



## **Chagas Disease in the Americas: Improving Access and Tools for Patient Diagnosis and Treatment**

Friday, October 2, 2009, 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Los Angeles, California, USA

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Raise awareness about Chagas disease in the US and the neglect faced by patients with this disease in North America and around the world
- Share current evidence and discuss the challenges of diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease in Latin America and the US
- Network with Chagas disease researchers and concerned stakeholders to explore fields of collaboration for increased R&D and advocacy for improvement of diagnosis and treatment tools
- Produce working consensus statements and calls for action for Chagas disease

### **AGENDA:**

8:30 – 9:00 AM: **Coffee and Registration**

9:00 – 9:15 AM: **Welcome**

Claire Panosian, MD, Co-Director, UCLA Program in Global Health

Matthew Spitzer, MD, President, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders

9:15 – 9:30 AM: **Opening Address**

Video message from Amelia Nascimento, Chagas patient support group, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Speech by Maira Gutierrez, Chagas patient, Los Angeles

### **Introductory Presentations: Setting the Stage**

9:30 – 9:40 AM: **National Programs for Chagas Disease in Latin America**

James Fitzgerald, PhD, Senior Advisor, Essential Medicines and Biologicals, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/ World Health Organization (WHO)

9:40 – 9:50 AM: **Epidemiological Trends of Chagas Disease in the US**

Susan P. Montgomery, DVM, MPH, Parasitic Diseases Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

### **Morning Session I: Challenges of Diagnosing and Treating Chagas Disease**

10:00 – 11:30 AM: Panel Chair - James H. Maguire, MD, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Senior Physician, Division of Infectious Disease, Brigham and Women's Hospital

- **Global view of diagnostic testing for Chagas:** Myriam Lorca, MSc, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Chile; Technical Director, Laboratoria Campus
- **Challenges of diagnostics in resource-poor contexts - MSF field experience:** Laurence Flevaud, Laboratory Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders
- **Blood screening and seroprevalence in the US:** David A. Leiby, PhD, Head, Transmissible Diseases Department, American Red Cross
- **Chagas treatment in Bolivia, the world's highest endemic country:** Tom Ellman, MD, Head of Mission, Bolivia, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders
- **Chagas treatment in the US:** Sheba Meymandi, MD/Mahmoud Traina, MD, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center

**Panel Discussion - First Respondent:** Joaquim Gascón, MD, Head of Tropical Section, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona-CRESIB

11:30 – 11:45 AM: **Coffee Break**

## Morning Session II: Patient Advocacy and Access to Care - Breaking Through the Barriers

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM: **Roundtable on the multilevel barriers hindering patient access to care in Latin America and the US and proposed solutions:** 5-min introductions and presentation of issues followed by group discussion – Moderator: Gemma Ortiz M Genovese, BSc(Hon), MSc, Neglected Diseases Senior Advocacy & Liaison Officer, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders

- Sergio Sosa-Estani, MD, MPH PhD, Head, Service of Epidemiology, National Center for Research on Endemic Diseases/ANLIS, Argentina
- Victor Condé, MD, Physician, Bolivia Chagas treatment program, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders
- Eliana T. Loveluck, MSW, Director, Center for Consumers, The National Alliance for Hispanic Health
- Janine Ramsey Willoquet, PhD, Director, Regional Center for Public Health Research, National Institute for Public Health, Mexico
- Maira Gutierrez, Los Angeles-area patient

1:00 – 2:00 PM: **Lunch**

## Afternoon Session I: Chagas Disease R&D and Innovation

2:00 – 3:30 PM: Panel Chair: Julio Urbina, PhD, Emeritus Investigator, Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC)

- **Global drug development pipeline for Chagas disease:** Isabela Ribeiro, MD, Senior Project Manager, Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi)
- **Improving diagnostic tools:** Rick Tarleton, PhD, President, The Chagas Disease Foundation, and Distinguished Research Professor, Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases, University of Georgia
- **Search for better Chagas drugs: discovery research efforts:** Frederick S. Buckner, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Washington

3:30 – 3:45 PM: **Coffee break**

## Afternoon Session II: Sustainable Funding and Innovative Financing Mechanisms

3:45 – 4:45 PM: Panel Chair: Jana Armstrong, Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi) North America

- **Overview of alternative financing mechanisms: prize funds, advance purchase commitments, patent pools, and voucher systems:** Paul Wilson, Assistant Professor of Public Health, Columbia University
- **Chagas disease prize fund for the development of new transfers, diagnostics, and vaccines:** Erika Dueñas, Charge d’Affaires, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Bolivia
- **Pharmaceutical industry perspective on investing in NTD R&D:** Drew Lewis, MD, Head, Infectious Diseases Emerging Markets, Pfizer, Inc.
- **Incentivizing Innovative Therapeutics for Chagas Disease:** David N. Cook, PhD, BIO Ventures for Global Health
- **Private sector incentives for NTD R&D:** Hannah Kettler, PhD, Senior Program Officer and Economist, Global Health Policy and Finance, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

4:45 – 5:15 PM: **Wrap-Up – Presentation and discussion of consensus statements and calls for action**  
Eric Stobbaerts, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator for Chagas Campaign, Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi); Oliver Yun, Medical Editor, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders

5:15 – 5:30 PM: **Closing Remarks**  
Bernard Pecoul, MD, Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi)

5:30 – 7:30 PM: **Reception**

*This meeting will be open to members of the media.*