# What's on @ CIOMS

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

WWW.CIOMS.CH December 2017 | **Newsletter #** **20**



## First meeting of CIOMS Working Group on Clinical Research in Resource-limited Settings

The first meeting of the CIOMS Working Group on Clinical Research in Resource-limited Settings (RLS) took place in Geneva, Switzerland 20–21 November 2017. There has been tremendous progress in improving the research and development environment for new medical products globally since introducing the concept of randomized controlled trials (RCT) in the 1950s. Since then, important changes have taken place in the global social, ethical and regulatory environment of the conduct of clinical research, including clinical research linked to product development. The broader recognition of the social value of research, as well as the founding of public-private partnerships (PPPs) for product development, revisions of the Declaration of Helsinki (DoH) and new CIOMS International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans (2016), creating several regulatory pathways for approval of products specifically meant for diseases in Low- and Middle Income Countries (LIMIC) and the latest revision of ICH Good Clinical Practice (E6/R2) – all these and other factors such as recent public health emergencies (Ebola, Zika) have significantly changed the environment for clinical research.

Therefore, several challenges and (missed) opportunities exist for clinical research in resource-limited settings (RLS), some of which are specific for these settings and other which may have some important specific elements. During the first day the Working Group members who represented academia, industry, regulators, public-private partnerships for product development and contract research organizations, interacted and exchanged information and ideas how best to address challenges faced in the area of clinical research in RLS. Following the "around the table" statements three sub-groups were established (each with representatives from industry, academia, and regulatory agencies) with the task to highlight/develop the key topics to be considered as the "scope" of the WG on Clinical Research in

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- First meeting of CIOMS WG on Clinical Research in Resource-Limited Settings
- CIOMS at PRAC meeting
- Spanish translation of Ethical Guidelines now available

Resource-limited Settings. During the second day these sub-groups reported the highlights of their discussions. In the plenary discussions the key points/topics were further identified and expanded, yielding a comprehensive list of topics to be looked at in greater depth and detail for pragmatic recommendations for improvement. It was agreed that before the next meeting, sub-group coordinators will lead the compilation of the draft for the 3 writing groups by interacting with their respective groups on the adjudicated topics to draft material in order to develop the core document. The next meeting of the Working Group will be hosted by Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) on 27–28 March in Geneva.

### Second meeting of CIOMS Working Group on Drug Induced Liver Injury

The second meeting of CIOMS Working Group (WG) on DILI took place in Malaga, Spain, hosted by Malaga University on 14 and 15 November 2017. Other initiatives relevant to the CIOMS DILI WG were briefly discussed and in some of them there is overlap of representation ensuring minimum duplication combined with potential to give added value. The three sub-groups established during the first WG meeting in Geneva continued progress in discussing their relevant topics. Plenary discussions focused on how to avoid overlaps between the work of sub-groups and issues related to the WG report such as potential target audience(s), its format, structure and form (electronic vs hard copy). The CIOMS DILI WG was greeted by the Rector of the Malaga University and received also an excellent coverage in Spanish printed and electronic media. CIOMS gratefully acknowledges Professors Maribel Lucena and Raul Andrade from Malaga University for the great hospitality and perfect organization. The next DILI WG will take place in Reykjavik, Iceland 8–9 May 2018.

