

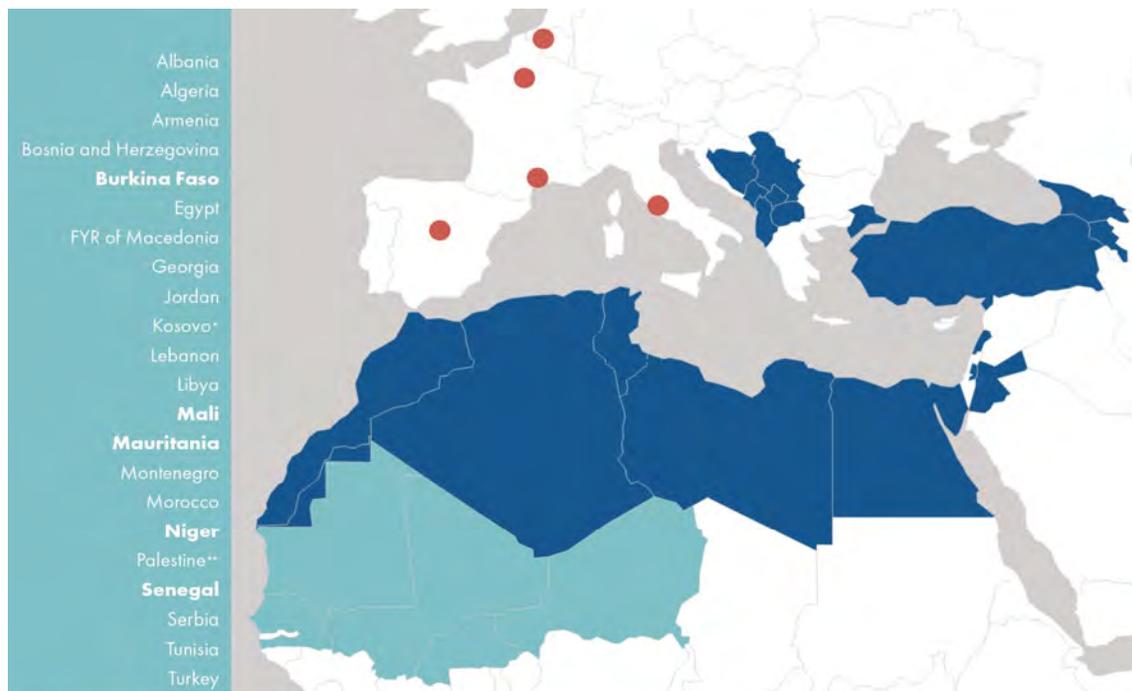


MediLabSecure human virology – Newsletter n°6 – November 2020

HUMAN VIROLOGY NETWORK of MEDILABSECURE

Newsletter #6

The newsletter from the human virology group of MediLabSecure



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
 ** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of EU Member States on this issue.

- Participating countries during the first phase of the project (2014-2018)
- 5 implementing institutes
- New targeted countries

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet and many of us are still facing difficulties: laboratories overwork, confinement, lack of reagents, etc. In Mauritania, an additional epidemic of RVF is making the situation even more complex. Moreover, the world is not doing very well lately, many countries have their own troubles; we all have thoughts for our colleagues in Armenia and we wish them the best in these troubled times.

However, the MediLabSecure project does not stop! Do not hesitate to solicit us.

- [Ongoing activities](#)



➤ **[Inventory of the Current situation](#)**

Many of us have been involved in our country response to COVID-19. In order to fully understand the situation for our network, **we would like to evaluate the involvement of the laboratories from our group** in the current crisis, and the support we were able to provide. We are thinking about writing a scientific paper on the SARS-CoV-2 activities within MediLabSecure and this form would help us to measure its relevance.

Please give us 2 minutes to fill in the following Google Form:



<https://forms.gle/iEu9t6ZKksQpxEFt6>



➤ **[Online Diagnostic Inventory](#)**

Discussions during the Kick-Off meeting converged towards the idea to have an **online inventory for diagnostic capabilities** for the laboratories of the network. The idea would be for you to be able to have a quick look at the capabilities of the laboratories in your region to ask for help or advice more efficiently when necessary.

This inventory will be on a voluntary basis!

The google form is on process! We'll get back to you very soon!



[COMING SOON !!!](#)



- **SARS-CoV-2 activities**

- **EQA SARS-CoV-2**

The QCMD EQA on SARS-CoV-2 has been running. We hope that all laboratories that participated were able to receive the EQA samples and to respond in time. A few are still missing. Let us know if you did not receive the samples yet.

- **SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing and MinION training**

Our laboratory, *Environment and Infectious Risks Research and Expertise (ERI) - Laboratory for Urgent Response to Biological Threats (CIBU)*, at the Institut Pasteur in Paris has been assisting some of our colleagues in the full-genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 samples.

If you would like some assistance to sequence your own samples, please contact us.

We are also in capacity to organize **short on-site training for the Nanopore MinION technology for SARS-CoV-2 sequencing**. If you are interested, **contact us**.

- **Other activities**

- **MediLabSecure Hotline on WhatsApp**

Following the discussions we had last June in Paris during the Kick-Off Meeting, we created a **Hotline for diagnostic-related questions** within the network. This hotline use the WhatsApp platform, and has been working since April 2020. It has proved quite useful to quickly answer questions during the current crisis.

We limit the hotline to one person per laboratory (two maximum) in order to keep the discussion simple and efficient. If your laboratory is not represented in the current group, do not hesitate to **ask us** to add you to it.

- **Workshop “Outbreak Investigation: New molecular tools for the identification of viral pathogens”**

This workshop dedicated to the new generation of laboratory tools for the identification of viral pathogens **was postponed to May 17-21st 2021**. Mark the date on your calendar and **let us know if the date doesn't work for you**.

➤ **Permanent activities:**

- ❖ **Support for diagnostics** whenever needed. If you ever find yourself in need of help in a diagnostic, do not hesitate to send us a message. One of our mission as a network is to support each other! We can give a hand with techniques you do not master or to attempt to identify an unknown disease.
- ❖ **Support for reagents and protocols** of relevant pathogens. In case of emergency, we are here to help!
- ❖ **Experts'exchange:** we can support the cost for an exchange of experts between two laboratories of the network (including with other specialties).
- ❖ **Support for scientific publications** (for partners publishing a scientific paper related to the MediLabSecure project).
- ❖ **All Newsletters from MediLabSecure** (General, entomology, human virology): https://www.medilabsecure.com/resources_newsletters.html

If you recently published a scientific article, **please let us know** so we advertise it to the network in our next Newsletter.

Kindest regards,

Jean-Claude Manuguerra,
Virologist, Key expert for the human virology group of MediLabSecure.

Guillain Mikaty,
Microbiologist, project manager for the human virology group of MediLabSecure.

Environment and Infectious Risks Research and Expertise (ERI)
Laboratory for Urgent Response to Biological Threats (CIBU)
OIE Collaborative Center (CCOIE) for *Detection and Identification in Humans of Emerging Animal Pathogens and Development of Tools for their Diagnoses*.
25-28 rue du Docteur Roux
75724 Paris Cedex 15
FRANCE

If you have any suggestions or information you wish to share, please let us know.

To contact us:

Guillain: guillain.mikaty@pasteur.fr

Jean-Claude: jean-claude.manuguerra@pasteur.fr

Human virology group of MLS: MLS_WP1@pasteur.fr

MediLabSecure website: <http://www.medilabsecure.com/>