
Meeting Summary

Overseas Medical Laboratory Conference

**Military Infectious Disease Research Program,
U.S. Army Medical Research and Development
Command, Ft. Detrick, Maryland, USA**

The Military Infectious Disease Research Program, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) hosted a workshop on overseas activities in infectious disease research in December 1997, at WRAIR, Washington, D.C. Approximately 150 Army and Navy medical research scientists met to discuss progress toward specific goals designed to produce products and information applicable to protection of military personnel in the field.

The Department of Defense has developed a network of six overseas laboratories that perform research on infectious diseases of public health and military importance (Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Bangkok, Thailand; the Naval Medical Research Units No. 2 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and No. 3 in Cairo,

Egypt; the U.S. Army Medical Research Units in Nairobi, Kenya, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and the Naval Medical Research Institute Detachment in Lima, Peru). The combination of laboratories in the United States (WRAIR, U.S. Army Institute for Infectious Diseases, and the Naval Medical Research Institute) and overseas forms an effective international infectious diseases research program, in which domestic laboratories are positioned to maintain contact with academia and other branches of the government and overseas laboratories detect new trends in naturally occurring endemic and epidemic infectious diseases of potential military relevance (through their own surveillance or close contact with foreign health authorities and conducting risk assessment). The overseas laboratories also conduct trials of new products for disease prevention and control.

For more information on the workshop, contact LTC Daniel Strickman, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, (Attn: MCMR-PLA), 504 Scott Street, Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5012, USA; tel: 301-619-7567; fax: 301-619-2416; e-mail: COL_Charles_Hoke@ftdetrickccmail.army.mil.