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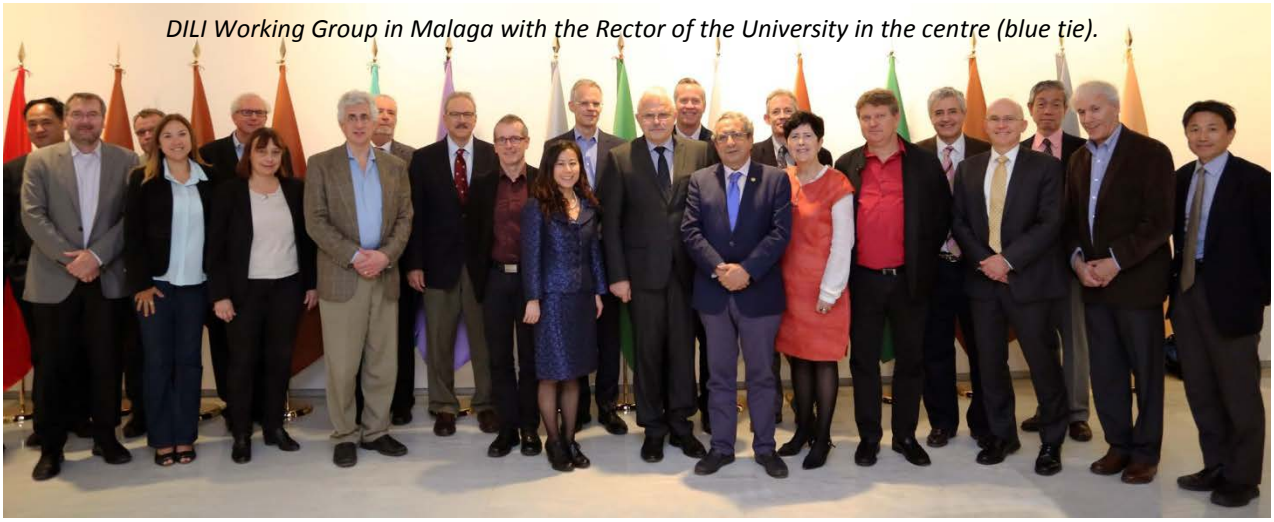
*DILI Working Group in Malaga with the Rector of the University in the centre (blue tie).*



### CIOMS Secretary-General attends the PRAC meeting in Tallinn

The joint Strategic Review and Learning Meeting of the two European Medicines Agency's (EMA) committees - Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) and the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) took place in Tallinn on 17–18 October 2017. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As the availability of appropriately authorised medicines, as well as innovation and access to new medicines were selected by the Estonian State Agency as key priorities to progress during its Presidency, meetings of both committees covered these aspects. CIOMS Secretary-General Dr Lembit Rägo was invited to attend the PRAC meeting in Tallinn where he gave two presentations. In the first *Updates from CIOMS* were given and the second was entitled *Electronic health records (EHR) for Medicines Safety: More Challenges and Less Opportunities, or Other way around?* The presentations were followed by lively discussions.

## CIOMS at Matariki Workshop on Research Ethics

In August 2017, Hans van Delden, Alex John London, Annette Rid and Rieke van der Graaf, all previous members of the Working Group on the Revision of the CIOMS international ethical guidelines, attended a workshop organized by the so-called Matariki network of universities. It was a small global workshop, attended by 25 senior experts in research ethics. The topic of the conference was the legitimization of international ethics guidance documents, with a particular focus on the revised CIOMS guidelines and the World Medical Association's (WMA) Declaration of Helsinki.

In the literature and at international conferences, legitimate processes for guideline development and revision of international ethics guidance documents are criticized. Challenges include the composition of the authorship teams; processes for broader engagement with relevant communities; transparency of decision-making; and lack of synchronization between the documents. The members of the WG organized a session that addressed these challenges in collaboration with our colleagues from WMA. The goal of the session was to generate innovative ways to strengthen future revision processes, specifically in relation to representation and transparency.

Further sessions on specific guidelines took place. Hans van Delden presented the guideline on biobank research. He argued that consent for biobanking and databanking may be specified as specific informed consent, broad informed consent or informed opt-out. Yet, all forms imply consent for governance. The talk clarified why proper governance of biobanks and databanks is essential for the collection, storage and research with bodily material and health-related data.

Alex London presented on CIOMS guideline 20 on Disasters Research. He addressed how ethical principles can be upheld in public health emergencies which represent fast-changing environments of uncertainty and acute need, and examined their implications for the use of randomized controlled trials in emergency situations.

Annette Rid examined what led to the current text of CIOMS guidelines 4 and 5 on potential individual benefits and risks of research, and the choice of control in clinical trials. The talk argued that the current guidelines reflect progress in our ethical thinking as well as compromise. Progress was achieved by staking out areas of agreement and disagreement between two rivalling frameworks for risk-benefit evaluations, the so-called "component analysis framework" and the "net risk test".

