

## Winter 2015/16 Newsletter

Winter morning, Kinsale, Ireland



### Editorial

Dear EAN Friends,

As we reach the end of winter 2015/2016, we are back with the (much awaited) EAN Winter newsletter! We hope you are already having a great start to 2016!

In this edition, we bring you news from ESCAIDE 2015 in Stockholm, and some more updates from our community. Our EAN travel grant recipients - Daniel, Lala and Priyakanta – share their experiences of ESCAIDE with us.

We hear from our two new Board members Aileen and Lisi, and we catch up with a former EPIET Co-ordinator on his travels! (where is he now? we hear you ask...)

Lastly we have a call for volunteers - for the EAN Newsletter Editorial Team, and for willing co-organisers of EAN modules – your Network needs you!

Enjoy reading and we wish you a great year ahead!

Yours,

**The EAN Board**



### Board

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## EAN Travel Grants

Every year, the EAN provides a small number of competitive travel grants to support epidemiologists and public health microbiologists, who would not otherwise be able to attend, to come to ESCAIDE and present their work.

In 2015, the EAN supported three people to attend ESCAIDE:

- Dr Lala Harisoa Rabetaliana (Madagascar)
- Dr Priyakanta Nayak (India)
- Daniel Gonçalves (Portugal)

We hear from them now!

### EAN travel grant recipient - Dr Lala Harisoa Rabetaliana

- *From:* Indian Ocean Field Epidemiology Training Programme, Madagascar
- *Presented:* Oral presentation 'Pneumonic plague outbreak following case migration from the endemic highlands – municipality of Ambaohoabe, Madagascar, December 2013'

This conference took place in Stockholm over 3 days with 450 epidemiologists from across the world participating. The persons in charge of the ESCAIDE showed a great professionalism, effectiveness and human qualities in the organization. It was my first experience in an International Conference, but I testify that the organization had been remarkable. Thank you for the quality of the reception and organization.

It was an immense pleasure for me to participate in this conference because that allowed me:

- to reinforce my experiences, my competences and my knowledge in epidemiology field and medical sciences. The presentations of the participants allowed me to have ideas on the improvement of investigations in epidemic events in Madagascar
- to have new relations with other scientific participants. I am very proud and satisfied to have these relations. Many scientific exchanges and cultural were already done between my new relations and me
- to discover Stockholm which is a peaceful city, not polluted and clean.

I particularly appreciated the cordial environment that the ESCAIDE offered to me. I have excellent memories of this conference which I will be ready to take part in again for the next ESCAIDE conference in November 2016.

Lala Harisoa Rabetaliana

### EAN travel grant recipient - Dr Priyakanta Nayak

- *From:* Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi, India
- *Presented:* Oral presentation 'Outbreak Investigation of Anthrax, Kuruchdega Village in Simdega District of Jharkhand, India 2014'

The European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology conference at Stockholm, Sweden was an exciting experience predominantly focused on research into new tools which are sensational developments. The inauguration of the conference by Dr Andrea Ammon enlightening the comprehensive focus in outbreak and microbial resistance was a learning experience. The conference bar camp was an innovation on bringing experts across the world to a common table for discussion.

The most learning experience for me was attending the sessions on outbreaks which actually reflected a wide range of infectious disease from Salmonella to Plague including Anthrax in my presentation. I am glad that my oral presentation on anthrax was well appreciated. I was one among the many who got woken from a complacent listening state with the presentation of antimicrobial resistance being a growing problem worldwide and more from India. The presentation on Ebola by Dr Pierre Formenty (WHO) was an eye opener on how to strategize the Ebola epidemic response plan.

The e-poster session was thrilling with good discussion with the presenters on various country-specific and disease-specific contexts. The day continued with moderated poster sessions and several parallel sessions on topics ranging from successful vaccination coverage to estimating the burden of communicable diseases. Introduction and enhancement of social media in disease control and prevention is an approach which has a long way to go.

At the end, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to EAN for awarding me the travel grant to make it to the ESCAIDE 2015 and present my paper.

