



World Health  
Organization

**anrs**  
EMERGING INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES **Inserm**

Filovirus CORC

# Marburg response :

Building research readiness for a future  
filovirus outbreak

## Agenda

21 January 2025

16:00 – 18:00 Central European Time CET



**R&D**Blueprint

Powering research  
to prevent epidemics

## Background

The WHO's scientific framework for pandemic preparedness and response emphasizes a comprehensive approach to research and development. By focusing on entire pathogen families and priority and prototype pathogens, the strategy aims to create generalizable knowledge and tools that can be rapidly adapted to emerging threats. This framework underscores the importance of global collaboration, sustained support and equitable access. Implementing these key research actions will significantly enhance the world's ability to detect, prevent and respond to potential pandemic threats. There is a crucial need to promote research across all viral and bacterial families, irrespective of perceived pandemic potential.

A key action for improving global research collaboration and advancing research preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics include establishing a collaborative open research consortium (CORC) for each family. This is based on the experience of the MARVAC Consortium<sup>1</sup>. Each CORC is supported by one or more WHO Collaborative Centres using an agreed approach and common goals. The CORCs, distributed globally, will be implemented using a decentralized structure that promotes equitable participation from researchers in high-, middle-, and low-income countries, particularly those from locations where pathogens are known to circulate. This consortia approach aims to leverage scientific advancements and global collaboration to ensure rapid, equitable and effective research and development.

The CORC initiative aims to establish a network of international research consortia focused on priority families, priority pathogens and prototype pathogens. This concept builds on the WHO's scientific framework for pandemic research preparedness and leverages global scientific expertise to enhance our collective ability to detect, prevent and respond to emerging pathogen threats.

For the filoviruses, the ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases was designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre to lead the filovirus CORC.

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- reaffirm the importance of research before, during and after Filovirus outbreaks and discuss current knowledge gaps;
- update on the status of the Marburg medical countermeasures development pipeline;
- share CORE randomized protocols for candidate therapeutics and vaccines;
- deliberate on the use of candidate medical counter measures (MCMs) and the need for robust designs to evaluate safety and efficacy during outbreaks;
- explore and finalize activities to optimize future research responses; and
- encourage collaboration, efficiency, transparency on methods for research and sharing of findings.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36227853/>

**Moderator:** Phil Krause

Time	Topic	Speakers
16:00 – 16:10	Welcoming remarks and meeting objectives	Yazdan Yazdanpanah Ana Maria Henao-Restrepo
<b>Session 1: The Filovirus CORC and the viral family approach</b>		
16:10 – 16:15	An introduction to the viral families and CORC initiative	Ana Maria Henao-Restrepo
16:15 – 16:20	Filovirus roadmap and key knowledge gaps focused on Marburg	César Muñoz-Fontela
16:20 – 16:25	Marburg epidemiological status	Anaïs Legand
16:25 – 16:30	Marburg using unbiased test to investigate outbreaks of haemorrhagic fever of unknown etiology	Placide Mbala
16:30 – 16:35	Questions for clarification	
16:35 – 16:45	Basic and translational research priorities for Marburg	Thomas Hoenen
16:45 – 16:50	Marburg virus critical ecological research & methods	César Muñoz-Fontela
16:50 – 16:55	<b>Questions for clarification</b>	
<b>Session 2: Status of medical countermeasures development</b>		
16:55 – 16:58	Developer's corner – clinical development status	Moderated by Simon Funnell
16:58 – 17:10	Overview of MCMs development and status Brief updates on status of clinical development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MappBio</li> <li>• Gilead</li> <li>• Public Human Vaccines</li> <li>• IAVI</li> <li>• Sabin</li> </ul>	Dan Wolfe  Tara Nyhuis Tomas Cihlar Joan Fusco Mark Feinberg Kelly Warfield
17:10 – 17:15	Prioritization of candidate vaccines and therapeutics-update	Mike Levine & Marco Cavalieri
17:15 – 17:20	<b>Questions for clarification</b>	
<b>Session 3: Clinical trial CORC protocols</b>		
17:20 – 17:25	Pan-filovirus vaccine protocol	Phil Krause
17:25 – 17:30	Platform adaptive randomized trial for new and repurposed filovirus treatments – core trial protocol	Peter Horby
17:30 – 17:35	<b>Questions for clarification</b>	
<b>Session 4: Clinical research during outbreaks</b>		Moderated by Yazdan Yazdanpanah
17:35 – 17:40	Research during outbreak response	Ana Maria Henao-Restrepo
17:40 – 17:45	<b>Questions for clarification</b>	
<b>Session 5: Open session</b>		
17:45 – 17:55	Key knowledge gaps and methods to address them	Phil Krause
17:55 – 18:00	Filovirus CORC planned activities for 2025	Yazdan Yazdanpanah
18:00	<b>Close of meeting</b>	