

2022 PIDSP Research Agenda

Authors: Garcia, Robert Dennis J., Ama, Cindy and Arciaga, Rosemarie

Background: The PIDSP has a mandate to promote and conduct relevant infectious disease-related research by its members, fellows in training institutions, and residents physicians in training hospitals. Part of such a mandate is the creation of a priority list of research topics, which directs the researcher to what information is deemed important by the PIDSP, if the research is to receive funding from the Society, should such be requested. This list was previously updated in 2016.

Methodology: In April 2021, the PIDSP Research Committee met and agreed to update the list, by conducting a series of three internal surveys to determine if the items in the existing list were still relevant, and if new topics should be included. Twenty-three PIDSP members, which included board members, known researchers, and university faculty, were surveyed using an online Google form, over three surveys between May 31, 2021 to October 3, 2022. New items were elicited from the respondents, and the old and new items were asked to be prioritized into the headings: high, medium, low, and not a priority. Only the high and medium priority items were included in the final updated list.

Results: The process resulted in the addition of 31 new topics, in addition to the original 116. Among the old topics, only two were changed from high to medium priority. Among the 31 new topics, 16 were deemed to be of high priority, and 15 of medium priority. Three new topic sections were created: COVID-19, Kawasaki disease and research priorities.

The following are the list of topic sections, with the corresponding priority level per item:

1.Tuberculosis	High	Medium
A.Epidemiology of MDR-TB in children	X	
B.Treatment of MDR-TB in children	X	
C.Validity of TB diagnostic criteria in children	X	
D.Improving laboratory diagnosis of TB	X	
E.Strategies to improve treatment compliance	X	
F.Research priorities included in the DOH/PHILCAT document	X	
G.Prevention of MDR-TB in children	X	
H.Strategies to improve TB case detection	X	
I.Treatment monitoring parameters for extra-puimmonary TB	X	
J.Surveillance of TB in the private sector	X	
K.Problems in the implementation of DOTS in children	X	

L.Adherence to the TB guidelines	X	
M.TB as a cause of childhood pneumonia	X	
N.Strategies to improve private-public TB referral		X
O.Strategies to decrease misconceptions regarding TB		X
P.Strategies in the dissemination of guidelines for TB management		X
Q.Education strategies targeting disease awareness/transmission		X
R.Determinants of TB disease in children		X
S.Strategies to increase isoniazid preventive therapy		X
2.Pneumonia	High	Medium
A.Risk factors for severe pneumonia	X	
B.Predictors of pneumonia-related mortality in children	X	
C.Clinical and laboratory parameters to differentiate viral vs. bacterial pneumonia	X	
D.Etiologic agents of pneumonia for age >5 years old	X	
E.Strategies to improve vaccine coverage for pneumonia	X	
F.Adherence to the PCAP case-management guidelines		X
G.Efficacy of existing pneumococcal conjugate vaccines		X
H.Criteria for switching from intravenous to oral antibiotics in hospitalized CAP		X
I.Validity of diagnostic parameters for pneumonia		X
J.Adjuncts in the management of severe pneumonia		X
K.Etiologies of PCAP in < 5 years of age		X
L.Atypical pathogens as a cause of PCAP		X
M.Staphylococcus aureus as a cause of PCAP		X

3.Dengue/Dengue hemorrhagic fever	High	Medium
A.Risk factors for poor outcome in dengue	X	
B.Effect of the Case Mgt Protocol in improving survival	X	
C.Baseline hematocrit among Filipino children	X	
D.Strategies to improve disease management	X	
E. Effective strategies for the dissemination of the new dengue case classification & management protocols	X	
F.Dengue vaccine studies	X	
G.Validation of disease definition based on clinical and laboratory parameters		X
H.Community approaches to decrease dengue morbidity & mortality		X
I.Interventions for vector control		X
J.Mortality rate in patients with severe dengue		X
4.Meningitis/encephalitis	High	Medium
A.Age-specific etiologic agents of meningitis in children	X	
B.Risk factors for poor disease outcome of viral, bacterial & TB meningitis in children	X	
C.Clinical presentation of viral, bacterial & TB meningitis in children	X	
D.Etiology of encephalitis in children	X	
E.Empiric therapy for bacterial meningitis in children	X	
F.Antimicrobial sensitivity pattern of bacterial causes of meningitis		X
G.Role of imaging in the diagnosis of meningitis		X
H.Adherence of pediatricians to the CPG on meningitis		X
I.Cost-effectiveness analysis of vaccination programs		X

J. Anti-NMDA, dengue & mycoplasma as causes of encephalitis		X
K. Strategies to ensure polio eradication		X
5. Sepsis	High	Medium
A. Clinical and laboratory predictors for sepsis	X	
B. Validation of diagnostic tools for sepsis	X	
C. Adjuncts in the management of sepsis	X	
D. Criteria for the diagnosis of sepsis in neonates	X	
E. Aids in the diagnosis of sepsis	X	
F. New management approaches for sepsis	X	
G. Etiology of sepsis	X	
H. Clinical profile and outcome of sepsis due to MDR organisms	X	
I. Epidemiology of sepsis		X
J. Risk factors for sepsis in children		X
K. Appropriate empiric treatment of early-onset & late-onset neonatal sepsis		X
L. Staphylococcus aureus as a cause of community-acquired bacteremia		X
6. Diarrhea/Rotavirus	High	Medium
A. Changing etiology & epidemiology of acute diarrhea in children	X	
B. Changing rotavirus serotypes with the introduction of rotavirus vaccine	X	
C. Impact of increasing rotavirus vaccine coverage among children < 2 years old	X	
D. Risk factors for diarrhea mortality	X	
E. Barriers to rotavirus vaccination	X	