Thank You,  
Priyakanta Nayak



## EAN travel grant recipient - Daniel Gonçalves

- *From:* Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Coimbra, Portugal
- *Presented:* two posters on day 2 of ESCAIDE – ‘Assessment of JC virus in Portuguese wastewaters: Impact on Public Health’ and ‘Hepatitis E virus in wastewaters from Portugal - preliminary results of an across country study’

Well my experience in ESCAIDE 2015 began with the trip to Stockholm all the way up from my country, Portugal. I have to say that although the difference between temperatures is quite high, Stockholm is very warm in the way it receives its visitors and I personally think it is one of the best cities to host such an event as ESCAIDE is.

It’s a beautiful city and has some places and venues that will make anyone became amazed, besides being one of the reference cities for knowledge and culture as the very well-known Nobel prizes are decided and delivered in Stockholm in a building that all ESCAIDE participants could get to know and get inspired by.

Most important even than that was the event itself were I really learned about many epidemiological problems not only in Europe but from around the world and could get a fine grasp and reality check about what is going on and what scientists are trying to show and prove, in order to help the general public health.

It is a wonderful experience for young scientists like myself because we can learn with the more experienced ones and get in contact with them face to face, as all of the event relies heavily on discussions about the themes presented which is one of the best ways to learn something and for each one to get better at what they are doing.

You can also put some of your doubts to scientists that are working with something similar to your work and in that way get to clarify questions that you couldn’t resolve by yourself or just would take much more time to figure it out alone.

I presented two posters at this event and I enjoyed the experience a lot, because while I was afraid before that I couldn’t make myself understand, soon that feeling disappear in the presentation and with the questions put on by the public or the moderator. It’s like if you are transmitting your work with people from all backgrounds but in a more familiar way just like in your office or laboratory.

I was put in contact with some experts in the area that I want to work and got encouraged by them as they shared their experience and way of working and saw the problems I have, helping me, so that I don’t have to pass for the same as they did.

Resuming, all the experience was very enriching to me and I hope that in future events I can be attending at ESCAIDE either presenting my scientific works or just as a participant learning from the best.

Daniel Gonçalves

*\*Daniel’s grant was supported by the **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation** (Portugal), for which we are very grateful*

### EAN Dinner & Drinks Night!

We would like to thank all our members who joined us for the EAN Dinner & Drinks Night at Vapiano in central Stockholm, the night before ESCAIDE.

It is always great to see “old faces” and meet some new ones!

## Oral and Poster Prizes at ESCAIDE 2015

Since 2010, the EAN awards a prize at ESCAIDE for the two presentations (a “best oral” and “best poster”) that are most effective in transmitting a public health message. The ESCAIDE 2015 winners were:

### **Best oral presentation**



Natasha Crowcroft (EPIET Cohort 1!), Public Health Ontario, Canada, for ‘*A systematic review for the basic reproductive number for measles: implications for measles elimination*’ in the Vaccine-preventable diseases session on day 2.

### **Best poster presentation**

Domino Determann, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, The Netherlands, for ‘*Future pandemics and vaccination: public opinion and attitudes across three European countries*’ in the Vaccine Coverage, Effectiveness and Safety Session on day 3.

A big THANK YOU to our volunteer judges for giving their time and expertise! And big thanks to ECDC for supporting the prize by giving free registration to the following ESCAIDE to the winners!

## EAN photo contest

In 2015, the EAN, in collaboration with ECDC, ran its 4<sup>th</sup> photo contest during ESCAIDE, open to all conference attendees! People were asked to submit photos from their adventurous professional lives, these photos were displayed during the conference and all attendees were asked to vote for their preferred picture.

Congratulations to the winners!!

*First prize* in the 2015 EAN best photo contest went to **Alain Rakotoarisoa**, Ministère de la Santé Publique, Madagascar, for ‘**Hand in Hand**’, a beautiful photo of an investigator and community worker walking hand in hand on a bridge, crossing a river to carry out investigations in a remote village in Antsirabe, Madagascar.



‘Hand in Hand’, by Alain Rakotoarisoa (Winner)

*Second place* went to Amrish Baidjoe for ‘Invisible malaria infections, infected but not ‘sick’: a true obstacle in the way to malaria elimination’.

*Third place* also went to Amrish Baidjoe for ‘Sampling and field-diagnostics without cold-storage in rural Kenya’.

