WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE
ON FASCIOLIASIS AND ITS SNAIL VECTORS

Reference of the World Health Organization (WHO/OMS): WHO CC SPA-37
Date of Nomination: 31 of March of 2011
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DESIGNATED CENTRE:
Human Parasitic Disease Unit (Unidad de Parasitología Sanitaria)
Departamento de Parasitología
Facultad de Farmacia
Universidad de Valencia
Av. Vicent Andres Estelles s/n
46100 Burjassot - Valencia
Spain

DESIGNATED DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE:
Prof. Dr. Dr. Honoris Causa SANTIAGO MAS-COMA
Parasitology Chairman

WHO RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:
Dr. DIRK ENGELS
Coordinator, Preventive Chemotherapy and Transmission Control (HTM/NTD/PCT) (appointed as the new Director of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases from 1 May 2014)
Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)
World Health Organization
WHO Headquarters
Avenue Appia No. 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

RESEARCH GROUPS, LEADERS AND ACTIVITIES

The Research Team designated as WHO CC comprises the following three Research Groups, Leaders and respective endorsed tasks:

A) Research Group on (a) Epidemiology and (b) Control:
Group Leader (research responsible):
Prof. Dr. Dr. Honoris Causa SANTIAGO MAS-COMA
Parasitology Chairman (Email: S. Mas.Coma@uv.es)
Activities:
- Studies on the disease epidemiology in human fascioliasis endemic areas of Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia
- Implementation and follow up of disease control interventions against fascioliasis in human endemic areas

B) Research Group on c) Transmission and d) Vectors:
Group Leader (research responsible):
Prof. Dra. MARIA DOLORES BARGUES
Parasitology Chairwoman (Email: M.D.Bargues@uv.es)
Activities:
- Molecular, genetic and malacological characterization of lymnaeid snails

- Studies on the transmission characteristics of human fascioliasis and the human infection ways in human fascioliasis endemic areas

C) Research Group on e) Diagnostics and f) Immunopathology:

Group Leader (research responsible):
Prof. Dra. MARIA ADELA VALERO
Titular Professor of Parasitology (Email: Madela.Valero@uv.es)
Activities:
- Studies in pathology, immunology and community impact of human fascioliasis
- Studies for the evaluation and improvement of human fascioliasis diagnostic techniques.

Leaders of the Research Groups comprising the WHO CC Team:
S. Mas-Coma (centre), M.D. Bargues (right) y M.A. Valero (left)

Staff Responsible for Laboratory and Administration:

Laboratory Coordination: Dr. Patricio Artigas
Technical Coodination: Dr. Messaoud Khoubbane
General Administration: Mrs. María del Carmen Pardo Abril
Centre Secretariat: Mr. Clemente Bañuls Rodilla

Research Personnel:

The Team includes all the researchers attached to the three aforementioned Research Groups and working under the direction of the three respective Group Leaders, including from hired Doctors to posdoctoral and predoctoral scholarship/grant holders, and both Spanish and foreigners.

Staff members of the WHO CC Team

INFRASTRUCTURES AND FUNDING

The WHO CC Team has three large research laboratories, bureaux and machine rooms inside the Parasitology Department at the second floor of the building of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Valencia, in the Burjassot Campus, Av. Vicent Andrés Estelles s/n, 46100 Burjassot, Valencia. Among infrastructures available there are all machines and animal culture rooms needed for the research activities of the WHO CC.

The WHO CC Team develops its research activities, both field work in endemic areas in the different continents and research studies in the laboratory, with funding from external sources, mostly thanks to research projects supported by international, national and regional institutions and agencies, as well as internal sources provided in lower rates by availabilities and calls of the University of Valencia.

AVAILABILITIES AND SERVICES

- PhD Theses: The professors leadering the three aforementioned Research Groups included in the WHO CC accept the incorporation of new posgraduate students for PhD interested to perform their research activities within the scientific working lines followed on fascioliasis. Therefore, a previous contact with one or more of the three Research Group Leaders is needed and the enrollment requested in the official Master's Course on Tropical Parasitic Diseases of the University of Valencia, ascribed to the Pharmacy Faculty and whose Directors and Coordinators are Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. S. Mas-Coma and Tit. Prof. Dr. M.D. Valero of the WHO CC (see the following website: <<www.doctoradoenparasitologia.com>>).

- Stays and visits for training and/or research: The WHO CC accepts stays and visits of researchers and posdoctoral and predoctoral scholarship/grant holders coming from other national and international centres, after previous agreement on justification, purposes (training, research), objectives, methods, techniques and biological materials. Previous contact should be made with the Director of the WHO CC Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. S. Mas-Coma. Stays and visits should be performed under the scientific and administrative supervision of one or more of the three aforementioned

Research Group Leaders and count with the appropriate funding covering costs of trips and stays, and, when necessary, also techniques and materials. Such stay and visits may, in given cases, request previous agreements on aspects of confidentiality and copyright.

- External services: The WHO CC may offer external services, both on research and collaboration, support, scientific help or consultancy, for centres and companies from Spain or other countries, after previous agreement on justification, purposes, objectives, methods, techniques and biological materials. Previous contact should be made with the Director of the WHO CC Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. S. Mas-Coma. External services may, in given cases, need funding and previous agreements on aspects of confidentiality and copyright.

