

Chikungunya and Zika Viruses in the Northeast of Brazil: Global health perspectives focusing on human functionality

WORKSHOP REPORT

The workshop was hosted on 21st and 22nd November 2019, in Santa Cruz, a city in the interior of the state of Rio Grande do Norte. The purpose of this workshop was to describe the panorama of cases of Zika and Chikungunya registered in the Brazilian Northeast, to present the neurological and musculoskeletal manifestations, and discuss the impact on quality of life caused by these arboviruses. This event was disseminated through social networks, websites and specialized newspapers and throughout the academic community, in addition to the REDe network platform. A total of 133 participants attended, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, teachers and researchers, health professionals, stakeholders and representatives of the local community. Topics such as epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, assessment tools, rehabilitation and strategies to control arboviruses were addressed. The workshop sessions included participation of expert research professors with extensive publications in the field, sought to clarify various research methods, discussion with national and international audiences about knowledge translation, as well as community participation from people directly affected by the consequences of arboviruses. The speeches by mothers of children affected by CZS and the reports of people with sequelae from Chikungunya gave a unique dimension to the event, illustrating and expressing the main concerns and problems faced directly by the affected public. Limited knowledge about the repercussions on the functioning of patients with Zika and Chikungunya, a lack of integrated health services, first contact with referral of cases and the need for training of these professionals as well as the wider general population was observed and noted. Thus, we conclude that the problem of Chikungunya and Zika arboviruses is not only in their high prevalence with repercussions on human functioning, it is also strongly associated with the population's knowledge of how to respond and minimize the impact they cause to improve overall health.