



2nd Symposium for Emerging Viral Diseases

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<https://www.unige.ch/emerging-virus-symposium/>

Sabine Santibanez: Measles Epidemiology – Draw-backs and Current Challenges



Main affiliation: Robert Koch-Institut, Berlin, Germany

Actual Position: Deputy Head of National Reference Centre Measles, Mumps, Rubella and WHO Measles/Rubella European Regional Reference Laboratory

E-mail address: SantibanezS@rki.de

1977-1982: Study of Biotechnology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

1982-1992: Influenza virus research (PhD) and vaccine development at the former Institute of Applied Virology and the Robert Koch-Institut in Berlin.

Since 1993: Establishment of a systematic monitoring of circulating virus variants at the National Reference Centre (NRC) Measles, Mumps, Rubella; collaboration with Public Health and University institutions in Germany and countries in all parts of Europe.

Since 1998: Continuous collaboration with the WHO initiated by participation in the WHO Measles wild-type virus nomenclature meeting in Geneva.

Since 2003: Our laboratory is one of the three European Regional Reference Laboratories within the WHO Global Measles/Rubella Laboratory Network (GMRLN). Supervision of laboratory diagnostics and molecular surveillance in 19 countries of the WHO European Region. Member of a Steering committee and several working groups of the GMRLN. Analysis of MV transmission chains at national and European level in order to assess the progress towards elimination of measles.

Since 2002: Characterization of neutralizing B cell responses against recently and currently circulating measles virus (MV) variants using monoclonal antibodies; collaboration with University and Public Health institutions in Luxembourg, Bilthoven, Würzburg and Atlanta. In 2015-2017, determination of the MV neutralizing capacity in commercially available immunoglobulin products for passive immunization. Currently, work on an alternative to products derived from human plasma donors.

Since 2012: Long-term measles vaccine failure study comprising the analysis of several thousand cases investigated by the NRC since the beginning of systematically conducted laboratory surveillance in Germany.