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SAARC Rabies Webinar

“Updates and progress in the SAARC region towards elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030” 18-20 May 2020

Speakers at the webinar

Dr Andy Gibson, Mission Rabies



After working and researching in charity veterinary practice in the UK, Andy began working for Mission Rabies in 2013, initially as a volunteer, vaccinating dogs in Kolkata. His previous experience using smartphone technology in the epidemiological setting in Zanzibar, Tanzania, transferred to work on rabies and he was tasked to developing a tailor-made smartphone app to overcome challenges faced during mass dog vaccination campaigns. The app now has over 300,000 entries and is used in 7 countries. Andy drives the field strategy of Mission Rabies projects, develops surveillance protocols for testing rabid dogs and gathering data on intervention impact. Description of the

'Vaccinate-Assess-Move' methodology used in India was successfully published in December 2015.

He oversees the research activities of the charity and ongoing mobile technology developments. He is currently undertaking a PhD at The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh studying the methods and outcomes of mass dog vaccination and rabies surveillance.

Dr Karoon Chanachai, Regional Animal Health Advisor at USAID Regional Development Mission Asia, Bangkok, Thailand



Before moving to work for USAID Regional Development Mission Asia in May 2020, Karoon Chanachai had worked for the Department of Livestock Development as animal health epidemiologist in the field and central offices for more than 20 years. His interest relates to animal disease surveillance, outbreak investigation and operational research to address animal health services gaps. He has conducted many animal rabies outbreak investigations and took part in developing rabies surveillance database in Thailand. After spending more than two decades working with animal rabies, he turned his focus on oral rabies vaccine as a tool to improve vaccination coverage in stray dog population. He is the Department's focal point for oral rabies vaccine project in Thailand. This

operational research has been conducted under close collaboration among animal health, public health authorities, university in Thailand and vaccine provider company in France.



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Dr Ryan M. Wallace, Veterinary Epidemiologist, US CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Dr. Wallace is Veterinary Epidemiologist and lead of the Rabies Epidemiology Unit with the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC). He began his career in public health in 2004 at the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, working on projects to improve refugee access to healthcare. In 2006, Dr. Wallace received his Master of Public Health from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia with a focus on epidemiology and in 2012 his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Dr. Wallace joined the CDC Rabies Program in 2012 and trained for two years with the Epidemic Intelligence Service.

Dr. Wallace serves as a World Health Organization (WHO) expert consultant for rabies and the Director of CDC's OIE rabies laboratory. He has led numerous domestic and international rabies investigations pertaining to both human deaths and animal disease outbreaks. Dr. Wallace has worked extensively with the international organizations to develop humane methods of animal control and effective vaccination practices in free roaming dogs. These efforts have focused on the collaborative efforts of multiple institutions to develop humane and effective animal rabies surveillance programs. Dr. Wallace spends the majority of his time focusing on the implementation of surveillance systems in low resource countries and improving our understanding of how interspecies relationships impact the spread of rabies. In his free time Dr. Wallace enjoys camping and hiking with his wife, three kids, and two dogs.

Dr Umme Ruman Siddiqi, CDC Bangladesh



Dr Umme Ruman Siddiqi works in the Communicable Disease Control Program (CDC) of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in Bangladesh as the Deputy Program Manager of Zoonotic Disease Control Program. She is leading the National Rabies Elimination program country under the guidance of Director, CDC, DGHS.

Dr. Siddiqi has been instrumental in implementing the national program through effective planning, strong inter-sectoral collaboration and better coordination involving all the stakeholders. Under her leadership, rabies elimination program is becoming a successful one despite various challenges in Bangladesh. The incidence of human rabies cases has declined ten times over last ten years. She works closely with the Department of Livestock Services, Local government, NGO's, development partners including WHO, FAO, US-CDC and other stakeholders for effective implementation of the program. She also conducted various operational research including evaluation of mass dog vaccination (MDV) campaign in collaboration with US-CDC. Dr. Siddiqi is a medical graduate and Public Health specialist by profession. She completed post-graduation (PhD) in the field of public health with major in infectious disease from Tohoku University School of Medicine, Japan. She has published various articles on PEP, MDV, rabies elimination and other infectious diseases in peer reviewed journals.

Dr Bernadette Abela-Ridder, WHO HQ, Geneva



Dr Bernadette Abela-Ridder works at the World Health Organization (WHO) leading the work on diseases associated with a human animal interface at the Department for the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Previously she worked in the WHO Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, US Food and Drug Administration on antimicrobial resistance, for l’Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) in Cameroon on emergence of simian immunodeficiency viruses from non-human primates including bushmeat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. on veterinary public health, and in clinical veterinary practice.

Dr Tenzin, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, Botswana



Dr Tenzin who has a PhD on rabies epidemiology from the University of Sydney is from Bhutan and has worked in the Department of Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan for many years on rabies. With more than 25 international publications on rabies, he is an expert on rabies surveillance, epidemiology, outbreak investigation, response, control, and planning. He also has special interest in One Health. Currently, he is working at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, Botswana as the Rabies Project Coordinator, coordinating rabies elimination Project in Namibia. He also provide technical support to the member countries in the Southern Africa

region.