F.Adjuncts in the management of diarrhea in children		X
G.Safety of rotavirus vaccines		X
H.Relationship between chronic diarrhea, IQ and growth		X
I.Adherence to the recommended diarrhea management		X
J.Herbal medicines for diarrhea in children		X
7.Health care-associated infections	High	Medium
A.Site-specific surveillance for HC-associated infections	X	
B.Interventions to decrease HC-associated infections	X	
C.Risk factors for HC-associated infections in children	X	
D.Adherence to transmission-based infection control	X	
E.Multidrug-resistant infections in children	X	
F.Cost of HC-associated infections in private & public hospitals		X
G.Prevention of central catheter line infections		X
8.Pertussis	High	Medium
A.Age-specific incidence of pertussis in the community	X	
B.Clinical diagnostic criteria for pertussis in children	X	
C.Efficacy of chemoprophylaxis for prevention of disease transmission	X	
D.Predictors of mortality among infants	X	
E.Effectiveness of vaccination of pregnant women/adults to prevent disease transmission	X	
F.Cost-effectiveness analysis of rapid diagnostic tests for pertussis		X
G.Waning immunity following DPT vaccination		X

H.Risk factors for pertussis		X
I.Cost-effectiveness of drugs for prevention & treatment of pertussis		X
9. Leptospirosis	High	Medium
A.Age-specific incidence of pertussis in the community	X	
B.Risk factors for severe leptospirosis	X	
C.Predictors for mortality among children with severe leptospirosis	X	
10.HIV/STI	High	Medium
A.Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS among children & adolescents	X	
B.Risk assessment & intervention programs for adolescents and various groups at risk	X	
C.Clinical course of HIV/AIDS in children	X	
D.TB & HIV comorbidity	X	
E.Efficacy of various ARV combinations among children	X	
F.Interventions to improve HIV disease recognition & management	X	
G.Opportunistic infections among HIV/AIDS pediatric patients	X	
H.HIV/AIDS-defining diseases among children	X	
I.Strategies to increase HIV testing among women	X	
J.Comorbid diseases with HIV, other than TB		X
K.Approaches to decrease the stigma of HIV/AIDS		X
L.Yield of prenatal HIV testing in pregnant women		X
M.HIV manifestations in children & adolescents		X
11.Influenza	High	Medium

A.Influenza surveillance among children	X	
B.Validation of rapid diagnostic tests for influenza in children	X	
C.Development of treatment guidelines for influenza	X	
D.Diagnostic criteria for influenza in children		X
E.Influenza vaccine studies		X
12.Measles	High	Medium
A.Community programs to improve measles immunization rate	X	
B.Factors related to declining measles vaccination rate	X	
C.Risk factors for persistence/outbreaks of measles	X	
D.Risk factors for measles-associated complications and death		X
E.Adjuncts in the management of measles		X
F.Improving the accuracy of measles surveillance		X
G.Staphylococcus aureus as etiology of pneumonia in measles		X
13.Surveillance	High	Medium
A.Infectious disease surveillance to include the private sector	X	
B.Survey of immunization coverage by private practitioners	X	
C.Water potability in Metro Manila tap water	X	
14.Antimicrobial use	High	Medium
A.Effect of antibiotic stewardship on antibiotic use	X	
B.Antimicrobial resistance surveillance in children	X	
C.Appropriate antimicrobial use for common pediatric infections	X	
D.Antimicrobial prescription for common infectious diseases	X	

E.Optimal early switch to oral antibiotics in hospitalized children	X	
15.Rabies	High	Medium
A.KAP on rabies and its pre-exposure prophylaxis		X
B.Feasibility of pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis		X
C.Cost-effectiveness of pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis		X
16.Malaria	High	Medium
A.Evaluation of the malaria control program in the community		X
B.Risk factors for complications and death in malaria		X
C.Malaria vaccine studies		X
17.COVID-19	High	Medium
A.Epidemiology of COVID-19 in children	X	
B.Clinical presentation and outcomes of COVID-19 in children	X	
C.Effect of co-morbidities on disease severity and death in childhood COVID-19	X	
D.Morbidity and mortality in childhood COVID-19	X	
E.Short/long-term outcomes in childhood COVID-19	X	
F.COVID-19 vaccines	X	
G.Management of COVID-19 in children	X	
H.The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on routine childhood vaccination compliance	X	
I.The rate of COVID-19 positivity among infants born to COVID-19-positive mothers	X	

J. Inflammatory markers in children with COVID-19 and association with morbidity & mortality	X	
K. Use of telemedicine in infectious disease patients during the pandemic		X
18. Kawasaki disease	High	Medium
A. Clinical profile and outcome of children with complete vs. incomplete Kawasaki disease		X
B. Identifiable infectious and non-infectious etiologies in children with Kawasaki disease		X
19. Research priorities	High	Medium
A. Research priorities of infectious disease programs of the DOH		

