

EAN News

Newsletter of the EPIET Alumni Network



December 2012



Dear EAN Friends,

As we are getting closer and closer to the end of 2012, EAN chose to share with you the highlights of the last quarter of 2012.

For those of you who did not get the change to join ESCAIDE this year, we will give you a brief summary of what happened in Endiburg those days. Among all, a new EAN board selection, a novelty photography contest, made just for field epidemiologists and a lot more!

For the new year that is coming soon, we chose an epi-game for your phone or tablet, to keep you company during your lonely, no-outbreak, fuzzy-free nights.

Lastly, we would like to wish you and your families the very best, and we hope that 2013, will be a better year for EU and for the rest of world too!

The EAN Board

Lorenzo, Arnaud, Chris, Giovanna, Georgia and Maria

From the EAN Board

EAN Membership

EAN is currently comprised of 327 members. The EAN is not only comprised by alumni of the EPIET and the EUPHEM. All graduates and current fellows of European Field Epidemiology Training Programmes can join the EAN. External applications from colleagues working in public health epidemiology are also very welcome; they need to be endorsed by 2 EAN members. If you want to join, please send an email to eanboard@gmail.com to request the application form. Our statutes specify that external members may not exceed 10% of the regular members.

EAN membership fees

The annual membership fee is €20 and runs from January until December. 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), 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 to inform us about your payment (sometimes names are not correctly transmitted with the transfer).

Name of Bank: HSBC UK

Bank address: HSBC UK, 18 London Street, Norwich NR2 1LG, UK

Account Holder: Epiet Alumni Network

Account number: 71822755

Sort code: 400515

IBAN: GB11MIDL40051571822755

BIC/Swift: MIDLGB22

NB: the account is in the UK so also payments in GBP are allowed. In case GBP is your preferred currency contact the EAN Treasurers at eanboard@gmail.com.

EAN General Assembly

EAN Democracy

New board members!

Yes Yes Yes! Four new, enthusiastic members were elected during the 2012 General Assembly in Edinburgh!

The new EAN board composition is as follows:

President: Lorenzo Pezzoli

Vice president: Arnaud Le Menach

Treasurers: Christopher Williams, Giovanna Jaramillo-Gutierrez

Secretaries: Georgia Ladbury and Maria Keramou

Once more we would like to thank our exiting boardies Florian (vice president), Helen (treasurer), Annick and Marc (secretaries) for their great work for EAN!

Let's meet the newbies!

Arnaud Lemenach (EPIET cohort 16)



Hi all, I have just graduated from EPIET in 2012, and I was based at the HPA in London. I am a veterinarian by training and did my PhD in public health specialized in quantitative epidemiology. Before joining EPIET I worked for a couple of years at the FAO in Rome. I am currently working as a senior research associate (epidemiology) at the Clinton Health Access Initiative. As a fellow I really enjoyed the EPIET & co. community, and EAN is a great opportunity to stay in touch and support each other. As a vice president, I humbly hope to actively contribute to EAN activities with the other board members. In one sentence, I am ecstatic about being part of this fantastic association, and working with you all. Cheers.

Giovanna Jaramillo-Gutierrez (EPIET cohort 16/EUPHEM cohort 3)



Hi guys! I am Giov, from Brussels with a Latin touch. I was a EUPHEM at RIVM, the Netherlands. I have enjoyed being the EUPHEM cohort rep this year and I am very happy to remain involved with the

community as an EAN boardie. Before my EPIET/EUPHEM life, I trained as a molecular biologist, did my PhD on malaria parasite-vector interactions at the National Institutes of Health, USA. I got really interested in public health/lab-epi while carrying out lab capacity building activities in Mali. After that, I ended up working at the WHO in Geneva during the flu pandemic 2009 for 15 months, I was the "lab geek" in the flu epidemiology team. Currently, I am hiding in the tropics to escape winter, in Guatemala working for PAHO. In my spare time, (and all the time), I like to eat good food. I am looking forward to work with you and for you to give me your money, hmm...I mean to be a good EAN treasurer.

