

Dr Lucien Manga is the new Chair of APOC Committee of Sponsoring Agencies



Appointed on 8 July 2014 by the Regional Director of WHO Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO), Dr Lucien Alexis Emmanuel Manga, a Cameroonian national, will from now on chair the sessions of the Committee of Sponsoring Agencies (CSA), a statutory body of the African Programme for Onchocerciasis control (APOC). He will replace Dr Chris Ngenda Mwikisa who is now the Manager of Corporate Services (MCS) and Acting Coordinator of the Director's Office at the Programme

Headquarters.

Holding a doctorate degree in biological sciences from the University of Yaoundé coupled with a doctorate degree in parasitology from Université Montpellier I, Dr Lucien Manga has been the Coordinator of the regional Programme of emergency and disaster management at the WHO Office for Africa in Brazzaville since September 2013. He has led field responses to humanitarian crises in Central African Republic, South Sudan and other African countries.

Dr Manga's 17 years career path in WHO/AFRO made him take responsibilities ranging from the position of regional advisor in biology and vector control (1997-2005) to the current position, via the positions of regional advisor and Programme Coordinator for the protection of human environment (2005-2013), then Coordinator of the joint inter-agency team in charge of the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on health and environment cumulatively with his positions of regional advisor and Coordinator of the regional Programme (2008-2013).

The new Chair of the CSA has thus consolidated his experience in the area of health and environment that he got at the national and international levels through his membership in research teams. He has devoted his efforts to malaria control through an active participation in research on disease vectors and developed the integrated vector control strategy.

He is a scientist with dozens of publications relating to malaria in particular. The impressive number of publications quite probably originates from the fact that he taught at Universities in Cameroon in the past. An avid golfer, he is married and has four children. ♦