You can admire all the amazing photos submitted on the EAN website at:

[http://epietalumni.net/dt\\_galleries/photocontest-escaide-2015/](http://epietalumni.net/dt_galleries/photocontest-escaide-2015/). It might give you inspiration for the photo contest at ESCAIDE 2016!



During the 2015 EAN GA, we sadly said goodbye to two of our old Board members - Naomi Boxall, who served EAN as President for the last 2 years and Georgia Ladbury, Secretary, who has been on the EAN Board since 2012!

A big welcome to our new members Aileen and Lisi! We asked them to introduce themselves to the rest of the EAN.

**New President: Aileen Kitching**

I am a medical doctor from Ireland. After some years in clinical medicine (hospital medicine & general practice in Ireland, Scotland & Australia) and almost a year working with Médecins sans Frontières in post-war Liberia, I moved to London in 2007 to become part of Cohort 13 of EPIET, a decision I have never regretted. After 2 great years as a Fellow at the Health Protection Agency, I completed my specialisation in Public Health Medicine in London, working mainly at the former HPA / now Public Health England during that time. In Sept 2015 I moved back to Ireland to take up a Consultant/ Specialist post in the Department of Public Health in Cork, where I work in health protection/communicable disease control (HIV, STIs, hepatitis) and in health inequalities.

I have gained a lot both from EPIET, and also from the Alumni Network - personally as well as professionally. This was brought home to me more recently when I had the opportunity to work with other Alumni & current Fellows in the field, in the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2014 and in the Ebola response in Sierra Leone in 2015. Even when we don't know each other, we find as EAN members we do - through our common epi language and shared values, there is this connection.

As a Board, I believe we are here to represent the will of you, the Membership (as laid down in the Statutes), to be your voice externally and also to be that 'critical friend' to the EPIET and EUPHEM programmes. In my role as President, I will do my best to listen to your voice, to represent you effectively, and further strengthen this great and unique network! I look forward to working with you all.



**New Secretary: Lisi Aichinger**

My name is Elisabeth ("Lisi") Aichinger and I will be one of the two EAN secretaries for the next two years. I grew up in a small village in Austria. My dad was working as a pathologist and microbiologist, so I soon became interested in bacteria and viruses. During high school, I spent one year in Edmonton, Alberta, where my enthusiasm for travelling started. After finishing my medical studies in Salzburg, Austria, I continued my education with a MSc in Control of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. As part of my master thesis I was working in India for several months, researching on latrine use and faecal contamination in the environment.

Fortunately, in 2010 I got the chance to become a part of the fabulous cohort 16 as a German FETP based in the Baden-Wuerttemberg State Health Office in Stuttgart. After finishing the programme, I stayed in the State Health Office, now working in health protection and infectious disease surveillance. As a secretary for EAN, I am looking forward to contribute to the community within the next two years. I believe that being part of the EPIET/FETP "family" is a great asset, personally and occupationally. So I am really looking forward to working with you all.



**Title:** Where do the quitting EPIET coordinators go?

**Introduction:** EPIET coordinators are supposed to do something with their lives after quitting the programme. This is especially important as the process of quitting leave in their minds a feeling of emptiness and despair. We aimed to describe the fate of one representative ex-coordinator.

**Methods:** We obtained a list of terminated coordinators from Arnold Bosman's iBrain Air Pro ver.4.1. We have drawn one item from this list using an algorithm such complicated that even Kostas Danis could not understand it! We interviewed the ex-coordinator and performed a description of his activities in terms of time, person and place.

**Results:** PS, male, 43 years old, did not know what to do after quitting EPIET in November 2015, and decided to go for a bicycle tour in Latin America. He wanted to be on the road, meet people, learn about the different societies living around there. He wanted to challenge his body and learn patience while moving slowly long distances. He wanted to reflect on his life and detach as much as possible from the competitive consumption-driven style of life. After three months of travel he doesn't know if any of his goals has been achieved. His daily activities are reduced to pedaling, searching for food and shelter. He is often tired, meets only employees of shops and gas stations and he can never really know anybody as he is constantly on the move. The physiognomic analysis of his photos show worrying signs of deterioration.

**Conclusions:** The shock related to quitting EPIET probably left a permanent trace in the brain of PS. The only thing left for him is pedaling. To avoid such adverse outcomes, we therefore recommend that EPIET coordinators continue their work until safe retirement (or early death).