COUNTRIES IN WHICH ACTIVITIES OF THE WHO CC ARE DEVELOPED

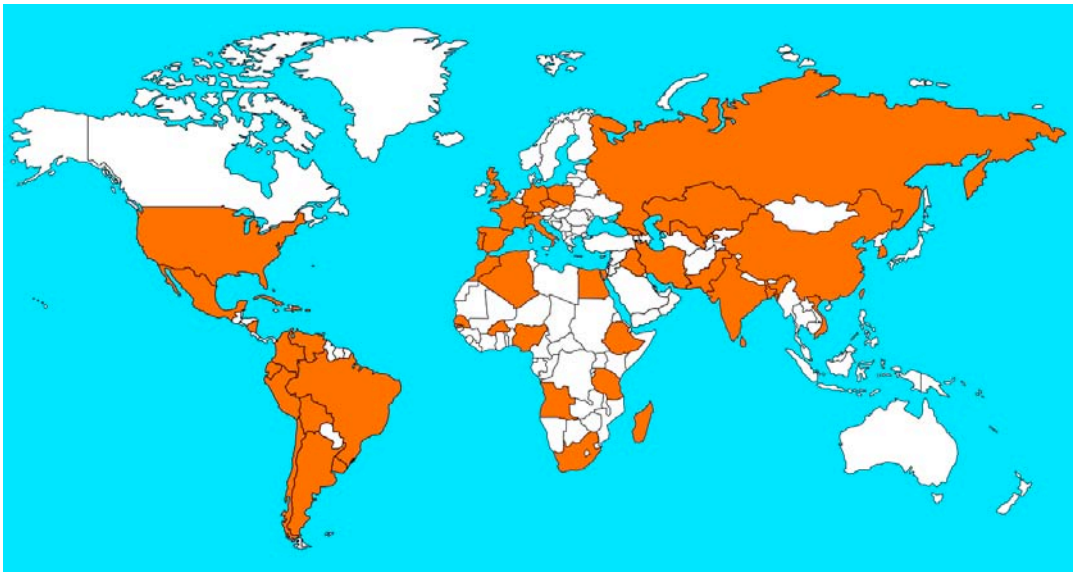
The geographical distribution of human fascioliasis includes countries in all continents, excepting the Arctic and the Antarctic. The WHO CC of the University of Valencia has developed and/or develops nowadays activities of international collaboration on this disease in the following countries:

- Europa: Spain, Switzerland, France, Portugal, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia.

- Africa: Marocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Tanzania, Angola, Madagascar, South Africa.

- Asia: Russia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Guam.

- Americas: USA, Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina.



Geographical distribution of the countries where the activities of the WHO CC are developed

ARTICLES PUBLISHED WITHIN THE "WORLDWIDE INITIATIVE OF WHO AGAINST HUMAN FASCIOLIASIS"

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147.- MAS-COMA (S.), 2014.- Helminth-Trematode: *Fasciolopsis buski*. In: *Encyclopedia of Food Safety* (Y. Motarjemi, G.G. Moy & C.D. Todd edit.), Elsevier Major Reference Works, ScienceDirect Online Platform, Elsevier, Vol. 2. Hazards and Diseases: 146-157.

146.- ZUMAQUERO-RIOS (J.L.), SARRACENT-PEREZ (J.), ROJAS-GARCIA (R.), ROJAS-RIVERO (L.), MARTINEZ-TOVILLA (Y.), VALERO (M.A.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2013.- Fascioliasis and intestinal parasitoses affecting schoolchildren in Atlixco, Puebla State, Mexico: Epidemiology and treatment with nitazoxanide. *PLoS Neglected*