Georgia Ladbury (EPIET cohort 16)



Hi, I'm Georgia, a British alumna just graduated from EPIET Cohort 16, where I was hosted at the RIVM. Prior to EPIET, I trained as a vet and went on to do a MSc in emerging infections and zoonoses, winding up working at the regional and national levels at the Health Protection Agency (with a bit of time teaching science to children at London's Science Museum, and a bit more time editing English textbooks in Athens, along the way...). Currently, I'm doing a PhD with the University of Glasgow looking at the impact of rapid urbanisation on relationships between communities, animals and diseases in Tanzania. As an EPIET fellow I had the pleasure of being my cohort representative, and look forward to applying all I learned there to help maintain and develop the EAN and the EPIET/EUPHEM/and associated programmes during my time as secretary of the board. I look forward to working with you all!

Maria Keramarou (EPIET cohort 15)



After graduating my MPH and working in a Mother-Child cohort study in Greece, I joined EPIET and cohort 15 for two more amazing years as a field epidemiologist trainee in Cardiff, Wales. It has been a year now since I am back in University of Crete, trying to complete my PhD in Molecular Epidemiology, teaching EPI to postgraduate students and working as a consultant for local authorities and other universities. My devotion and excitement for EPIET programme & family has brought me here. I am very happy to work for this unique network, with the rest amazing boardies!

EAN Travel Grants

Every year, EAN supports travel grants to four people in order to be able to participate in ESCAIDE 2012 in Edinburgh. We kindly asked this year's successful applicants to share their experience at ESCAIDE with us.

Joana Soares Ferreira, Portugal

I am a public health physician working both at a regional level (at the Northern Regional Health Administration) and a local level (at the public health unit of the Health Centres' Cluster of Entre Douro e Vouga II - North Aveiro).

When I learned about the opening of the call for abstracts for the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) I thought our public health unit could submit one such abstract sharing the investigation of a Legionnaires' disease case.

Upon having the submission accepted for a poster presentation I read on the Conference website about

the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) Alumni Network travel grant to which I successfully applied.

This grant allowed me to attend the meeting and experience the truly scientific environment it involves. Participants, may they be presenters of oral communications or posters or just attendees posing questions, all appeared to be very interested, committed and dedicated professionals, and very proud of both the EPIET and the European Programme for Public Health Microbiology Training (EUPHEM). It was so much so that one even starts wondering about one day applying for such a fellowship!

Anyway, without the travel grant it would be very difficult for me to consider attending the meeting as I would have to cover every expense it would involve (flights, accommodation and registration included) and I would have to weigh that against being a few days absent from work and away from my family (though, being pregnant with twins, I did take two of them with me to Edinburgh!).

I am glad I went to the Conference, I believe I have learned a lot and I would thus like to express my gratitude to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and to the EPIET Alumni Network! Thank you for making it possible!

Archil Navdarashvili, Georgia

Two my abstracts - outbreak investigation and KAP survey, were accepted for ESCAIDE 2012. It was great news, but all my tries to find finances for travel ended without results. Last chance to attend the conference was to get EAN travel grant.

The field of my professional activity is epidemiology of zoonotic infections and I have got amount of useful information in this field during as the plenary so parallel and poster sessions. The presentations and discussions let me look through researches carried out in different sides of the world, their weak points; rare methods used in particular situations.

Besides, it was a great opportunity to share the results of my recent studies with scientists from different countries, discuss with them about their weak points and ways of improvement, find common interest of research and plane collaboration for future.

The experience I acquired during the conference is useful to my professional activity and stimulative to my planes for future. For all, mentioned above I am grateful to EAN board members

Nona Epadze, Georgia

I'd like to share my great experience on ESCAIDE conference in 2012, Edinburgh.

EAN group was very supportive and gave me chance to travel to Scotland and present my poster "Increase in cases of human Leptospirosis in Ajara Region, Georgia, 2010" on the conference. It was important to get comments from my colleagues from the different countries regarding their experience related to leptospirosis surveillance in their countries after short (4 minutes) oral presentation of my work. This conversation led me to the idea to plan case-

control study to reveal main risk factors caused increase in numbers of leptospirosis cases in Georgia. I'm really very thankful of the conference organizers and EAN team, to support me to get this amazing opportunity to discuss my work with skilled scientists from different countries and at the same time to visit one of the prettiest country, Scotland and its beautiful capital - Edinburgh.



EAN Prizes at ESCAIDE 2012

As every year, the EAN assigns a prize at ESCAIDE for the two presentations (one oral and one poster) that are most effective in transmitting a public health message. This year's winners were:

Best oral presentation

Influenza vaccine effectiveness in Europe, 2011-12: estimates from the I-MOVE multicentre case-control study among target groups for vaccination

Esther Kissling (EPICONCEPT)

Best poster presentation:

The need to develop control measures for salmonellosis to ensure safety of home-produced eggs, Poland 2011: Lessons from an outbreak.

