

RESFIZ (RESeau Franco-Italien des Zoonoses): Franco-Italian Zoonoses Epidemiological Surveillance Network mainly around leishmaniasis

Grégory Michel^{1*}, Pierre Haas³, Eric Coulibaly⁴, Walter Mignone⁵, Enrico Ferrero⁶, Maria Silvia Gennero⁷, Simonetta Aglietta⁸, Christelle Pomares^{1,2}, Pierre Marty^{1,2}

1. Université Côte d'Azur, C3M Inserm, U1065, Nice, France. 2. Service de Parasitologie-Mycologie, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Nice, France. 3. Retired Veterinary Doctor. 4. Direction départementale de la protection des populations du Rhône, Service protection et santé animales, France. 5. The Veterinary Medical Research Institute for Piedmont, Liguria and the Aosta Valley - Sezione di Imperia. 6. Azienda Sanitaria Locale Torino, Torino, Italy. 7. The Veterinary Medical Research Institute for Piedmont, Liguria and the Aosta Valley, Italy. 8 Virbac Laboratories, Carros, France.

*gregory.michel@univ-cotedazur.fr

Background and objectives

RESFIZ, established in November 1997, is an association dedicated to the surveillance and study of zoonotic diseases in France, Italy, and ultimately across Europe. Its primary focus lies in the intensive research and management of *Leishmania (L. infantum)* infection in humans and animals, highlighting its pivotal role in combating this specific disease within the zoonotic spectrum.

The association's primary objectives include: 1) Observation and monitoring of specific zoonoses in France and Italy, with a particular emphasis on leishmaniasis, expanding eventually to encompass broader European regions; 2) Development of diagnostic tools and strategies to combat zoonotic diseases; 3) Dissemination of information pertaining to these diseases, making it accessible to a wide audience; 4) Active participation in research initiatives focused on zoonotic diseases.

This association includes veterinarians, physicians, academics, and epidemiologists of various nationalities. From its inception, RESFIZ has focused primarily on addressing significant zoonotic concerns such as leishmaniasis, prevalent particularly in Mediterranean regions, and brucellosis.

Since 1999, the RESFIZ network has organized numerous events to address these concerns. These nine meetings stand as significant milestones in RESFIZ's efforts to address and disseminate information about zoonotic diseases, mainly around leishmaniasis, fostering collaborations between Italy and France, raising awareness in the pursuit of improved public health across borders and develop research within the framework of One Health considerations.

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