Neuro Zika PLAN – WP2 Meeting
Wednesday 12th of April 2017

✓ **Venue:** Meeting organized via Skype

✓ **Date:** Wednesday 12th of April 2017 - 15.30pm – 17pm (GMT)

✓ **Attendees:**
  o Maria de Fatima Pessoa Militao de Albuquerque (Fiocruz – Recife)
  o Rafael Freitas de Oliveira Franca (Fiocruz – Recife)
  o Cynthia Soares (Fiocruz – Recife)
  o Ravi Mehta (University of Liverpool) *(Assisting meeting from Recife)*
  o Tom Solomon (University of Liverpool)
  o David Brown (Fiocruz-Rio / PHE) *(Assisting meeting from Rio)*
  o Hugh Willison (University of Glasgow) – WP4 Leader
  o Sue Barnett, (University of Glasgow) glial cell biologist
  o Sonja Leonhard (Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam) *(Assisting meeting from Ribeirao Preto)*
  o Raquel Medialdea Carrera (University of Liverpool) *(Assisting meeting from Recife)*

**Apologies:** Ana Bispo and Patricia Sequeira (Fiocruz-Rio de Janeiro), Carlos Pardo, Lyda Osorio (Universidad del Valle - Colombia), Cristiane Soares (Rio de Janeiro – Hospital Servidores), Carlos Brito, Lucia Brito (Recife), Mike Griffiths, Lance Turtle (University of Liverpool)

**Main Action points (AP)**

A. Ravi, David, Rafael & Raquel to discuss whether the use of whole blood is more appropriate than serum for Zika Virus PCR

B. Raquel to liaise with Angela to arrange meeting for Sonja, Bart & Tom. Hugh and potentially other Liverpool members would also be interested in joining this meeting.

C. Raquel to liaise with Jackie & Angela to determine paperwork needed to be done for NeuroZika members assisting the meeting in Cuba.

D. Arrangement of next NeuroZika Skype Meeting in November-December 2017 (Raquel to liaise with Angela)
Main Discussions

1. **Update from Brazil (Rio de Janeiro & Recife)**
   a. Case Control Study started in a cohort of 10 hospitals in Rio de Janeiro and recruiting cases since last December. Good start of the project and great interest among clinicians. Slow recruitment of cases due to low levels of arboviral infections circulating in Rio. Parallel investigations are being conducted in Rio.
   b. Case Control Study already started in Recife this March.
      i. Ravi and Raquel working with the team in Recife to set up the Zika Plan Case Control Study in Hospital Restauracao – Fiocruz.
      ii. Development of additional studies
      iii. Ravi and Raquel helping on the coordination of the laboratory testing and harmonization of codes, sample collection, sample processing and harmonization of protocols among Rio de Janeiro and Recife.
      iv. Tatiane is a fully trained neurologist who has started working on recruitment of cases and controls in Hospital Restauracion
      v. Cynthia Soares is a biologist who has started working on laboratory diagnosis of the neuro zika cases
   c. Rafael informs that there is some Zika and Chikungunya virus circulation this year, but much lower than last year.
   d. Yellow fever outbreak not affecting Pernambuco Estate, however, it is affecting areas close to Rio de Janeiro. Tom informs that Zika Plan should try to improve preparedness for other outbreaks.
   e. Fatima updated on the retrospective work. Good progress being done with around 220 cases included and 131 with confirmed arboviral infection. Fatima informed that good progress is being done and that data is being discussed and organized in collaboration with Ravi and Raquel.
   f. Tom suggest to try obtaining controls now for the cases in January and February of 2017 before the Case Control Study started.
   g. Rafael suggested using Whole Blood instead of serum for PCR detection of ZIKV. David suggests to check with a few of the first patients recruited.

2. **Update from Sonja (Holand) Currently in Sao Paulo**
   Amilton has gotten the IRB approval for the IGOS-Zika protocol for his center and has a network of 7 other centers in Brazil that want to collaborate on this protocol.
   Sonja will spend a few weeks in Brazil and will hope to visit the following centers:
   - Hospital das Clinicas (Faculdade de Medicina Ribeirão Preto)
   - Universidade Federal do Ceara (Francisco Gondim)
   - Faculdade de Medicina, Rio de Janeiro (Osvaldo Nascimento)
   - Departamento de Medicina Intergrada, Natal (Mario Dourado Jr)
   - Hospital Municipal Odilon Behrens, Belo Horizonte (Glaucia Resende)
   - Hospital das Clinicas da Faculdade de Medicina de Botucatu (Doralina Souza)
   - Universidade Federal Goias, Gioana (Helena Mendonca)
   - Hospital das Clinicas da Universidade Federal de Uberlandia (Diogo dos Santos)
a. In Ribeião Preto they have collected around 21 cases with GBS according to the protocol already.
b. Sonja would like to organize a meeting with Tom and Hugh.

3. Update from Glasgow
   a. Good progress with the ZIKV infected cells models. Manuscript is almost ready for submission. Interesting knock-out mice models too. Interesting deficit in dedrocles cultures.
   b. Good progress on Glycoarrays using different Zika cohorts: 1 cohort from Recife, 2 from Colombia and 1 from Belo Horizonte studied.
   c. Meeting in Leuven on the 8th and 9th of May. Neuro Zika WP4 – Anyone else interested in joining? Potential interest from some other Liverpool members.
   d. Joseph (medical student) will be arriving Recife next Tuesday for a few weeks. Raquel and Ravi will introduce him to Tatiane and plan involvement in prospective case-controle study recruitment (Zika-Plan Neurologist at Hospital Restauracio)

4. Update from Liverpool
   a. Next Neuro-Zika WP2 Meeting will be in Cuba on the 12th & 13th of August.
   b. Following Neuro-Zika WP2 Skype Meeting will be on November.
   c. All Neuro-ZikaPlan Progress & Minutes of meetings need to be reported to the EU.
   d. Lance to discuss with Rafael further progress on the Immunology studies.
   e. Raquel and Ravi update and progress of their work in Rio de Janeiro and Recife.