

FIRST MEETING OF THE VECTOR CONTROL ADVISORY GROUP

VCAAG



JULY 2013
WHO HQ
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



**World Health
Organization**

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INTRODUCTION

The first meeting of the Vector Control Advisory Group (VCAG), an expert group to the WHO on new forms of vector control for malaria and other vector-borne diseases, was convened at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10–12 July 2013. The objective of the meeting was to initiate the work of VCAG in setting policy agenda and encouraging innovation and product formulation for vector control.

The meeting was opened by Dr Lorenzo Savioli, Director, Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD), and Dr Robert Newman, Director, Global Malaria Programme (GMP). In their opening remarks, Drs Savioli and Newman welcomed participants and discussed WHO initiatives and the importance of vector control. Dr Newman discussed ongoing collaborations between GMP and NTD, and the need to encourage innovation in vector control product development in order to bring new tools to market for public health purposes. Additionally, special attention was given to the functions and terms of reference of VCAG and its role as an entry platform for innovation in novel vector control strategies, giving an opportunity for innovators to discuss with experts, and in mediating further policy action through recommendations to STAG and MPAC.

The meeting was attended by 12 of the 13 selected members of VCAG, partners from industry, observers and special invitees (see Appendix I: List of participants). Dr Marc Coosemans was appointed Chair of the meeting and Drs Ashwani Kumar and Michael Macdonald were appointed Rapporteurs. The meeting was divided into open and closed sessions (see Appendix II: Agenda). The open session (10 July – whole day, and 11 July – morning) provided the opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in and understand the functions of VCAG. The closed session (11 July – afternoon, and 12 July – whole day) allowed VCAG members and the secretariat to discuss the operational procedures for VCAG, including dossier formatting, timelines for VCAG submission and dates of future VCAG meetings.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with WHO policy for the management of Conflicts of Interest, all 13 VCAG members submitted declarations of conflict of interest prior to the meeting, which were reviewed and assessed by the NTD secretariat. The following interests were declared:

Dr Tom Burkot, James Cook University, Australia, disclosed receiving a donation through his University of insecticide-treated netting for evaluation in a field trial from Vestergaard Frandsen, Switzerland.

Professor Marc Coosemans, Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp, Belgium, disclosed receiving funding from the European Union, WHO and the Gates Foundation for his research work. He also received a donation of repellents from S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. USA for his research work.

The interests declared were assessed by the WHO secretariat in consultation with the Office of the Legal Counsel. For the purpose of this meeting, no potential conflict of interest was found to prevent either member from participating in formulating recommendations; however, in the future, should personal repellents be discussed in the VCAG, Professor Coosemans will be excused from participating in the formulation of recommendations.



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