Rieke van der Graaf presented on the guideline on research with pregnant women. Already in 2002 CIOMS claimed that pregnant women should be presumed eligible for participation in research. Despite this position and calls from other well-recognized organizations, the health needs of pregnant women in research remain grossly under-researched. Her talk indicated how the revised guidance may help to promote inclusion of pregnant women in research.

Overall it was a constructive meeting on specifics of international ethical guideline development. The working group members aim to publish two or three of their presentations in the Special Issue on this meeting in the journal of Bioethics.

## 6th Meeting of WHO Global Vaccine Safety Initiative (GVSI)

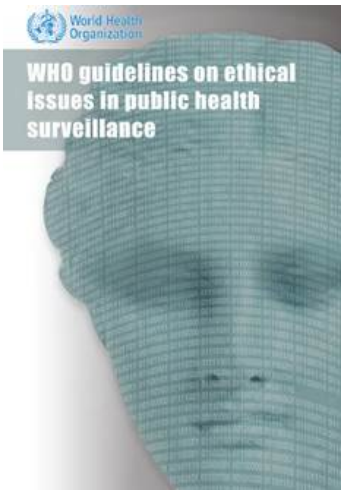
In 2011, WHO and a group of partners developed a strategic document on vaccine safety called the Global Vaccine Safety Blueprint. This document sets out indicators that aim to ensure that all countries have at least a minimal capacity to ensure vaccine safety. The Blueprint proposes a strategic plan for strengthening vaccine safety activities globally. The Global Vaccine Safety Initiative, or GVSI, was set up to implement the Blueprint strategy. Objectives to this GVSI meeting were to (1) review progress in implementation of GVSI, (2) address new challenges and opportunities in vaccine safety, (3) facilitate further partnerships and inter-sectoral collaborations; and (4) identify means to promote regulatory harmonisation initiatives for vaccine pharmacovigilance. The meeting report will soon be available on the WHO website .

CIOMS Secretary-General Dr Lembit Rägo (LR) was invited by WHO to attend the 6th GVSI meeting which took place in Kuala Lumpur, 11–12 October 2017. LR delivered a presentation about CIOMS activities and in particular about its latest and very timely guideline – *CIOMS Guide to Active Vaccines Safety Surveillance, CIOMS, 2017* – available for purchase through CIOMS online bookshop. The presentation is also available through the CIOMS website.

In addition, in cooperation with WHO the following CIOMS books were made available for GVSI participants:

1. *CIOMS Guide to Active Vaccine Safety Surveillance, CIOMS 2017 – 60 copies*
2. *Definition and Application of Terms for Vaccine Pharmacovigilance, CIOMS and WHO, 2012 – 60 copies*
3. *Development and Rational Use of Standardised MedDRA Queries (SMQs): Retrieving Adverse Drug Reactions with MedDRA, CIOMS – 30 copies*
4. *Practical Approaches to Risk Minimisation for Medicinal Products, CIOMS 2014 – 30 copies*

There was a display table with CIOMS publications and LR was available for questions and discussion. Although the deal was that remaining copies will be given to local regulators (in order to avoid taking them back to Geneva) not a single copy remained after the meeting.




## Ethics of Public Health Surveillance

The WHO Guidelines on Ethics of Public Health Surveillance were launched in June by Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, Assistant-General of WHO.

The WHO Guidelines on Ethical Issues in Public Health Surveillance is the first international framework of its kind and it fills an important gap.

The goal of the guideline development project was to help policymakers and practitioners navigate the ethical issues presented by public health surveillance. This document outlines 17 ethical guidelines that can assist everyone involved in public health surveillance, including officials in government agencies, health workers, NGOs and the private sector.

