

Zika in Latin America Workshop
WCFSJ October 26, 2017

Draft agenda

Trainer: Nora Bar, Health journalist, La Nacion, Argentina

Speaker: Jimmy Whitworth, Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and adviser to the World Health Organization. During the Brazilian Zika outbreak, Professor Whitworth led a research team which included scientists from Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) and the Evandro Chagas Institute in Brazil.

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/people/whitworth.jimmy>

8.00 am: Meeting

8.15 am: WORKSHOP STARTS

INTRODUCTION: QUICK PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The context of uncertainty: Essential questions when preparing a story on uncertainty. Why vaccines take so long to develop? Brief timeline of how the zika drama developed since it was first detected by Brazilian doctors. Struggle to inform about zika and microcephaly, when scientists don't know the answer.

9.00 am: EXERCISE 1: Fact or Myth?

What are key messages about zika and its transmission? Trainer ask them if its fact or myth? Small group discussions to assess knowledge level.

10.00 -- 10.15 am: COFFEE BREAK

10.15 am WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Links between microcephaly and zika – it is causation or association and what is the difference.

What about the other competing hypotheses? How can you judge the merit of a scientific paper? How can you assess scientific consensus?

What's the situation on vaccines? Why are some vaccines more efficient than others?

11.15 am: EXERCISE 2: How to talk to experts?

Interviewing Prof Whitworth in small groups

Discussion on journalists' role and best practices

12.pm WORKSHOP ENDS