The Challenge of filariasis control in French Polynesia

Ngoc Lam Nguyen, Anne-Marie Legrand, Hervé Bossin, Catherine Plichart, Jérôme Marie, Sylviane Teurura, Marc Faurnier, Véronique Mou, Clémence Gatti and Ralph Pawlowicz

aInstitut Louis Malardé, Service de Consultations et d’Investigations Epidémiologiques - BP 30 Papeete, 98713 Papeete - Tahiti, French Polynesia

bInstitut Louis Malardé, Laboratoire de Parasitologie médicale, BP50, 98713 Papeete, Tahiti, 98713 Papeete, French Polynesia

cInstitut Louis Malardé, BP 30, 98 713 Papeete, French Polynesia

dInstitut Louis Malardé, centre de consultation médicale et d’investigation, BP50, 98713 Papeete, Tahiti, 98713 Papeete, French Polynesia

mlam@mail.pf

From 1993 to 2007 mass drug administration (MDA) was re-implemented in French Polynesia due to the re-emergence of this ancient endemic after 10 years of active MDA interruption (1982-1992). Despite the implementation in 2000 of a regional programme to eliminate lymphatic filariasis (PacELF), based on an MDA combining diethylcarbamazine and albendazole, the filarial endemic remains above the elimination threshold as defined by the PacELF standard. Although effective this strategy has failed to achieve a quick and sustained reduction of filarial prevalence even after the extension of the programme beyond the recommended 5 years of MDA. The aim of this presentation is to summarize different important data of the PacELF programme in French Polynesia and the problems encountered in this epidemiological island setting.

Number of words in abstract: 122

Keywords: Lymphatic filariasis - PacELF - French Polynesia - Control strategy

Technical area: Health Challenges in the Pacific: Infectious Disease, Non-Communicable Disease and the Health Workforce

Special session: Not specified

Presentation: Oral presentation preferred

Special equipment: Video-projector (beamer)