



PARALLEL SESSION 2.5

REDUCING THE GAP: ADDRESSING NEGLECTED DISEASE; NEGLECTED POPULATIONS



| BACKGROUND

Preventable, endemic diseases are rarely prioritized for surveillance as they do not pose a risk of epidemic or pandemic outbreak. This is a failing on two levels: (1) the presence of preventable diseases acts an indicator of the overall state of the health system; and (2) the knowledge of 'usual' allows for detection of the unusual. Strengthening surveillance and other systems for endemic diseases, infectious or otherwise, provides necessary infrastructure to combat the existing and target the emerging. In addition, most of these subsisting populations live in close proximity with their animals and experience a double burden, disease in their animals and disease in their families and communities. A pro-poor initiative on a massive scale, control of NTDs has much to offer in terms of what can be adapted, innovated and built in low-resource settings most burdened by NTDs in an agenda that makes poverty alleviation its overarching objective and aims to leave no one behind.



The success celebrated for some of the NTDs shows that it is possible to build private-public partnerships that lead to concrete results, such as the Global Partners' Meeting on NTDs based on the theme "Collaborate. Accelerate. Eliminate". This encapsulates an exemplary informal collaboration that marks a 'turning point' in global efforts to control and eliminate poverty-related diseases.

The discussion will center on forging cross-sectoral partnerships to tackle NTDs and "diseases of poverty", and will include a range of elements crucial to an effective collaboration across sectors such as financing, research and development, production and delivery of vaccinations and treatment, disease surveillance, role of local communities and other actors on the field. It will elucidate the incentives of building effective cross-sectoral and public-private partnerships by using the case of NTDs. Lessons may be derived from the NTD experience to other areas requiring cross-sectoral partnerships in health where a population-based intervention is appropriate.

| OBJECTIVES

Marginalized and neglected populations bear the epidemic risk of infectious diseases especially neglected tropical diseases. They are more exposed to disease vectors as well as have less access to effective and timely health care. Without addressing prevention, detection and response among this segment of the population, the world cannot be safe from infectious disease. This session aims to discuss successful examples of cross-sectoral partnerships across human and animal health sectors to tackle "diseases of poverty" including financing, vaccine development, and distribution as well as delivery. It will also address how to target this neglected segment of the population against the threat of infectious diseases. Intervention based approaches through specific diseases can be discussed as well as tackling access and inclusion into the health system through a social determinants approach. Tackling NTDs is addressing the causes of poverty and the pathways to reach the poorest and most vulnerable in society those that will have slower access to universal health coverage and would be a pathway to strengthen health systems, human, animal and environmental.





Panelist

Frank Feldhues

Leading through Vision and Values

IDT Biologika
Germany

Frank Feldhues is a senior manager in the animal health branch of IDT Biologika Germany, and lives nearby the companies headquarter in Dessau-Rosslau , which is close to Germanys capitol Berlin. His work is centered around the “Oral Rabies Vaccination Program” for wildlife and free roaming dogs. Additionally he is heading the IDT Business in the ASIA/PACIFIC region in order to, amongst others, support the reduction of antibiotic usage in livestock and fish by supporting the use of commercial and autogenous vaccines. Before joining IDT Biologika early 2016 , Frank worked at Mars Incorporated for 9 years, including 2 years at Royal Canin focusing companion animal wellbeing. In his various roles, he was well known to inspire, motivate and lead cross-country teams to make even complex projects successful Frank has lead the IDT rabies program to deliver a solution for oral vaccination of free-roaming dogs in Asia. Currently Frank and his team are collaborating with various public and private partners in ASIA to run vaccination campaigns aiming at free-roaming dogs. These campaigns are embedded to the strategic vision of “Zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 in participating countries” formulated by WHO, FAO, OIE & GARC. In parallel Frank and his team are encourgaging local and global partners from private sector to join, contribute and collaborate to multiple rabies vaccination campaigns / programs.