**Additional reference:** <https://trackmytour.com/HFB86>

*\*Text sent by anonymous (fee-paying) EAN member*

**Appendix 1:** Physiognomic analysis of photos kindly provided by PS, with commentary of world-class expert

**Photo 1:** PS in November 2015, before the travel. Face normal although short of hair.



**Photo 2:** PS in December 2016, south of Chile. Face more hairy, coping with the rain and cold, somehow.



**Photo 3:** PS in January 2016, close to Coyhaique in Chile. First signs of idiocy, playing with a beetle...



**Photo 4:** PS in February 2016 in Pucon, Chile. Due to prolonged exposure to heat, signs of complete deterioration!



**Photo 5:** PS in February 2016 in Santiago, Chile. Saved again by EPIET! Found a safe house where the EAN Treasurer Javiera was raised. Staying with her parents, PS could finally rest! His look is almost back to normal...



## Conference news

### **32C3-talks for epidemiologists, by Florian Burckhardt (Cohort 12, 2006-2008)**

Dear Alumni and active fellows,

Every year between Christmas and New Year's Eve the German chaos computer club hosts a huge conference. It is worth going there just for the people you meet, but also for the sheer technical brilliance with which volunteers make this happen. Live video feeds and active audience participation via internet were common over ten years ago at this conference, whereas ESCAIDE only in 2015 demonstrated audience participation via mobile phone.

At the last conference (Dec 2015) however, there were two talks in particular that were noteworthy in an epidemiological context:

- How Open Source Software, second hand laptops and hackers helped stop Ebola (and stopped an apocalypse) - <https://media.ccc.de/v/32c3-7561-how-open-source-software-second-hand-laptops-and-hackers-helped-stop-ebola-and-stopped-an-apocalypse>
- Volunteers from "Freifunk" providing free WiFi for refugees in Germany: <https://media.ccc.de/v/32c3-7230-lessons-learned-freifunk-fur-gefluchtete>

There were tons of other interesting talks on civil liberties and human rights:

- The full list of videos is here: <https://media.ccc.de/b/congress/2015>
- The conference can be browsed here: <https://events.ccc.de/congress/2015/Fahrplan/schedule.html>
- and for App-Addicts: <https://events.ccc.de/congress/2015/wiki/Apps>.



## EAN Statutes - update

Dear EAN friends,

For your information, the updated EAN Statutes, as voted on by the Membership in 2015, can be found on the Whiteboard in the Members area of the EAN website at <http://epietalumni.net/ean-statutes-2016-updated/>. Each statute change, voted by the members, is marked by a footnote. Previous updates were in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

- The EAN Board

## ESCAIDE 2016 – key dates announced

For those that like to plan ahead, the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee have announced the key dates for ESCAIDE 2016, taking place from Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th November in Stockholm, Sweden. This year is a special year for ESCAIDE as it celebrates its 10th anniversary.

- Call for abstracts: 11 April – 11 May 2016
- Early bird registration: 11 April – 1 September 2016
- Online registration: 11 April – 20 November 2016
- Call for late breaker abstracts: 1 - 30 September 2016

The theme of this year's conference will be "data for action". If you are thinking about submitting an abstract for ESCAIDE, and looking for tips on how to write an abstract, and showcase its novelty and added value for public health, ECDC are running an [e-course on abstract writing](#) starting in April.

## Circle of (EPIET and EUPHEM) life

Another year and another cycle of EPIET and EUPHEM programme selection.

- April 18-20th: Face-to-face interviews EPIET EU-track & EUPHEM EU-track 2016
- Sept 12th 2016 – Cohort 2016 starts EU-track and MS-track of EPIET and EUPHEM.



### Appy Epi



ESCAIDE 2015 saw the launch of the ESCAIDE app! This was well received at the conference, and we hope to see it back again in 2016!



Learning a new language or needing to refresh one long forgotten! Fill in time while commuting or waiting for that (late again) friend!

Try Duolingo free (and ad-free) cross-platform (Android, iOS, Windows) language-learning website and app, and brush up your language skills in as little as 5 minutes a day!

