



# *LeishMan network guidelines*

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## **General aim and scope**

- LeishMan is short for Leishmaniasis management.
- The aim of the network is:
  - to harmonize clinical case management of leishmaniasis patients in Europe;
  - to optimize detection and identification of the *Leishmania* parasite;
  - to contribute to monitoring and surveillance of the leishmaniases in Europe.
- All forms of imported and autochthonous leishmaniasis are studied: cutaneous, mucosal (including muco-cutaneous), visceral and all derived clinical presentations.
- The network aims at fostering exchange at the level of clinical cases, technical issues, and scientific research about diagnosis, treatment, and epidemiology of the leishmaniases.
- These aims and scope may be extended in future based on opportunities and needs which become apparent to the network.

## **Structure of the network**

- LeishMan is an informal information exchange network, composed of clinicians and clinical laboratory scientists active in leishmaniasis management.
- The consortium has no legal status and receives no structural funding.
- The steering committee (<https://leishman-network.org/steering>) takes care of the daily management of the network.
- In principle all interested professionals working on leishmaniasis in European institutes, universities or hospitals can join, after formal approval from the steering committee.
- Network members who actively participate in one of the workgroups and/or share case data in the LeishMan-WHO database (see below) are considered “contributing” members.
- Contributing members get access to the non-public section of the website (<https://leishman-network.org/>) through their ORCID-ID. Corresponding members can request access to the steering committee.
- “Corresponding” members take on a passive role and do not actively contribute to one of the LeishMan objectives. They are kept informed of all activities.
- Non-European membership applications will be considered by the steering committee, but in principle only in a “corresponding” role. Contributing members are active in at least one LeishMan project, such as the WHO database, research project, writing common articles, participating in a working group.
- The list of affiliated centres and members is kept updated on the network website: <https://leishman-network.org/>

## **Steering committee**

- The steering committee is responsible for the daily management of the consortium and each steering committee term will last 5 years.
- The steering committee is appointed by the members of the network.
- The steering committee membership can be viewed on the website <https://leishman-network.org/>
- The steering committee appoints one of its members as the network coordinator.
- In principle, the steering committee consists of at least 5 members, preferably from different European countries and from different professional backgrounds.
- The steering committee coordinates and communicates activities including but not limited to (non-exhaustive list):
  - joint publications resulting from network initiatives
  - joint conference abstracts from network activities
  - grant proposals covering network activities
  - studies using data from the network databases (see below)
  - the consortium website
  - the consortium databases

## **Workgroups**

Since the last LeishMan meeting on October 18, 2024, working groups have been set up and met regularly to implement research projects (retrospective, prospective, and recommendations). Members of the LeishMan network can contact the steering committee to register and join working groups if they wish to participate actively. The LeishMan steering committee monitors progress monthly.

Below is the current list of working groups (January 2025)

- Epidemiology
- Diagnostic procedure
- Biobanking
- Treatment optimization VL in ID (and prophylaxis)
- Treatment optimization CL-paromomycin & trial
- Each workgroup has 1 or 2 coordinators, which are listed on the website:  
<https://leishman-network.org/>

- Network members who want to join a working group can contact the respective coordinators.
- Workgroups can be created or discontinued at the discretion of the steering committee. The steering committee may in the future decide the closing down of a working group (inactivity, mission accomplished,...) or the creation of a new working group.

## **Databases and terms of use**

- Members contributing data to the database must ensure that data processing complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This includes obtaining ethical approval from their Institutional Review Boards and/or Ethics Committees when required. If such approval is not necessary, members must provide documentation confirming that their institution's policies permit the processing and sharing of personal health data in accordance with GDPR.
- Members sharing case data ensure clearance from their respective institution for doing so.
- Currently, LeishMan captures epidemiological, diagnostic, and clinical data in a WHO-owned surveillance database. This database captures basic epidemiological, clinical and diagnostic information from leishmaniasis cases from 2020 onwards in the DHIS2 system (District Health Information Software 2).
- Network members can express their interest in sharing case data by filling the form [https://fs10.formsite.com/formulierenITG/LeishMan\\_WHO\\_db/index](https://fs10.formsite.com/formulierenITG/LeishMan_WHO_db/index)
- After receiving the login credentials from WHO, the network member is responsible for timely and complete data entry and use of data from other LeishMan members as stipulated further in this agreement.
- Complete data entry means entering all cases seen and diagnosed in their respective centre, even if individual case data are not complete.
- Timely data entry means engaging in data cleaning and updating 3 times annually upon the request of the database coordinator.
- Network members sharing case data have access to all members' data, but as every member remains owner of his/her own data entered, data can only be used for third party disclosures after consent of the data owner and approval of the steering committee.
- Any LeishMan member wanting to use data from other members for any publications, presentations (written, oral, or electronic), or disclosures to third parties (e.g. patent

or grant applications) must seek consent from all centres who contributed the respective data, as well as from the steering committee.

In the future, the steering committee or workgroups may establish additional databases in function of need.

## ***Meetings***

- In principle, at least one consortium meeting (virtual or face-to-face) is organized each year by one of the member centers.
- The location and venue of the meeting is decided by the steering committee, after consulting with the members.
- LeishMan does not cover any cost of meeting participation.
- All members are invited to the consortium meetings and can be asked to contribute to the costs of the meeting venue, if applicable. Any requests for contributions will be clearly communicated.
- Meeting reports are shared via the LeishMan network website.

## ***Logo***



## ***Signature section***

By signing, I agree to be a contributing member of the LeishMan network and thus to participate actively in the projects, and I declare that I will abide by the conditions stipulated in this agreement.

Please insert your digital signature here and send the signed document to [pierre.buffet@pasteur.fr](mailto:pierre.buffet@pasteur.fr) and [clea.melenotte@pasteur.fr](mailto:clea.melenotte@pasteur.fr)

(In PDF reader: More tools → Certificates → Digitally sign → Follow instructions).

