
Expert Committee on Biological Standardization Blood Products & IVD Track

Dr Ana Padilla
Blood Products & related Biologicals
Quality and Safety: Medicines
Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies Department
Health Services and Systems Cluster
World Health Organization

WHO Biological Reference Preparations

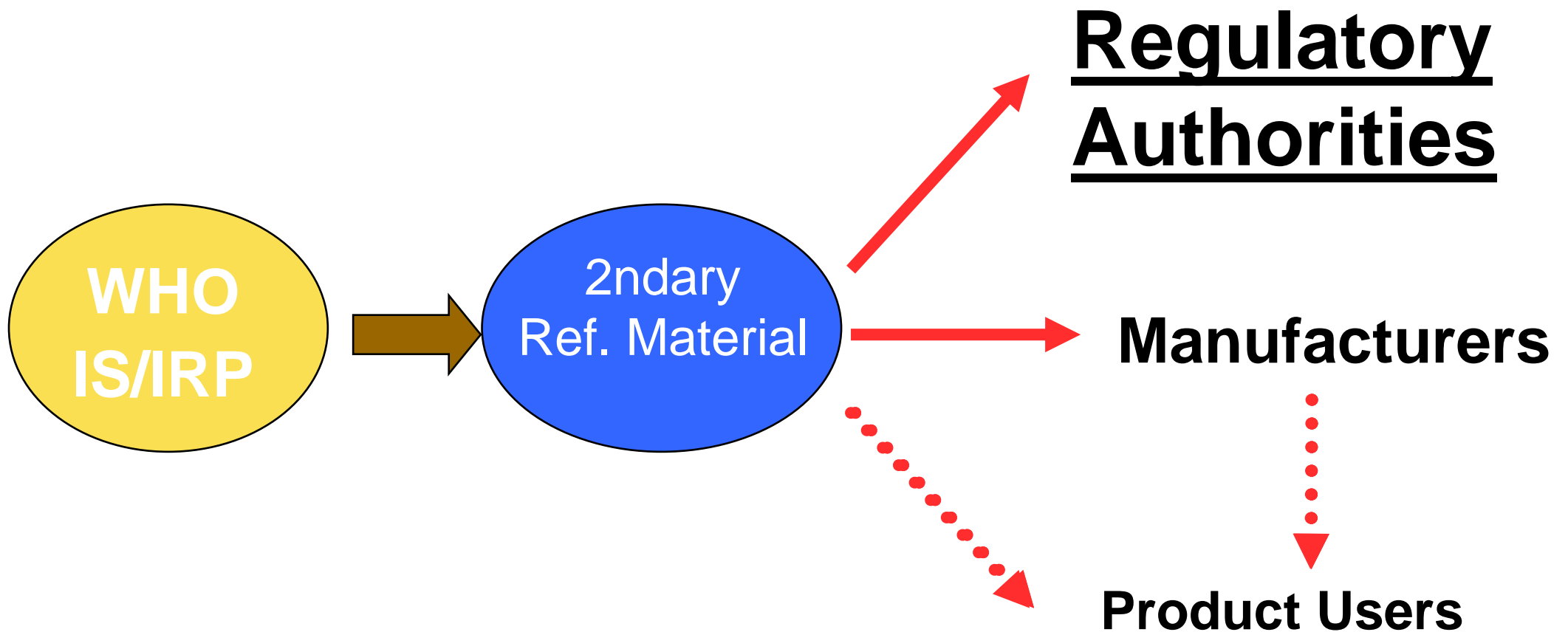
Global measurement standards

- ❑ Tool for comparison of biological measurement results worldwide
- ❑ Facilitate transfer of laboratory science into worldwide clinical practice
- ❑ Underpin appropriate clinical dosage
- ❑ Support harmonization of international regulations (e.g. blood products; blood safety related IVDs)



