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# Standardization of Immune Response Assays to COVID-19 Vaccines

A Year's Experience Transferring Assays To a Global Laboratory Network

\*All Times are in CENTRAL EUROPEAN SUMMER TIME\*

This webinar dives into the lessons learned during tech transfer of immunological assays to a global network of laboratories to standardize the evaluation of the immune response elicited by different SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Comparing immune responses against different vaccine candidates intended for the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 is challenging. In order to reduce some of this complexity, better assess the immunological profile of each vaccine candidate, and provide robust assays for regulatory purposes, CEPI created a Centralized Laboratory Network to test the immune response elicited by different vaccine candidates.

## Session 1: A Year in Review

**Session Chair:** Ivana Knezevic, WHO, Team Leader

- 15:30 Intro and Webinar Logistics**  
*Laureen Little, BEBPA, President*
- 15:45 Chair Introduction to the Webinar**  
*Ivana Knezevic, WHO, Team Leader, Norms and Standards for Biologicals, Quality, Safety and Standards; COVAX, Co-Lead of the Enabling Sciences SWAT Team*
- 15:55 Overview of CEPI & COVAX**  
*Paul Kristiansen, CEPI, Head of Biological Standards & Assays, Preclinical Immunology; COVAX, Co-Lead of the Enabling Sciences SWAT Team*
- 16:10 CEPI Centralized Laboratory Network: Key Features**  
*Valentina Bernasconi, CEPI, Scientist, Project Leader of Centralized Laboratory Network*
- 16:40 Lessons Learned from One Year of Transferring Assays to a Global Network of Laboratories**  
*Arun Kumar, CEPI, Scientist, Co-lead of Centralized Laboratory Network*
- 17:00 - 17:15 Break**
- 17:15 Audience Q&A and Expert Panel Discussion: Reviewing the Past**

## Session 2: The Future - Routine Testing

**Session Chair:** Janet Lathey, Program Officer, DMID / NIAID / NIH

- 18:05 CEPI Centralized Laboratory Network: Planning for the Future**  
*Valentina Bernasconi, CEPI, Scientist, Project Leader of Centralized Laboratory Network*
- 18:30 Future Pandemics and the Clinical Trial Directive**  
*Bassam Hallis, Public Health England, Head of Pre-Clinical Dev & General Project Manager, National Infection Service*
- 18:50 Audience Q&A and Expert Panel Discussion: Moving Forward**
- 19:20 CEPI Centralized Laboratory Network: How to Become Involved?**  
*Ana Paula De Almeida Aranha, CEPI, Project Manager of Centralized Laboratory Network*
- 19:30 Closing Comments by Paul Kristiansen**
- 19:35 Webinar Ends**

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations ([CEPI](#)) is a global partnership launched in 2017 to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics. BEBPA is partnering with CEPI to offer a very timely, free webinar to discuss highlights of what has been learned in this past year of extraordinary work related to SARS-CoV-2 vaccines.

## Free Webinar

**31 August 2021**

**15:30—19:35 CEST**

### Expert Panelists:

#### Program Experts:

- Valentina Bernasconi**  
*CEPI— Moderator*
- Mark Manak**  
*CEPI*
- Pamela Proud**  
*MNA/PHE*
- Luc Gagnon**  
*Nexelis*
- Guruprasad Medigeshi**  
*THSTI*
- Rubhana Raqib**  
*icddr,b*
- Robert Bailer**  
*Q2 Solutions*
- Mabel Rodriguez**  
*UNAM*
- Angela Balgobind**  
*Viroclinics*
- Silvia Grappi**  
*VisMederi*
- Mark Page**  
*NIBSC*
- Outside Experts:**
- Sian Estdale**  
*Labcorp*
- Ulrike Herbrand**  
*Charles River*
- Leslie Wagner**  
*FDA*