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Date: 19 May 2015

Dr Mircea Buga
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
str. Vasile Alecsandri, 2
MD-2009 Chisinau
Republic of Moldova

Dear Sir,

European Regional Polio Laboratory Network: Letter of Laboratory Accreditation for 2016 and Network Transition to New Diagnostic Algorithm

As part of the annual accreditation procedure, the National Polio Laboratory of your country was reviewed by the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe. Based on the results of this review, I am pleased to inform you that the National Polio Laboratory is **fully** accredited as a World Health Organization National Polio Laboratory for 2016.

Enclosed are the results of the accreditation review for your information.

I would also like to inform you that the WHO European Polio Laboratory Network is in the process of transitioning to the new diagnostic algorithm as described in the [WHO Polio Laboratory Manual](#).

In accordance with the manual, all participating laboratories in the Region that possess appropriate nucleic acid amplification equipment and have the ability to procure the supplies and reagents for this testing will be given a choice to implement a complete algorithm of poliovirus detection, i.e., from clinical samples to poliovirus intratypic differentiation (ITD) using WHO-supplied RT-PCR kits. Please note that the laboratories were already briefed on all technical details of the transition.

The laboratories that cannot implement ITD at this point will be requested to adopt the cell culture stage of the new algorithm to fully meet the WHO accreditation criteria. *As long as the cell culture step of the new algorithm is implemented in a laboratory, this laboratory will be considered as having transitioned to the new diagnostic algorithm.*

The Regional Office kindly requests the National Polio Laboratory of your country *to transition to the new algorithm by April 2016*. After that date, the diagnostic procedures of the old algorithm (e.g., cell culture without cross-passaging onto another cell line, poliovirus typing by microneutralization assay) will no longer be accepted as valid by WHO. It is important to note that laboratories may decide to implement the ITD stage at a later time, if at all.

This coordinated global move to the new algorithm will allow the network to modernize its poliovirus diagnostic methods and achieve a significant improvement in the speed of its investigations and we would greatly appreciate any assistance you can offer to the National Polio Laboratory during the transition.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank you personally for your continued support of the Global Polio eradication effort and to congratulate the staff of the National Laboratory with their successful accreditation.

Yours very truly,



Guénaël R. Rodier, M.D.
Director
Division of Communicable Diseases,
Health Security, and Environment

Copy for information to:

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