WHO Biological Reference Preparations

A tool for comparison of results worldwide



Analytical Sensitivity	Standards required by CTS EU IVD Directive	WHO standards available	
Screening and rapid assays			
anti-HIV-1/2	none	none	
anti-HTLV-I/II	none	none	
anti-HCV	none	Planned	
HBsAg	<hr/> 0.5 ng/ml (French or UK-standard) 2.6 IU (WHO HBsAg 2nd IS)	2nd WHO International Standard for HBsAg: 33 IU/ampoule WHO dilutional reference panel	
anti-HBc	none	Planned	
NAT assays (qualitative and quantitative)			
HIV	Analytical sensitivity (IU/ml) defined on WHO standards	HIV-1 RNA 1st IS (1999)	10 ⁵ IU/ml
HCV		HCV RNA 2st IS (2003)	10 ⁵ IU/ml
HBV		HBV DNA 1st IS (1999)	10 ⁶ IU/ml
HTLV I/II		none	
Confirmatory assays			
anti-HIV-1/2	none	none	

WHO Biological Reference Preparations (www.who.int/bloodproducts*)

- ❑ Nucleic Acid Technology:
 - HBV/HCV/HIV/Parvovirus/HAV (IS)
 - HIV genotype reference panel
- ❑ Immunoassays:
 - HBsAg; Anti-HBs; Anti-HBc
 - HIV p24 antigen
 - Anti-HIV subtype reference panel
- ❑ vCJD reference materials
- ❑ Blood grouping reagents
- ❑ Platelets immunology
- ❑ Blood Coagulation disorders



(*) WHO Catalogue of Biological Reference Preparations

| HSS/EMP/QSM: WHOCC11



World Health
Organization

In vitro diagnostic devices (IVDs)*

Medical devices used *in vitro* for the examination of human specimens

- IVDs for infectious markers
 - Viruses, bacteria, parasites, unconventional agents
- IVDs for
 - Blood/plasma screening (blood safety)
 - Confirmation of infection
 - Diagnosis and monitoring
- Tests methods
 - Serological assays (e. g. ELISA)
 - Nucleic acid amplification techniques (NAT)

*Priority: pathogens with impact on blood safety and international regulations

ECBS: HIV (IVD Technologies)

WHO International Standard or Reference Panel		
Test	Current	Users
Serology	HIV-1 p24 antigen, 1 st IS (IU)	Test developers, manufacturers, regulators, blood establishments, fractionators, reference laboratories, diagnostic laboratories
	Anti-HIV, 1 st Ref Panel (no unitage) (HIV-1 subtypes: A, B, C, CRF_01, O; HIV-2)	
NAT	HIV-1 RNA 2 nd IS (IU)	
	HIV-1 RNA Genotype 1 st Ref Panel (no unitage) (A,B,C,D, AE, F, G, AG-GH, groups N & O)	
	HIV-2 RNA 1st IS (IU)	

Retroviruses- ECBS endorsed/new projects

- HIV-1 RNA
 - Replacement of the 2nd International Standard
 - HIV-1 RNA genotypes reference panel (extension)
- Human T-Lymphotropic virus type I and type II
 - An anti-HTLV I/II antibody reference panel

ECBS: Hepatitis Viruses (IVD Technologies)

	WHO International Standard or Reference Panel	
Test	Current	Users
Serology	Hepatitis B surface antigen, 2 nd IS (IU) - adw2	Test developers, manufacturers, regulators, blood establishments, fractionators, reference laboratories, diagnostic laboratories
	Anti-Hepatitis B virus core antibodies (IU)	
	HBsAg genotype reference panel (ECBS 2011)	
NAT	Hepatitis A virus RNA 1 st IS (IU)	
	Hepatitis B virus DNA 2 nd IS (IU) – genotype A2	
	Hepatitis B virus DNA Genotype 1 st Reference Panel Genotypes A, B, C, D, E, F, G (no unitage) -	
	Hepatitis C virus RNA 2 nd IS (IU)	

