

Global Fungal Infection Forum 4



Developing a coalition roadmap for integration of fungal disease pathways and AMR solutions into health systems in Latin America

Background

GAFFI held its first Global Fungal Infection Forum (GFIF1) meeting in Seattle in February 2015 and developed a 10 year global Roadmap [95-95 by 2025]. In October 2016, the second GFIF in Liverpool has developed diagnostic criteria for LMICs for chronic pulmonary aspergillosis in TB adapted to LMICs. GFIF3 in Kampala 2018 developed a consensus for Fungal Disease and Advanced HIV diagnostics that influenced the WHO's first Essential Diagnostics list.

In 2017, GAFFI Senior Advisors and their colleagues wrote a series of articles in Lancet Infectious Diseases outlining the problems of and many solutions for serious fungal diseases, including the first ever paper on fungal diseases and health systems (Cole et al).

GAFFI's successful advocacy at the global health level needs to be translated into policy and action on a country basis. GAFFI's international network of Ambassadors and other have estimated country by country, the burden of serious fungal diseases for >80 countries with others underway and this program continues. The size of the problem and negative impact of fungal diseases, which tend to be clinically 'quiet', is now obvious in most countries. Diagnostic tools and therapies are available but translating all these opportunities into tailored plans requires country dialogue and decision-making in country to generate graduated, sustainable solutions, reduce morbidity and save lives.

Timing, location and languages

September 3-5th, 2019; Novotel, Lima, Peru; in Spanish.

Objectives

1. To gain a shared understanding of the policy landscape for health systems strengthening in Latin America for a comprehensive approach to fungal diseases.
2. To stimulate active dialogue and generate concrete steps towards the integration of fungal diagnostics into HIV/AIDS programs, TB programs, and high complexity patients (immunocompromised, neonates, transplanted, oncologic and intensive care units' patients among others) .
3. To inform country policy and technical leaders about the new generation of sensitive and rapid non-culture- based diagnostics for fungal diseases
4. To inform country policy and technical leaders about shifts in antifungal chemotherapy and generic antifungal availability and costs and to discuss strategies to improve access to quality antifungal medicines.
5. To provide a venue for individual country planning and feedback on options for improvements and donor support for those actions.

Countries

LMICs in Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, and HICs - Argentina, Chile, Panama and Uruguay. It is hoped that many

more South/South collaborations will emerge to contribute to capacity development in LMICs.

Key attendees

- Country and regional policy makers in HIV/AIDS, TB, cancer and (usually Director of Medical Services, Head of HIV/AIDS and TB national programs and AMR and laboratory development leads).
- Country leaders/experts in HIV/AIDS, fungal diseases, TB, infectious diseases/AMR.
- Latin American Fungal Diseases group
- Pan-American Infectious Diseases Association

Partners

- PAHO (confirmed)
- CDC (confirmed)
- ISHAM (confirmed)
- Pharma companies (confirmed)
- Diagnostic companies (confirmed)
- ECMM

GAFFI would lead on organization and invitations.

Pre-meeting preparations

Country profiling of:

- a. Burden of key underlying diseases and serious fungal diseases
- b. Diagnostic test availability and levels/locations
- c. Antifungal availability and cost and levels/locations
- d. Country guidelines for fungal diseases
- e. Current financing of AIDS, TB, complex hospital patients and laboratory services
- f. Online training resources
- g. In country and Regional training opportunities

Outputs

1. A GAFFI and partner report of the meeting and final conclusions for publication on GAFFI website and print after peer review.
2. A PAHO report on the status of fungal diseases in Latin America
3. Feedback to countries on pathways and 'easy wins' to get the ball rolling
4. Additional advocacy and implementation materials to generate in country and international support for country plan development and realisation.

Outcomes

1. Shared understanding of the state of play with regards to fungal infection burden, diagnosis and treatment in Latin America.
2. A coalition of countries, regional bodies and global actors committed towards implementing plans to integrate fungal disease pathways into Latin America healthcare systems.
3. A collection of strategies for the funding of capacity development, training and health systems strengthening initiatives.
4. Ongoing dialogue on development, approval and implementation of country-specific plans for those countries keen to move forward.