Dr Pasang Tshering, Consultant, OIE



Dr Pasang Tshering from Bhutan is a veterinarian trained in veterinary epidemiology and economics and currently working as a long term consultant to the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific since May 2018. He worked as the Regional Project Coordinator in the same office in Tokyo from April 2017 to March 2018. He has been overlooking the activities related to One Health Approach, Tripartite (FAO-OIE-WHO) collaborative activities on Rabies, Influenza and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and other zoonoses. He has over 25 years’ experience in disease planning and control; animal health research and established the veterinary epidemiology unit and national disease information

system in Bhutan. He also worked as the Regional Epidemiology Centre Coordinator for the FAO Regional Support Unit for SAARC Countries in Nepal which implemented the project on “Regional Coordination Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases for South Asia”. His area of interest is on One Health approach, zoonoses including zoonotic Influenza, Rabies, antimicrobial resistance, epidemiology, networking for inter-sectoral and regional collaboration for addressing disease prevention and control.

Dr Karma Rinzin, CVO, Department of Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan



Karma Rinzin completed his Veterinary degree (B.V.Sc & AH) from Bombay veterinary College, Mumbai, India in 1998. He finished his Master of Veterinary Epidemiology from Massey University, New Zealand in year 2007. He completed his PhD from Murdoch University, Perth Australia under the auspices of prestigious Endeavour Award Program with his PhD thesis titled “Population dynamics and health status of free-roaming dogs in Bhutan”. Dr. Rinzin is an employee of Department of Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan. Before he went for his Master degree, he worked as Regional Veterinary Officer in Western region of Bhutan from 1999 to 2004. From April 2007 till March 2011, he worked as Programme Director of National Centre for Animal Health, in Bhutan. He is currently working as

Chief Veterinary Officer of Animal Health Division under Department of Livestock, Bhutan.

His areas of interest and expertise are: Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health; disease prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (EID); one health; risk analysis; and dog population management.

Dr Gregorio Torres, Head of the Science Department, OIE Paris



Gregorio Torres is a veterinary epidemiologist with broad experience in national and international animal health policy and vocation in veterinary public health. He is the Head of the Science Department of the OIE and responsible for the rabies portfolio including the coordination of the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan Zero by 30.

Dr Andre Coetzer, Global Alliance for Rabies Control



Dr Andre Coetzer is the technical lead for rabies in sub-Saharan Africa for the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), which means he is involved in working with different national governments and organisations in the development and implementation of their rabies elimination strategies. More specifically, Dr Coetzer focuses on supporting strategic dog vaccination campaigns, implementing and enhancing rabies surveillance systems and providing mechanisms whereby data-driven decisions can be made in rabies-endemic countries. Dr Coetzer has also been involved in the development of many of GARC's tools, including the Rabies Epidemiological Bulletin, the GARC Data Logger, the GARC Education Platform and its specific courses and the Stepwise Approach Towards Rabies Elimination tool. Dr Coetzer is currently on the steering committee for the Pan-African Rabies Control Network (PARACON) and an active member of the Partners for Rabies Prevention (PRP) group.

Dr Maud Carron, OIE Paris



Dr Maud Carron works for the OIE Headquarters - Capacity-Building Department, more specifically on the coordination of the contribution of the PVS Pathway to the International Health Regulations Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the World Health Organization (WHO). She completed her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in Canada where she also worked for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, negotiating sanitary requirements for the trade of live animals and animal products. She also holds a MSc in Environmental Assessment (McGill, Canada) and a PhD in Epidemiology, economics and public Health (RVC, UK), which focused on a food borne pathogen in Kenya. She has been regularly working as a consultant for the EuFMD.

Dr. Shrikrishna Isloor, Associate Professor and Laboratory Director, Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bengaluru



Dr. Isloor has been working in the field of Veterinary Microbiology and biotechnology for the past 29 years. He worked for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Government of Karnataka and now works at the Veterinary college, Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fishery Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bengaluru. He was been closely involved in establishment of KVAFSU-CVA-Crucell Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory at KVAFSU that recently completed the OIE twinning program with CDC, Atlanta, USA and the APHA, UK. He has organized national level training on rabies diagnosis in animals for several other States in India. He made significant contributions in the development of diagnostic kits for bovine brucellosis and mastitis and introduction of Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test for rabies antibody test in India. He has guided five doctoral and seven masters' students on rabies. He is a recipient of the national level 'Visionary Award for his outstanding achievements on rabies research by the Indian Veterinary Association in 2019. Dr Isloor is the Vice President of Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI).

Dr Ajit Shewale, Assistant Director, National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India



Dr Ajit currently works in the implementation of National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP), Programme for Prevention and Control of leptospirosis (PPCL) and Intersectoral Coordination Programme for prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases (ISC) at the National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. He is a public health professional with eight years of experience in public health including public health surveillance, Immunization, vaccine pharmaco-vigilance, and zoonotic diseases etc.