

Results: The output of rPilQ406–770 was approximately 50% of the total bacterial proteins. Serum IgG responses were significantly increased in immunized group with PilQ406–770 mixed with Freund's adjuvant in comparison with control groups. Antisera produced against rPilQ406–770 demonstrated strong surface reactivity to serogroups A and B *N. meningitidis* tested by whole-cell ELISA. Surface reactivity to serogroup B *N. meningitidis* was higher than serogroup A. The sera from PilQ406–770 immunized animals were strongly bactericidal against serogroups A and B.

Conclusion: These results suggest that rPilQ406–770 is a potential vaccine candidate for serogroup B *N. meningitidis*.

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Who is invited? A bibliometric analysis of the profiles of speakers at international and national congresses on infectious diseases

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Introduction: Scientific expertise could be accounted through different ways, however, being an author in a topic offer a warranty of the knowledge and participation on related research. This should be one of the major criteria to select speakers to be invited for any medical congress, including those in infectious diseases (ID).

Objectives: To assess the scientific production in MEDLINE® of speakers invited to 2 national and 2 international congresses on ID and compare the general profiles among the two geographical levels.

Methods: We selected 2 international ID congresses (Int. Cong. on ID, ICID 2012 and the Int. Cong. of Chemotherapy, ICC 2011) and 2 national ID congresses in two different developing countries (Colombia, CCEI 2011 and Venezuela, JNI 2011); then we took the list of speakers and proceed to review for each one the number of publications or articles indexed in the database MEDLINE® (filtering up to the month previous to the congress for which the speaker was invited, 1900–2012, using the tool GoPubMed).

Results: We assessed a total of 605 speakers (270 ICC, 100 ICID, 141 JNI and 94 CCEI). For the JNI and CCEI, from 235 speakers assessed, 155 (66.0%;95%CI 59.7–72.2) had <5 publications (CCEI 39.4%;95%CI 28.9–49.7; JNI 83.7%;95%CI 77.2–90.1) and 79 (33.6%; 95%CI 27.4–39.9) had no publications (CCEI 7.4%; 95%CI 1.6–13.3; JNI 51.1%; 95%CI 42.5–59.7). For the international congresses, from 370 speakers assessed, 23 (6.2%;95%CI 3.6–8.8) had <5 publications (ICC 5.2%;95%CI 2.4–8.0; ICID 9.0%;95%CI 2.9–15.1) and 2 (0.5%; 95%CI 0.1–1.9) had no publications (ICC 0.0%;95%CI 0.0–1.4; ICID 2.0%;95%CI 0.2–7.0). Median number of publications/speaker was 1 (range 0–159) at the national congresses whilst 57 (range 0–910) at internationals.

Conclusion: There are significant differences between the scientific production of those speakers invited to international compared to the national meetings in developing countries such as Colombia and Venezuela. This situation can be a cause and a consequence of multiple factors, related to the scientific profile of healthcare workers and researchers in these countries as well to the skills and capabilities of the scientific organizing committees to invite appropriate speakers among their countries but also among the international community. As is made for reviewers by biomedical journals indexed in major databases, these committees should search in major medical and scientific databases such as MEDLINE® to identify good speakers in their countries as well outside them, which should be invited to contribute with the good performance of those scientific events.