Surveillance, when conducted ethically, is the foundation for programs to promote human well-being at the population level. It can contribute to reducing inequalities: pockets of suffering that are unfair, unjust and preventable cannot be addressed if they are not first made visible. But surveillance is not without risks for participants and sometimes poses ethical dilemmas. Issues about privacy, autonomy, equity, and the common good need to be considered and balanced, and knowing how to do so can be challenging in practice.

& **Read the guidelines**
· **Watch 'WHO Q&A'**

## CIOMS publications reach regulators in Africa

The African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF) Assembly meeting took place in Accra, Ghana, on 29 November. The agenda included among others report on clinical trial application review timelines during 2016–2017, discussion and endorsement of the AVAREF Strategic plan and work plan, discussion and endorsement of Guidelines on clinical trial review times and Guideline for joint and assisted review of clinical trials, presentations of the framework for authorization of clinical trials and product approvals under emergencies and impact of variations in Common Technical Document (CTD) formats on timelines for registration of vaccines.

Thanks to the joint efforts by WHO and CIOMS, the participants received the following CIOMS publications:

- *Definitions and Applications of Terms for Vaccine Pharmacovigilance (2012)*
- *CIOMS Guide to Active Vaccine Safety Surveillance (2017)*
- *Evidence Synthesis and Meta-Analysis: Report of CIOMS Working Group X (2016)*
- *International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans (2016)*
- *Development and Rational Use of Standardised MedDRA Queries (SMQs): Retrieving Adverse Drug Reactions with MedDRA (2004),*
- *Practical Approaches to Risk Minimisation for Medicinal Products: Report of CIOMS Working Group IX, CIOMS (2014).*

## CIOMS 84th Executive Committee

On 14th December 2017, the CIOMS Executive Committee held their annual meeting in Geneva. Teleconferences are held quarterly during the year. The Board President chaired the meeting and the CIOMS Secretary General reported on activities for 2017 as well as ideas underway for new CIOMS Working Groups and plans for 2018. It was a good opportunity for feedback and productive discussion with the EC members.

## RECENT ARTICLES ABOUT CIOMS

***Where available, articles about CIOMS can be accessed through our website at : www.cioms.ch/cioms-in-the-media/***

### CIOMS 2016

Bandewar SVS. CIOMS 2016. Indian J. Med Ethics. 2017 Jul-Sep;2(3) NS:138-40. DOI: 10.20529/IJME.2017.067

CIOMS is mentioned several times in this report available through GAPPS : **Maternal Immunization Safety Monitoring in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Roadmap for Program Development**

### Guide to active vaccine safety surveillance: Report of CIOMS working group on vaccine safety - executive summary.

Heininger U, Holm K, Caplanusi I, Bailey SR; CIOMS Working Group on Vaccine Safety. Vaccine. 2017 Jul 13;35(32):3917-3921.

### CIOMS guidelines remain conservative about vulnerability and social justice

Calvin Wai-Loon Ho. Indian J Med Ethics. 2017 published online Jun 20

### Patterns of use and impact of standardised MedDRA query analyses on the safety evaluation and review of new drug and biologics license applications.

Chang LC, Mahmood R, Qureshi S, Breder CD. PLoS One. 2017 Jun 1;12(6):e0178104. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0178104.

### Critical analysis of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences 2016 International Guidelines for health-related research involving humans.

Kottow Lang MH. Medwave. 2017 May 15;17(4):e6956


The Spanish translation of International ethical guidelines for health-related research involving humans, 2016 : is now available in the CIOMS online bookshop. Translations into other languages are in progress.

## CIOMS Publications in e-bookshop

Several CIOMS publications in both hardcopy and PDF format are available for free at: **https://cioms.ch/product-category/free-publications/**

Other titles can be purchased with discounts when you buy 2 or more hardcopies of the same title.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**2nd Meeting of CIOMS Working Group on Clinical Research in Resource-limited Settings, Geneva, Switzerland**

27–28 March 2018

**13th Meeting of MedDRA Implementation Working Group, Geneva, Switzerland**

11-13 April 2018

**3rd Meeting of CIOMS Working Group on Drug-induced Liver Injury (DILI), Reykjavik, Iceland**

8–9 May 2018