



Annual Report 2022

May 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following increased interest in fungal disease during COVID-19 and increased press stories about damp housing and fungal exposure, the end of 2022 was remarkable for the release by WHO of its **Fungal Pathogen Priority List**. This report hit the headlines globally and propelled the topic of fungal disease into people's living rooms, often for the first time. GAFFI has engaged with and supported WHO for ten years and contributed to framing the key conclusions of the report.

In line with the conclusions of the WHO report GAFFI's main accomplishments during 2022 were:

- **Survey of diagnostic capacity in 48 countries in Africa:** Less than 2 months after the publication of WHO's FPPL, GAFFI and Africa CDC launched a major survey of diagnostic capacity in 48 countries in Africa, covering 99.7% of the population. While many African countries have good coverage of diagnostics for their populations, many do not. Direct microscopy, fungal culture, histopathology, radiology, bronchoscopy and lumbar puncture were available to most African citizens. However, there were also significant gaps, especially those related with quick diagnosis of life-threatening fungal infections, highlighted in the survey findings which can be found [here](#).
- **Diagnostic Laboratory Hub in Guatemala:** Guatemala's exemplar project was presented in each African region as part of the consultation process on diagnostic access in Africa. Additional work on the burden of cryptococcal meningitis in AIDS in the country and in Latin America was published. National guidelines on the investigation and management of advanced HIV Disease have been formulated with the Ministry of Health.
- **Burden of Serious Fungal Diseases:** Estimates of fungal disease were published for a further five countries including Honduras, Morocco, Eritrea, Mali and India, for a total population of 1,465 million people. Updated estimates included the number of people with cryptococcal meningitis in HIV/AIDS (a fall from 180,000 to 150,000), but still contributing to 19% of deaths. The epidemiology and mortality of cryptococcal disease in people living with HIV from Guatemala was analysed and published. According to the results of this program, CrAg positivity in Latin America is 9.2% (IC95% 7.9—10.7%) in patients with ≤ 100 CD4/mm³.
- GAFFI's executive team, Ambassadors and Senior Advisors published **55 peer-reviewed publications** in 2022 directly supporting GAFFI's aims.
- **GAFFI's Ambassadors' activities:** Additional GAFFI Ambassadors were recruited for GAFFI's Ambassadors network in Indonesia, Tanzania, Morocco and Cote d'Ivoire. Multiple educational programmes and awareness have been delivered in multiple countries including Uzbekistan, Iran, Indonesia, Vietnam, Portugal, Norway, Hungary, Romania, Nigeria, Ghana, Mexico and Brazil, in addition to multiple peer-reviewed publications.

Details of GAFFI's activities are reported in a separate document: **GAFFI Activities in 2022**.

GAFFI board and structure

The international board of Trustees of GAFFI at the end of 2022 reflected the international work of GAFFI and was composed of Oddi Aasheim, Professor Patrick Francioli, Yasuaki Mori and Professor Juan Luis Rodriguez Tudela. The executive board consisted of Professor David Denning (CEO), Ana Alastruey Izquierdo (Head of Latin America Programmes) and Timothy Moss (Head of Finance and Governance). GAFFI and GAFFI UK have identical Board membership to facilitate achieving GAFFI's

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aims. GAFFI runs a very lean and flat organisation concentrating on delivering maximum impact and value.

Donors and supporters

We would again like to thank all those who supported GAFFI in 2022 including The International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, F2G, Basilea, Pfizer, Pulmocide, Scynexis, Novacyt, Biosergen, MiraVista, OLM Diagnostics, Immunomycologics (IMMY), Dynamiker, Advances Against Aspergillosis and from multiple private donors many related to book sales of Ambrosio Etoile. GAFFI also benefitted from generous donations in kind including office space (Haines Watts re GAFFI UK). Board members' Senior Advisors' and Ambassadors contribute their time and skills in attending meetings and providing advice.

New Focused Strategy and Plans

Heading into 2023 GAFFI is undergoing a full-scale transformation to elevate its impact. The Board is being strengthened through recruitment of high-profile leaders representing the regions and focus areas of GAFFI. GAFFI will also implement a strategic focus on reducing mortality in HIV related fungal infections by targeting opportunistic fungal infections in HIV patients, as in many countries these are often underdiagnosed and access to appropriate treatment is limited.

GAFFI's plans for 2023 therefore include the following:

1. Building on the learning and insights gained from the Guatemala programme, implement a similar programme in Buenos Aires state, with a wider data and sample collection scope.
2. Partner with Africa CDC in growing expertise and establishing hubs and formal networks in fungal disease across Africa.
3. Building on the learning and insights gained from the Guatemala programme, build the foundation for a similar programme in a ready African country.
4. Develop partnerships for GAFFI that will 'add fungal disease' as an additional aspect to planned projects, notably in the context of AMR programmes, but also others.
5. Further professionalisation of GAFFI with new Board members and strengthening the leadership team.