### What's in a word?

#### SAUDADE (n.)

A nostalgic longing to be near again to something or someone that is distant, or that has been loved and then lost; "the love that remains"

Pronunciation | 'sau-"da-dE

Origin: Portuguese



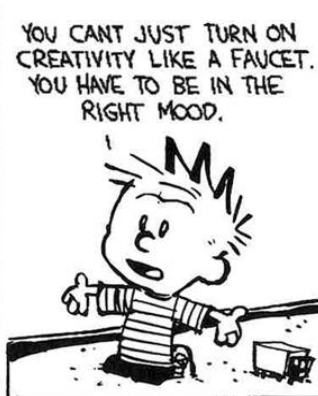
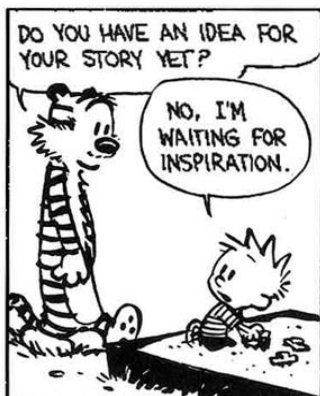


## EAN Newsletter Editorial Team

The Board is always looking for enthusiastic EAN members to create a regular Editorial Team to assist us in putting together the ever-popular quarterly EAN newsletter.

Your path to literary fame starts here!!

Email us at [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com) to let us know your interest.



## EAN mini-modules

Do you have an idea for a module for the Network? The EAN Board would like to encourage the Network members to communicate and develop ideas for future workshops/ mini-modules along with the EAN Board. You are the Network! Tell us what you want and what you can do!

Email us at [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com) to let us know your interest. Thank you!

## EAN logo - please vote!



*It's time to get those creative juices flowing!*

With the redevelopment/refresh of the EAN website, there was much discussion that this could provide a timely opportunity to also redevelop the EAN logo – to be in keeping with the fresh new look of the website, but also, to reflect EPIET and EUPHEM in a more dynamic way.

The EAN Board asks you to keep an eye out for an email coming shortly which will ask you to vote on a new logo for the Network – or, if you wish – to keep the current logo.

If none of the options put forward takes your fancy, and you are creatively inclined, we also offer the option to design a logo yourself for the EAN! Keep watching!



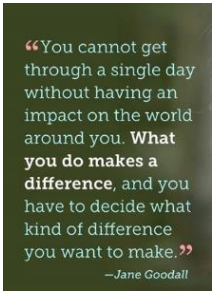
Your Network – your say!



Current EAN logo

A big, big **THANK YOU** to everybody who supported the 2015 EAN travel grant. With your generous support were able to raise the fantastic amount of **905.51 EURO**. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

- 👤 Anonymous: 200 EURO → THANK YOU!!
- 👤 Florian B. (ETS initiative): 140 EURO → THANK YOU!!
- 👤 Cohort 16 donation: 565.51 EURO → THANK YOU!!



And, on a different note:

## Annual EAN Membership Fees

**DON'T FORGET** to pay the membership fee which is €20 (GBP £18) for one year or €200 (GBP £180) for the life membership. The easiest way to pay is via PayPal on our website (<http://epietalumni.net/>).

Fellows in their first and second year of training are exempt from paying membership fees, according to the accepted statutes change at the 2012 General Assembly.

The details for how to transfer fees by online banking are on this page; if you require any further information on membership payment, we kindly ask you to contact the EAN board ([eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com)), putting "membership payment" in the subject line.

Please indicate your name and membership year as reference in the bank transfer and also send an email to [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com) to inform us about your payment (sometimes names are not correctly transmitted with the transfer).

### EAN Bank details

**EURO ACCOUNT (€20p.a.)**

**Bank:** HSBC UK  
**Address:** 18 London Street, Norwich, NR2 1LG, UK  
**Account holder:** Epiet Alumni Network  
**Account Number:** 71822755  
**Sort code:** 40-05-15  
**IBAN:** GB11MIDL40051571822755  
**BIC/Swift:** MIDLGB22

**GBP ACCOUNT (£18p.a.)**

**Bank:** HSBC UK  
**Address:** 18 London Street, Norwich, NR2 1LG, UK  
**Account holder:** Epiet Alumni Network  
**Account Number:** 43922782  
**Sort code:** 40-35-09

Email: [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com)

Website: <http://epietalumni.net/>

