about MediLabSecure :**

- **MediLabSecure second phase Kick-Off Meeting :**

The Kick-Off meeting for the second phase of MediLabSecure will be held on July 2nd-4th, 2019, at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France. Members from all the countries and from all the networks, medical entomology, human and animal virology, and animal and public health, will gather to discuss the objectives and future activities of the project.

For this second phase of the project, the geographical coverage of the network has been broadened. The meeting will be the occasion to welcome our new partners from the Sahel!

We are looking forward to meeting all of you.

- **General Newsletter #7 :**

If you missed it, the last Newsletter of MediLabSecure was published in March and is available on the website of MediLabSecure.

(<https://mailchi.mp/1b33c02b6291/the-medilabsecure-newsletter-january-2216149?e=368d5d0abb>)

- **Medical Entomology Newsletter #17 :**

If you did not get it, the last Newsletter from the Medical Entomology working group of MediLabSecure was also published in March and is available on the website of MediLabSecure.

(https://www.medilabsecure.com/documents/site/wp4_newsletter17_march2019.pdf)

- **Last things to read from the network :**

- The collaborative work from all the laboratories of the medical entomology network "*Towards harmonisation of entomological surveillance in the Mediterranean area*" is in press in PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. Well done to all collaborators!

- The document "*Roadmap towards harmonization of entomological surveillance systems in the Mediterranean area regarding transmission risks of mosquito-borne viruses*" is online on the MediLabSecure website.

(https://www.medilabsecure.com/documents/site/roadmap_entomo_surveillance.pdf)

- The article "*Implementation of the One health approach to fight arbovirus infections in the mediterranean and Black Sea region : Assessing Integrated Surveillance in Serbia, Tunisia and Georgia.*" was recently published by our colleagues from the public health network in Zoonoses and Public Health. Congratulations for this MediLabSecure paper!

- The article "*Evidence of West Nile virus circulation among humans in central northern Algeria*" was recently published by our colleagues from the Institut Pasteur d'Algérie and Institut Pasteur de Dakar in *New Microbes New Infect.* Congratulations to them.

If you recently published a scientific article, please let me know (guillain.mikaty@pasteur.fr) so I advertise it to the network in our next Newsletter.

Kindest regards,

Jean-Claude Manuguerra,
Virologist, Key expert for the human virology group of MediLabSecure.

Guillain Mikaty,
Microbiologist, project manager for the human virology group of MediLabSecure.

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If you have any suggestions or information you wish to share, please let us know.

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