

## **Report of isirv Antiviral Group 2012-2013**

The **isirv Antiviral Group** (isirv-AVG) was established as a special interest group of isirv at the time of merger in April 2011 of the former Neuraminidase Inhibitor Susceptibility Network (NISN) with isirv. Its specific objectives are to promote understanding of the clinical use of antivirals against respiratory viruses, collate and provide up-to-date information on the emergence of antiviral resistance, and communicate expert commentary on preclinical and clinical development of potential new antivirals.

**Membership** of the isirv-AVG is open to all members of isirv. To assist participation in the various activities and potential contribution to information/website content, members are asked to indicate their particular interests/areas of expertise. You can do this either via the website or by filling in the attached questionnaire and handing it in at the isirv stand at the Options conference. In any case, come along to the isirv stand to find out more about AVG.

The **Proceedings** of the first isirv-AVG conference on *Influenza Antivirals: Efficacy and Resistance*, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 8-10 November 2011, were published as a supplement of *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*, Vol 7 Suppl 1, in January 2013.

The **second AVG conference** on *Severe Influenza: Burden, Pathogenesis and Management* was organised jointly with isirv in conjunction with the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi, 29-31 October, 2012, to address the many gaps that remain in our understanding of the pathogenesis and management of severe influenza. Of the 160 delegates from medical and academic institutions in 22 countries, 30 per cent were from Viet Nam. The programme, abstract book, and a summary are available on the website. A collection of presentations will be published as a supplement of the irv journal.

Oral and poster presentations from the two conferences are available to members in the document repository (under Membership – my account).

Lars Haaheim Scholarships supported four participants to attend the Siena Summer School. The AVG together with the Wellcome Trust and WHO provided Travel Awards to 22 delegates at the Hanoi Conference.

**Two AVG-sponsored events** at *Options for the Control of Influenza VIII* include:

A GISAID–isirv-AVG workshop, organised in conjunction with WHO, on *Sequence Analysis and Detection of Antiviral Resistance*, 2-6 pm, 7th September 2013, includes an initial session of brief lectures followed by demonstrations (for selected participants).

A small AVG discussion meeting on *Clinical Trial Endpoints for Studies of Antivirals in Hospitalised and At-Risk Influenza Patients*, 5.30-8.30 pm, 8th September 2013.

The **third AVG conference** will focus on the use of antivirals against influenza in Japan and is planned for June 2014 in Tokyo.

The **AVG Reference Panel (Version 2)** of influenza A and B viruses for assessment of neuraminidase inhibitor susceptibility was distributed to 30 laboratories.

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