Anna Zielicka-Hardy (EPIET)

Congratulations!!!



EAN Photo contest 2012

This year, during ESCAIDE, a novelty prize was given too. It was the first photo contest organized by the EAN.

Any conference attendee could submit a photo through a dedicated web-based application. The original plan was to have a panel in charge of choosing a selection of the best photos to be displayed during the conference. Considering the moderate turn-out (21 submissions), we decided to display all the photos at the conference and let the attendees elect their favorite photograph. Louise and Luciana from ECDC were from a great help in printing the photos and their descriptions and display them in the venue. The photo prize was handled by the initiator of the contest, Saverio Caini, during the conference closing ceremony.

Here we present the top three, and we are very pleased to announce that our president won the first prize. Was it pure luck?!!!



'Pricking a mother's heart', San Salvador, El Salvador, Lorenzo Pezzoli (1st prize)



'Only a genius masters chaos', Stuttgart, Germany, Elisabeth Aichinger



'The Wizard of odds', Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, USA, by EpiConcept/Epidemiology team

The rest of the pictures, you can find them on [facebook](#).

Special thanks to Saverio Caini, who came up with the idea of the Photo Contest and Marc Rondy who helped with the organization of the contest.

APARET

The African Programme for Advanced Research Epidemiology Training, APARET on the European Scientific Conference for Applied Infectious Diseases Epidemiology, ESCAIDE 2012.

When a headline reads as a competition for “who can come up with the most cumbersome acronym” one could already guess that this may have something to do with the European Union. APARET is a 4 ½ years advanced training programme for African Epidemiologists funded by the Research Funding programme of the European Commission. Cohort one consists of 8 fellows from Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and Nigeria who have completed a 2 years Field epidemiology or Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Programme (FE(L)TP) or an equivalent qualification. During their fellowship the fellows implement their own project supported through a mentor from another Institute in Europe, Africa or the United States and financed through a small grant provided by APARET. At the same time each fellow plans a bigger research undertaking for which a proposal will be written and submitted to a research foundation in a cooperative triangle between fellow mentor and the fellow’s supervisor at his/her Institute. From the EPIET Alumni network Christian Winter and Andreas Jansen are APARET mentors and next year Maureen O’Leary will also become an APARET mentor.

On the ESCAIDE conference we had a 1-day workshop before the start of the conference that was followed by our APARET session open to the Public. Unfortunately our conference room was a bit set apart from the rest of the conference so that we could only welcome a few visitors from outside (a big cordial thank you to those who have dropped by and shown their interest!!!). The 8 APARET fellows presented their work on diverse topics such as low cost computers for the diagnosis of malaria, molecular epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance of Staphylococcus aureus, diabetes and hypertension, determinants of sustained use of bed nets, febrile diseases in newborns and infants, cervical cancer screening uptake and rotavirus disease burden and introduction of a vaccination. Prof Elizeus Rutebemberwa, the programme manager of APARET from the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda presented the APARET concept. Dr Sheba Gitta presented the African Field Epidemiology Network, AFENET for which she is the deputy director. The session was crowned by a plenary discussion with 3 European and 3 African epidemiologists on the topic African European cooperation in epidemiological research: where are we and where do we go? The following days we attended the other sessions of the conference or walked through the beautiful ancient city of Edinburgh. The APARET programme will continue. The first cohort will finish their grant applications, so let’s hope for successful applicants who can then implement their project in order to build sustainable capacities for health research in

Africa. The second cohort has already been recruited and the 2nd cohort fellows will meet their mentors on a 2-week initiation workshop in January in Kampala, Uganda.

Norbert Schwarz, EPIET Cohort 12
(schwarznorbert@bni-hamburg.de)

Photo courtesy of Christian Winter (EPIET cohort 12)



The APARET team, back row: Axel Hoffmann, Christian Winter, Ralf Krumkamp, Sven Poppert, Andreas Jansen, Mammadou Sawadogo, Sheba Gitta, Ellis Owusu-Dabo, Jan Hattendorf, Elia John Mmbaga. Front row: Norbert Schwarz, Stella Ekallam, Michael Owusu, Joseph Opare, Aisha Abubakar, Notion Gombe, Azma Simba Ayoub, Isidore Bounkougou, Nykiconia Preacely, Bernard Sawadogo, Elizeus Rutebemberwa