Tropical Diseases, 7 (11): e2553 (16 pp.).
145.- MEZO (M.), GONZALEZ-WARLETA (M.), CASTRO-HERMIDA (J.A.), MANGA-GONZALEZ (M.Y.), PEIXOTO (R.), MAS-COMA (S.) & VALERO (M.A.), 2013.- The wild boar (*Sus scrofa* Linnaeus, 1758) as secondary reservoir of *Fasciola hepatica* in Galicia (NW Spain). *Veterinary Parasitology*, 198: 274-283.
144.- AFSHAN (K.), VALERO (M.A.), QAYYUM (M.), PEIXOTO (R.V.), MAGRANER (A.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2013.- Phenotypes of intermediate forms of *Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica* in buffaloes from Central Punjab, Pakistan. *Journal of Helminthology*, Jun 4: 1-10. [Epub ahead of print].
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140.- BARGUES (M.D.), ARTIGAS (P.), KHOUBBANE (M.), ORTIZ (P.), NAQUIRA (C.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2012.- Molecular characterisation of *Galba truncatula*, *Lymnaea neotropica* and *L. schirazensis* from Cajamarca, Peru and their potential role in transmission of human and animal fascioliasis. *Parasites & Vectors*, 5: 174 (16 pp.).
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132.- BARGUES (M.D.), 2011.- Haplotipificación combinada de limneidos vectores de fascioliasis: evaluación y aplicabilidad de marcadores ribosómicos y mitocondriales. *Biomédica*, 31 (Supl. 3): 157-159.
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129.- ARTIGAS (P.), BARGUES (M.D.), MERA Y SIERRA (R.), AGRAMUNT (V.H.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2011.- Characterisation of fascioliasis lymnaeid intermediate hosts from Chile by DNA sequencing, with emphasis on *Lymnaea viator* and *Galba truncatula*. *Acta Tropica*, 120: 245-257 (doi: 10.1016/j.actatrop.2011.09.002).
128.- BARGUES (M.D.), ARTIGAS (P.), KHOUBBANE (M.), FLORES (R.), GLÖER (P.), ROJAS-GARCIA (R.), ASHRAFI (K.), FALKNER (G.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2011.- *Lymnaea schirazensis*, an overlooked snail distorting fascioliasis data: genotype, phenotype, ecology, worldwide spread, susceptibility, applicability. *PLoS ONE*, 6 (9): e24567 (33 pp. + 3 Suppl. Tables + 5 Suppl. Figures) (doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0024567).
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125.- MERA Y SIERRA (R.), AGRAMUNT (V.H.), CUERVO (P.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2011.- Human fascioliasis in Argentina: retrospective overview, critical analysis and baseline for future research. *Parasites & Vectors*, 4: 104 (18 pp.) (http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/4/1/104).

124.- MAS-COMA (S.), 2011.- El cambio climático y su impacto sobre las enfermedades causadas por helmintos. In: *Temas de Zoonosis V* (J. Basualdo, R. Cacchione, R. Durlach, P. Martino & A. Seijo edit.), Asociación Argentina de Zoonosis, Buenos Aires, Capítulo 22: 195-203.

123.- MAS-COMA (S.), VALERO (M.A.) & BARGUES (M.D.), 2010.- Climate change effects on trematode and nematode diseases affecting children in rural areas of developing countries. *International Public Health Journal*, 2 (4): 405-430; & in: *Climate Change and Rural Child Health* (E. Bell, B.M. Seidel & J. Merrick edit.), Nova Science Publishers Inc., New York, Chapter 10: 109-140.

122.- BARGUES (M.D.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2010.- Molecular characterisation of human and animal fascioliasis in the Americas. In: *Sustainable Improvement of Animal Production and Health* (N.E. Odongo, M. Garcia & G.J. Viljoen edit.), Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, and Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome: 353-357.

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120.- MOWLAVI (G.), MAMISHI (S.), ROKNI (M.B.), GHARAGUZLO (M.J.), ASHRAFI (K.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2010.- Neglected human fascioliasis case in a visceral leishmaniasis endemic area, northwestern Iran. *Iranian Journal of Public Health*, 39 (3): 129-131.

119.- ARTIGAS (P.), MERA Y SIERRA (R.), CUERVO (P.), BARGUES (M.D.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2009.- Scolopacidae and other aquatic migratory birds as possible dispersal agents of lymnaeid snails, in Mendoza province, Argentina. In: *6th International Symposium on Limnology and Aquatic Birds: Monitoring, Modelling and Management* (Huesca, Spain, 27-30 October 2009), International Society of Limology (SIL), Pyrenean Institute of Ecology (CSIC), Proceedings: 80-82.

118.- ARTIGAS (P.), KHOUBBANE (M.), FLORES (R.), URREA (F.), BARGUES (M.D.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2009.- Presence of *Chaetogaster limnaei* (Oligochaeta: Naididae) in wild populations of *Galba truncatula*, main vector of fascioliasis in Europe. In: *6th International Symposium on Limnology and Aquatic Birds: Monitoring, Modelling and Management* (Huesca, Spain, 27-30 October 2009), International Society of Limology (SIL), Pyrenean Institute of Ecology (CSIC), Proceedings: 76-78.

117.- MERA Y SIERRA (R.), ARTIGAS (P.), CUERVO (P.), DEIS (E.), SIDOTI (L.), MAS-COMA (S.) & BARGUES (M.D.), 2009.- Fascioliasis transmission by *Lymnaea neotropica* confirmed by nuclear rDNA and mtDNA sequencing in Argentina. *Veterinary Parasitology*, 166: 73-79.

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115.- MAS-COMA (S.), VALERO (M.A.) & BARGUES (M.D.), 2009.- *Fasciola*, lymnaeids and human fascioliasis, with a global overview on disease transmission, epidemiology, evolutionary genetics, molecular epidemiology and control. *Advances in Parasitology*, 69: 41-146.

114.- UBEIRA (F.M.), MUIÑO (L.), VALERO (M.A.), PERIAGO (M.V.), PEREZ-CRESPO (I.), MEZO (M.), GONZALEZ-WARLETA (M.), ROMARIS (F.), PANIAGUA (E.), CORTIZO (S.), LLOVO (J.) & MAS-COMA (S.), 2009.- MM3-ELISA detection of *Fasciola hepatica* coproantigens in preserved human stool samples. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 81 (1): 156-162.

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