Current IS both for HBsAg and HBV DNA are genotype A2: 1% of HBV infections worldwide

Hepatitis Viruses – ECBS endorsed/new projects

- HAV RNA
 - Replacement of the 1st International Standard
- HBV-DNA
 - Replacement of the 2nd International Standard
- HCV-RNA
 - Replacement of the 3rd International Standard



Hepatitis Viruses – ECBS endorsed/new projects

- HCV core antigen
 - HCV combo / HCV core assays
 - Increasing importance for blood screening/therapy monitoring
- HDV-RNA
 - HDV coinfection with HBV infection
 - Therapy monitoring dependant on HDV viremia
- HEV-RNA (proposal for establishment 2011)
 - Zoonotic (swine) virus with increasing importance
 - Major cause of acute hepatitis worldwide



Flaviviruses: ECBS endorsed/new projects

– WNV-RNA

- NAT blood screening in the US
- Still low WNV prevalence in Central Europe

– Dengue Viruses (DENV 1-4 RNA)

- DENV epidemiology and diagnostics;
- Access to viral isolates acquired from infected humans;
- Standardization of diagnostic assays needed

Herpes Viruses – New WHO reference preparations

- **EBV DNA 1st IS (2010)**
 - strain B95-8 propagated in cell culture; collaborative study in parallel with two other EBV-positive cells;
- **CMV DNA 1st IS (2011)**
 - CMV strain Merlin propagated in cell culture; collaborative study evaluated the material in parallel with strain AD169 and purified Merlin DNA;

Parasites (1): ECBS endorsed/new projects

- Toxoplasma gondii: serology
Proposed IgM reference preparation
- Toxoplasma gondii DNA: NAT assays
Proposed International Standard

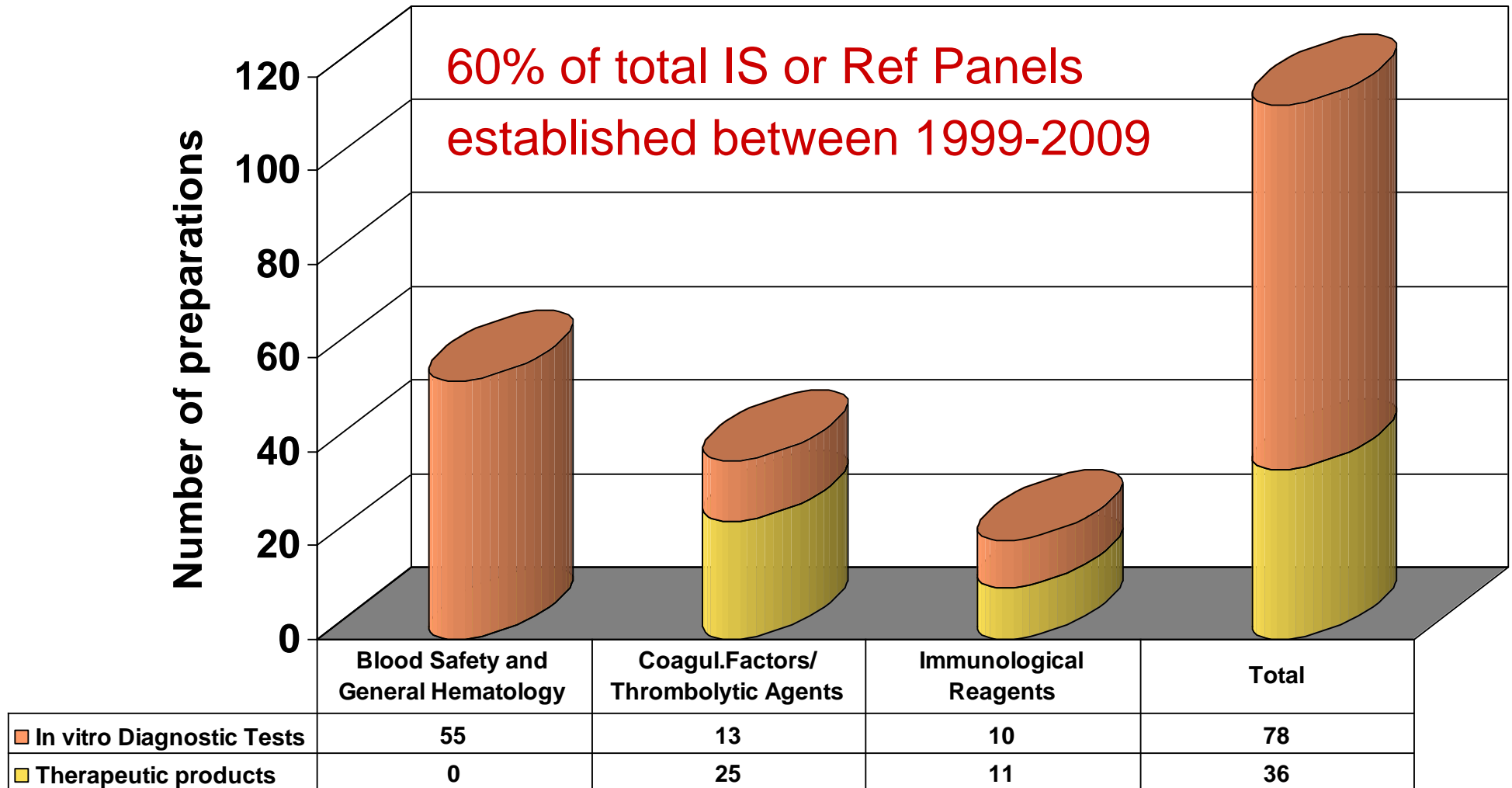
Parasites (2): ECBS endorsed/new projects