Photo courtesy of Christian Winter (EPIET cohort 12)



Prof. Elizeus Rutebemberwa from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, Programme Manager of the APARET programme and Dr. Sheba Gitta, deputy director of the African Field Epidemiology Network, AFENET. (Photos Christian Winter)

you resources. With that you buy upgrades such as heat resistance (better transmission in arid areas), vector transmission or toxic shock (symptoms) and fancy worded genetic engineering scramblers. As you progress through the game levels, pathogens get meaner and humanity gets smarter. Picking the winning combination of pathogen traits in the face of countermeasures (eg.rodent transmission vs. rat elimination programmes) is challenging, however the bubble popping to earn DNA-points is simplistic at best. The game has very good visuals and an eerie entertainment value, especially for public health specialists.

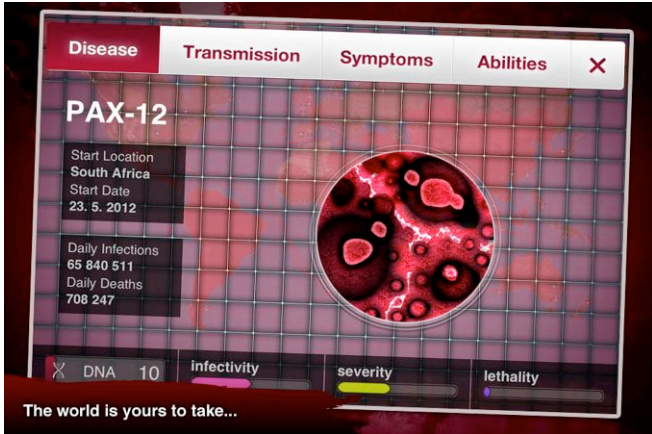
<http://www.ndemiccreations.com/>

From the EPIET archives...

From the archives, see below a picture taken between 1998 and 1999 during a football match at Les Pensières, Veyrier du Lac, France (where the previous EPIET Introductory course was held). Visible in the photo are: Ralph Reintjes, Koye Balogun, Julia Fitzner, Philippe Malfait and others...



Photo courtesy of Natasha Crowcroft (EPIET cohort 1)

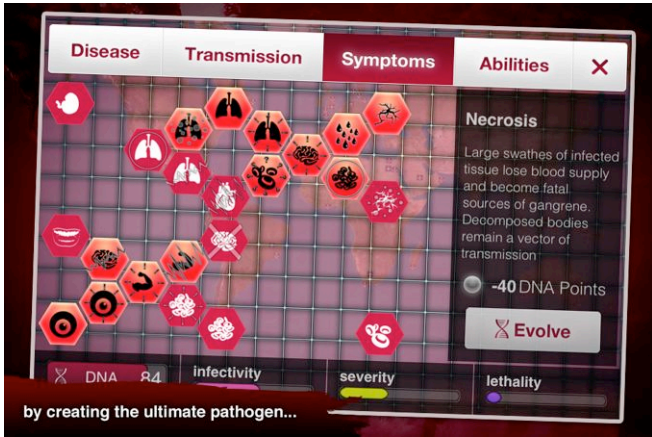


EPI Tool

“The Plague Inc.”

Contributed by Florian burckhard

Plague Inc. is a game that mixes strategy and supposedly realistic simulation. It lets us epidemiologists and public health microbiologists swap chairs and become evil pathogens whose goal is to infect the whole world. Starting with an infected 'Patient Zero', the player uses "DNA points" to alter the three characteristics of the pathogen: transmission, symptoms and abilities. At the same time your opponent ("humanity") is working on a cure. Summary statistics give you eg. the number of states dropping into anarchy due to mass fatality and panic. This is macabre, but so is the whole selling point of the game. From a game mechanic perspective, you simply touch the screen to pop little dots that earn



screenshots



Contribute to the next EAN newsletter!

We are currently looking for contributions for the next newsletter. Would you like to share an interesting experience? Have a cool tool? Are you doing an exciting job somewhere in the world and beyond? Please e-mail your story with subject: newsletter to EANboard@gmail.com.

EPI Cartoon

Of course, it would be impossible to say goodbye to another magnificent year ending, without sending our best wishes to EAN members and friends!

*"MERRY CHRISTMAS FOLKS
AND
A HAPPY, HEALTHY, BALANCED
NEW YEAR!"*

