

International workshop on onchocerciasis-associated epilepsy 12 – 14 October 2017, Antwerp, Belgium

OAE time for action

Robert (Bob) Colebunders

REASONS FOR THIS WORKSHOP

- OAE exists
- Research questions remain to be addressed
- OAE is an important public health problem
- Need for an OAE policy and interventions
- This will require advocacy, funding
- OAE alliance

NEED FOR THE COLLABORATION OF SCIENTISTS

- Neurologists, paediatricians, infectious disease experts, ophthalmologists, endocrinologists
- Epidemiologists, mathematic modellers
- Parasitologists, onchocerciasis experts
- Immunologists, geneticists, bioinformaticians
- Pathologists
- Pharmacologists
- Anthropologists
- Public health experts, primary health care experts
- Entomologists

NEED FOR COLLABORATION WITH

- Representatives of affected communities
- Representatives of Ministries of Health
- Non-governmental organisations
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Funding organisations
- Press
- Politicians

PROGRAMME

1. Invited lectures:

- Update about onchocerciasis
- Epidemiology of epilepsy in Africa
- Recent findings OAE research (Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon, DRC)

2. Poster presentations recent studies

3. Working groups

WORKING GROUPS (day 1-2)

1. Onchocerciasis burden of disease (including OAE), cost of OAE.
2. How to improve surveillance for epilepsy in onchocerciasis endemic regions and to improve treatment/care for persons with OAE?
3. How to strengthen weak onchocerciasis elimination programs, and prevent OAE? Need to investigate ivermectin resistance?
4. How to deal with misconceptions, stigma, discrimination and gender violence?
5. How to identify risk factors for and the pathophysiological mechanism causing OAE?
6. How to create an OAEpartnership and increase funding ? A humanitarian impact bond proposal for OAE?

HOW TO WORK IN THE WORKING GROUPS?

- What is known?
- What needs to be done?
- How to do it?
- Needs?
- Research priorities?
- How to perform the research?
- Ethical issues?



WORKING GROUPS (day 3)

1. Develop an OAE policy plan.
2. How to test, fund and evaluate this OAE policy plan?
3. Prepare manuscripts for a supplement of the journal of infectious disease of poverty.

ORGANISING TEAM



DINNER THIS EVENING



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission