



MedilabSecure 2 (WP1) – Newsletter n°3 – January 2019

HUMAN VIROLOGY NETWORK of MEDILABSECURE

Newsletter #3

The new newsletter from the human virology group of MediLabSecure (MLS)



• [Summary of MediLabSecure : 2014-2018](#)

The first phase of MediLabSecure is now over. We are very proud to say that it has been quite a success! Indeed, over the past 4 years, our human virology network organized:

- **4 workshops** (molecular and serological diagnostics, biosafety, initiation to molecular analysis and advanced phylogenetics)
- **4 EQA programs** (WNV x2; CHKV x2; ZIKV x2; Dengue x2; YFV, RFV and MERS-CoV)

- **6 Site visits** to our partner laboratories (in Georgia, Morocco, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM and Egypt)
- **3 Trainings by the trainees** following workshops
- And also: 3 participants sent abroad for **specific trainings**; **1 tailored training** (Sanger sequencing of arboviruses in Bosnia & Herzegovina), regular **logistical support** for diagnostic **reagents** and **protocols**; 1 research project on commercial serological diagnostics, plenty of **meetings**, and so on...

- **[MediLabSecure 2: 2019-2021](#)**

As announced in [the MediLabSecure Newsletter \(#6 – January 2019\)](#), we are very pleased to let you know that the **MediLabSecure 2** contract has been signed with the European Commission. The second phase of the project officially started on January 7th 2019 and is planned to end by December 2021.

For this second phase of the project, the geographical coverage of the network has been updated. The new strategy and orientations modified the project area to 22 beneficiary countries, sadly removing Ukraine and Moldova, but adding 5 new countries from Sahel, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. Welcome to our new partners joining the network!

- **[Human Virology group activities](#)**

- **EQA QCMD : !!! Deadline on January 18th !!!**

The EQA program organized with the company QCMD is now started and running. We registered 20 laboratories for five different molecular diagnostic EQA programs: West Nile virus, MERS Coronavirus, Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya. Almost all of you received the samples (if not, please contact us quickly).

Please remember: the **deadline is on January 18th**! For those of you who received their samples later for custom troubles, we asked QCMD to extend the deadline to January 25th. In any case, please send your results back to QCMD, even if late, to be sure to get the report at the end of the program.

We wish you all the success with the EQAs.

- **[One health Workshop on Phylogenetic](#)**

The first joined workshop on **Advanced molecular analysis and phylogenetic** was organized last **October 2018** in **Cairo, Egypt**. The workshop was co-organized by the human virology, the animal virology and the medical entomology networks of MediLabSecure with the wonderful support of our colleagues from the **Center of Scientific Excellence for Influenza viruses** in Giza, Egypt. Fifteen participants from eleven different countries of MediLabSecure and from the three working groups (human and animal virologists and entomologists) participated along with five trainers from the Institut Pasteur and five members from MediLabSecure coordination teams.

The Workshop was greatly appreciated by all participants and we hope it has been a success for all.

We warmly thank all the people who help in the organization and during the workshop, with a special thanks to the trainers from the Institut Pasteur, to the members of the Center of Scientific Excellence for Influenza viruses and to all the participants of the workshop.



➤ **What does the future hold?**

For the second phase of MediLabSecure, we are considering the following activities that we would like to submit to your appreciation:

- ❖ **Workshop** on next generation tools and point of care diagnostics (NGS and MinION, Lamp PCR, Lab-on-Chips, serology multiplex, etc.).
- ❖ **Workshop** on Outbreak Response: a two-phase workshop to be better prepared in case of viral outbreak in the region.
- ❖ **NGS data analysis training** for laboratories in need.
- ❖ New **EQA programs**.
- ❖ **Update on biosafety and shipment of hazardous substances** with the recent Nagoya protocol.
- ❖ **Tailored training** on MinION technology according to needs and based on application.

Moreover, whenever possible:

- ❖ [Support for reagents and protocols](#) of relevant pathogens.
- ❖ [Experts' exchange](#) (we can support the cost for an exchange of experts between two laboratories of the network (including with other specialties)).
- ❖ [Support for participation to congresses and symposium](#) (for young scientists wishing to participate to a relevant congress abroad).
- ❖ [Support for scientific publications](#) (for partners publishing a scientific paper related to the MediLabSecure project).

We wish you a **great year 2019** and a **wonderful second phase of MediLabSecure!**

Kind regards,

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

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