- Trypanosoma cruzi antibody panel (Chagas disease)
 - WHO consultations (2007 and 2009)
 - WHO Reference Panel representing group I and group II
Selection of antibody low-positive plasma for small pools
WHO Collaborative Study in 2010

Proposal for establishment to ECBS 2011

WHO Biological Reference Preparations

Blood Products and related Biologicals













WHO Catalogue of Biological Reference Preparations: www.who.int/bloodproducts

WHO International Biological Reference Preparations

Held and Distributed by the WHO International Laboratories for Biological Standards

BLOOD PRODUCTS AND RELATED SUBSTANCES: Blood safety

PREPARATION	STANDARD	WHO TRS ECBS REPORT	MATERIAL	HELD AT	CODE	WHO/BS DOCUMENT
● Anti-A blood grouping minimum potency reagent, Lyophilized, A 1 in 8 dilution defines the recommended minimum potency specification for anti-A blood grouping reagents.	1st International Standard, 2005	No. 941, 56th Report	Monoclonal IgM (murine)	NIBSC	03/188	06.2053 
● Anti-B blood grouping minimum potency reagent, Lyophilized, A 1 in 4 dilution defines the recommended minimum potency specification for anti-B blood grouping reagents.	1st International Standard, 2005	No. 941, 56th Report	Monoclonal IgM (murine)	NIBSC	03/164	05.2024
● Anti-C complete blood typing serum, Lyophilized, 100 IU / ampoule	1st International Standard, 1984	No. 725, 35th Report	Human serum	NIBSC	W1004	84.1424
● Anti-c incomplete blood typing serum, Lyophilized, 64 IU / ampoule	1st International Standard, 1976	No. 610, 28th Report	Human serum	NIBSC	W1007	71.1038
● Anti-D (anti-Rho) minimum potency reagent, complete, Lyophilized, A 1 in 3 dilution defines the recommended minimum potency specification for low protein anti-D blood reagents; a 1 in 8 dilution defines the recommended minimum potency specification for high protein anti-D reagents.	1st International Standard, 2004	No. 932, 55th Report	Monoclonal IgM (human)	NIBSC	99/836	04.2000 Rev. 1
● Anti-E complete blood-typing serum, human, Lyophilized, 100 IU / ampoule.	1st International Standard, 1983	No. 700, 34th Report	Human serum	NIBSC	W1005	83.1424
● Anti-hepatitis B virus core antibodies (anti-HBc), human, Lyophilized, 50 IU / vial.	1st International Standard, 2008	To be published	Human plasma	NIBSC	95/522	08.2098 
● Anti-HIV antibodies (HIV-1 subtypes A, B, C, CRF01_AE, group O and HIV-2), Lyophilized, No unitage assigned.	1st International Reference Panel, 2006	To be published	Human plasma	NIBSC	02/210	06.2032
● Hepatitis A virus RNA, Lyophilized, 50,000 IU / vial.	1st International Standard, 2003	No. 926, 53rd Report	Human plasma	NIBSC	00/560	03.1959 
