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○○○ Chair: Dr Jamil Gomes De Souza



AVAILABILITY AND USE OF VACCINES FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD - THE ARGENTINE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ANTIGEN AND VACCINE BANK

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Argentina's foot and mouth (FMD) antigen and vaccine bank was established through a National tender in 2000 and has been at the disposal of the National regulatory authority (SENASA) since 2001.

The definition of the kind of FMD antigen and vaccine bank that would be necessary to develop and set up emerged as a consequence of a risk analysis and the procedures established in the "Contingency Plan for FMD control" developed after suspension of vaccination in the Argentine territory in 1999.

Unfortunately the 2001 FMD outbreak exceeded all planned prevention and control actions and required the immediate increase in the FMD vaccine production capacity previously established. Remarkably, the bank became an essential tool to effectively control the sanitary emergency and it was the first time ever that an antigen bank was used in the continent.

The South American 2001 outbreak spread to other countries in the region and the supply of vaccines coming from the antigen bank extended to other countries such as Uruguay.

The concurrent 2001 FMD outbreak in UK and other European countries meant that the procedures for emergency control were seriously reconsidered. In Europe the use of an emergency vaccine was recognised as a necessary tool to avoid slaughtering of large members of animals and to mitigate the impact of slaughter and destruction of carcasses. The strategic relevance of antigen and vaccine banks in regions free of the disease was once again demonstrated as evidenced by the immediate decision of Australia, Japan, NAFMDVB* and others to update their banks.

In this new scenario and given the track record of the Argentine antigen and vaccine bank, Biogenesis Bago S.A. – the vaccine Bank of Argentina, was awarded in 2006 a tender to provide the NAFMDVB. This award demanded the revision and update of all quality standards in order to satisfactorily meet the specific regulatory requirements of the NAFMDVB member countries: USA, Canada and Mexico.

The evolution of Argentina's FMD antigen and vaccine bank invites us to reflect on the future role of banks in the continent, the criteria to establish them and the importance of a harmonised regulatory framework.

* NAFMDVB: North American FMD Vaccine Bank Programme