



TEXT: JULIE MILSTIEN & TINA VILLAR
DESIGN: ANNEKE LIPSANEN

PHOTOS: WHO, NIBSC & MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC HEALTH BIOLOGIC LABORATORIES
ORDERING CODE: WHO/VSQ/97.07

PRINTED JANUARY 1998

Copies of the GPV/VSQ Global Training Network brochure and
other related information can be requested from:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
GLOBAL PROGRAMME FOR VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION
VACCINE SUPPLY AND QUALITY
CH-1211 GENEVA 27
SWITZERLAND

FAX: +41 22 791 4193/4192

E-mail: gpv@who.ch

SEE OUR WEBSITE AT:

[http://www.who.ch/programmes/gpv/
gEnglish/vhs/global_network.htm](http://www.who.ch/programmes/gpv/gEnglish/vhs/global_network.htm)

© WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION 1998

This document is not a formal publication of the
World Health Organization (WHO) and all rights are
reserved by the Organization. The document may,
however, be freely reviewed, abstracted, reproduced
and translated, in part or in whole, but not for sale,
nor for use in conjunction with commercial purposes.



**ENSURING
GOOD QUALITY
VACCINE
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD**





WHAT IS THE GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK?

The World Health Organization (Vaccine Supply and Quality Unit, VSQ, of the Global Programme for Vaccines and Immunization) initiated the Global Training Network in 1996.

The Network consists of several institutions providing training in priority areas for vaccine production and control, using an approved syllabus and standardized documentation materials.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE NETWORK?

The purpose of the Network is “to ensure that all vaccines used in national immunization programmes are of known good quality by the year 2000 and after”. The Network will provide National Control Authorities (NCA), National Control Laboratories (NCL), and vaccine producers who meet the minimum criteria, training in the following areas:

- Good Manufacturing Practice
- Laboratory Quality Systems
- Quality Control Testing
- DTP Production for Control Staff
- Licensing
- Animal Husbandry

WHAT MAKES THE NETWORK UNIQUE?

The Global Training Network differs from previous training activities in vaccine quality because it:

- Is coordinated, rather than *ad hoc*
- Trains in a small number of subjects defined by needs
- Uses standardized curricula and training materials approved by experts
- Screens applicants carefully, requiring an institutional training plan
- Prioritizes countries which will benefit to maximize impact of the programme
- Expects contributions to quality from trainee institutions as a return on the investment



TRAINING OFFERED

Three different types of training formats are offered. These include courses, placements, and workshops that are described below:

COURSES:

Length: one to six weeks

Participation: four to fifteen trainees depending on the training centre, with at least two trainees from each institution participating

Format: formal course work including:

- Lectures
- Laboratory or practical work
- Case studies
- Examinations

PLACEMENTS:

Length: two to four months

Participation: generally two trainees per placement

Format: one-on-one training tailored to meet the needs of the participants

WORKSHOPS:

Length: one to two weeks

Participation: 15 to 100 participants from one or several countries

Format: Specific subjects either as follow-up to formal course work, or on request of a country or region



WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK?

To build a relationship with other vaccine control or production facilities and strengthen the skills of staff through the following activities:

- Ongoing communication with other institutions to continue to share knowledge
- Evaluation and monitoring of skills
- Management of follow-up training
- Possible collaboration in research studies

To develop a more sophisticated institutional knowledge base through:

- Intensive courses facilitated by highly qualified scientists
- Placement within training centres, enabling hands-on training with new technologies and materials
- Regional workshops focusing on management and laboratory practices

Upon successful completion of the course, as determined by the training centre, trainees will receive a WHO Global Training Network certificate.

GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK POLICY

Basic policy for the operations of the Network is set by an Advisory Committee on Training (ACT), which is composed of representatives from each of the training centres in the Network. WHO staff participate as the secretariat to the ACT.

Review Committees in each of the six training areas were appointed by WHO on the advice of the ACT. Serving as advisors to WHO, they provide guidance to prospective training centres in developing course curricula and advise WHO on the standardization and certification of training courses and documentation in each training area.

ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAINING

NCA and NCL staff with an institutional training plan will receive priority for training. Eligibility for training will decrease as a country assures fewer of the critical national control functions listed

here:

- Written criteria for licensing of vaccines
- Use of clinical data in licensing decisions
- Lot-by-lot release for vaccines
- Laboratory testing facility for final product tests
- Regular inspections for compliance with GMP
- Post-marketing surveillance for vaccine-related adverse events and efficacy



Vaccine production staff from a facility located in a country with 1) an independent and competent NCA assuring the six critical control functions and 2) a strategic business plan, may be eligible for training.

All trainees must submit an application provided by the Global Training Network that requires at minimum the following:

- An institutional training plan explaining how the trainees will implement newly learned skills
- Proof of proficiency in the language in which the course is offered
- Government and institution clearance
- Curriculum vitae

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

All trainees must have evidence of government commitment and support to the training activities. This commitment could be demonstrated by the following:

- support for follow-up in-house training
- willingness to provide service in return for training, for example by:
 - receiving trainees
 - testing samples
 - information sharing
 - participating in collaborative studies

In addition, trainees must consent to remain at their institutions for an agreed period of time following training.