● Hepatitis B surface antigen, subtype adw2, genotype A, Lyophilized, Dilutional panel (IU/vial: 8.25; 2.06; 0.52; 0.13).	1st International Reference Panel, 2003	No. 927 54th Report	Human plasma	NIBSC	03/262	03.1987 
● Hepatitis B surface antigen, subtype adw2, genotype A, Lyophilized, 33 IU / vial.	2nd International Standard, 2003	No. 927 54th Report	Human plasma	NIBSC	00/588	03.1987 
● Hepatitis B virus DNA, Lyophilized, 500,000 IU / vial.	2nd International Standard, 2006	To be published	Human plasma	NIBSC	97/750	06.2034 
● Hepatitis C virus RNA, Lyophilized, 4.89 log ₁₀ IU / vial; 5.19 log ₁₀ IU / ml.	3rd International Standard, 2007	To be published	Human plasma	NIBSC	06/100	07.2055 
● HIV-1 p24 antigen, Lyophilized, 1,000 IU / ampoule.	1st International Reference Reagent, 1992	No. 840, 43rd Report	Peptide in human serum	NIBSC	90/636	92.1699
● HIV-1 RNA, Lyophilized, 363,078 IU / vial; 5.56 log ₁₀ .	2nd International Standard, 2005	No. 941 56th Report	HIV-1 genotype B isolate diluted in human plasma	NIBSC	97/650	05.2021 
● HIV-1 RNA genotypes (set of 10 genotypes), Liquid, No assigned value.	1st International Reference Panel, 2003	No. 926, 53rd Report	HIV-1 isolates diluted in human plasma	NIBSC	01/466	03.1961 
● Human syphilitic plasma IgG and IgM, Lyophilized, 3 IU per ampoule relative to HS, the 1st IS for human syphilitic antibodies.	1st International Standard, 2007	No. 941 56th Report	Human plasma	NIBSC	05/132	07.2059 

#Name?

This Catalogue is available at the following WHO Web site address: http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/ref_materials/

Page 1 of 2



WHO BIOLOGICAL REFERENCE PREPARATIONS

How are they developed & established?

- Candidate materials donated (industry, PHL, academy)
- Freeze-dried materials (when possible)
- WHO Collaborative studies to assign values (not funded)
- Wide international collaboration (WHO Working Groups)
- Established by WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS)
- Held and distributed, on behalf of WHO, by the WHO International Laboratories for Biological Standards



Web site addresses

<http://www.who.int/bloodproducts>

<http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/snakeantivenoms>

<http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/catalogue>

Coordination of standards setting activities

- WHO CC plans of work in the development of IVD IRPs
 - Updates on emerging/re-emerging pathogens
 - New test strategies & emerging technologies
 - WHO Collaborative studies
- WHO disease control programmes (infectious diseases):
Overview of global epidemiological data
- Collaboration of Regional Offices: participating laboratories and identification of candidate materials
- Coordination with other standard setting organizations and international organizations (ISBT, ISTH, EDQM, EC,.....)