



(Very) Late SUMMER edition!



Editorial

Dear EAN Friends,

EPIET is turning 20 and soon it will be time to celebrate.

There's a lot to celebrate and there are a multitude of EPIET and EAN events in the upcoming months - both at ESCAIDE and for those that will be blowing the candles throughout the world.

We would also like to invite you to participate in the Photo contest and the pre-ESCAIDE dinner, at our already usual place.

We took the chance to write to Cristina Furtado and hear from one of the first EPIETs ever: she was a member of Cohort 1 and shared the steps she took in her career.

The network is alive and we share the proceedings from the internal work (Board meeting) and the very well attended workshop on Outbreak Epidemiology.

Unfortunately, there was a mistake in the last edition that we want to correct. Thanks to those with eagle eyed readers who pointed it out...the erratum is within.

And don't forget to vote on the statute changes. Five minutes will more than cover the time needed to log on and exercise your democratic rights!

Yours,

The EAN Board



Board

President

Naomi Boxall

Vice-President

Ricardo Mexia

Treasurer

Katherina Zakikhany

Treasurer

Javiera Rebolledo

Secretary

Georgia Ladbury

Secretary

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I graduated in Pharmaceutical Sciences and had my MSc Degree in Epidemiology in the late 80's. Until EPIET I've worked mainly as a Clinical Microbiologist at the Infectious Diseases Department at the National Institute of Health Dr Ricardo Jorge (INSA) and as a lecturer in epidemiology and research methods.

In 1995 my career has changed greatly with the awesome experience of being part of the EPIET first cohort! For two years I was trained in the PHLS Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) and among other projects I highlight my first international assignment as an EPIET Advisor at the PAHO/WHO Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), Trinidad and Tobago, for the design of "A Hotel-based Surveillance System for the Prevention of Food-borne Diseases in the Caribbean Islands".

When I returned to Lisbon my career had a boost and I've been having the opportunity to put into practice all the valuable (technical and human) skills and knowledge that 61 Colindale Av. taught me.

I've worked in the General Directorate in Health as an epidemiologist and in the National Health Institute as the coordinator of the Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Unit of the Infectious Diseases Centre; and as a researcher for 8 years. Meanwhile I achieved my PhD degree in the TB area.

Between 2008-10 I was the Head of the Reference and epidemiological Surveillance Unit of the Infectious Diseases Department at INSA and between 2010-12 I

was a member of the executive board of the National Authority for Medicines and Health Products.

Since 2012 my main activities are some executive functions, research and teaching: member of the executive board (2012-13), scientific researcher of the Reference and Surveillance Unit of the Infectious Diseases Department INSA, member of WP3 of the European Union Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases Joint Action, judge and supervisor of several research fellows and co-researcher of the OPSS – Portuguese Observatory of Health Systems. In 2014 I was part of the expert panel of the ECDC. I've also had some international assignments as a consultant for the World Bank in Brazil - AIDS and STDs Control Project and Disease Surveillance and Control Project (VIGISUS), (2000) and in July I was a WHO field epidemiologist in Guinea-Bissau for the Ebola outbreak.

My teaching activity has accompanied me throughout time and nowadays I am lecturer and courses director of the Epidemiology Master Degree at Lisbon's Medical School and in other universities.

EPIET changed the course of my career and I strongly advise young epidemiologists and to embrace this opportunity.

I must say, though, that my greatest accomplishment is the longitudinal study of motherhood, with my beautiful 14 year old Marta.

Cristina Furtado



This year's annual EAN board meeting was held in London, 18-19. April 2015. All board members were present and the meeting was opened by the EAN president Naomi Boxall. Minutes were taken by Georgia Ladbury (secretary).

The main subject of discussion on the first day was the update/change of the EAN statues as discussed during the GA 2014. On discussion it became evident that there were potentially several changes that need to be made in the statutes in order to bring them up to date to the current situation. All potential points and changes were discussed intensively and all proposed changes are now online on the EAN-website awaiting sufficient participating votes for changes (or not) to be considered valid.

Further items on the agenda included:

1. The future strategy for the EAN

- Review the existing TORs for the role of each board member. We decided to put together a "Board Member Handbook" as guidelines for future EAN boards.
- Feedback from cohort representatives- teleconferences where e.g. reimbursement issues, better connection between current and alumni fellow and EAN representation at the EPIET/EUPHEM introductory-course where discussed.
- Contact persons for prospective fellows. The board discussed whether the board should take over this role; however, it was agreed that it could prove too labour-intensive and that FPO should continue with this task.

- EAN's involvement in the selection process. The EAN president Naomi Boxall was involved in EPIET selection but there is no current involvement of EUPHEM alumni in the selection, something that should be advocated for by EAN.
2. The upcoming EAN mini module "Outbreak anthropology for epidemiologists" (which took place in London from 18-19 May 2015)
 3. Feedback on ESCAIDE Organization 2014
 4. Planning of activities for ESCAIDE 2015 (incl. election of new board members)
 5. EAN and Ebola deployments
 - Javiera reported back on a GOARN meeting she had attended on 23 March 2015 in Guinea, representing EAN. Take-home messages were that EAN is very important for GOARN and that all people working with GOARN in the field must have been recruited from one of the EAN partners. Therefore, membership of EAN is an added advantage as it facilitates epidemiologists not employed by GOARN partners to participate in missions and contribute to international public health activities.
 6. Website issues
 7. Annual report 2014 (which is now ready to download from the website).

The meeting was closed by the EAN president on Sunday 19. April and the complete minutes of the meeting are available on the EAN website (www.epietalumni.net).



In light of the ongoing Ebola outbreak in West Africa, on May 18-19 2015 the EAN held a workshop entitled “**Outbreak anthropology for epidemiologists**” in London, UK, focussing on the contribution that anthropology can make to epidemiologists' traditional approaches to infectious disease outbreak management. Twenty nine participants attended from across the EU, 28 of whom were EAN members, including 11 current fellows. Participants identified their objectives as follows:

- (1) to learn practical applications of anthropology that can be used in the field;
- (2) to bridge the cultural gap between disciplines and institutions;
- (3) to learn more about anthropological methods and data analysis;
- (4) to understand how anthropology is currently integrated into international disease response; and
- (5) to identify the challenges of integrating epidemiology and anthropology in outbreak management.

The first day consisted mainly of lectures. Cathriona Kearns (epidemiologist, Queens University Belfast) gave a presentation entitled *Working interdisciplinarily* which highlighted the dangers of working in disciplinary /institutional silos and championed an interdisciplinary approach to health research, but also drew attention to the cultural challenges that can impede effective interdisciplinary work. Elizabeth Hull (social anthropologist from SOAS)'s presentation, *Qualitative research in disease management*, gave an overview of anthropological methods and analysis together with specific examples of how anthropological approaches have successfully contributed to disease management. David Napier (medical anthropologist from UCL) drew attention to the unpredictability of human behaviour in response to crises in his presentation, *Human*

behaviour in outbreak situations, and Fred Martineau and Annie Wilkinson from the Ebola Anthropology Research Platform explored how anthropology is currently integrated into international outbreak response infrastructure in their presentation, *The contribution of anthropology in international outbreak response*, as well as how that integration could be improved.

The last session of the day was a discussion session between facilitators and participants to allow feedback and exchange of experiences from the West African Ebola outbreak, with particular attention as to where, and what types of, anthropological input would be beneficial. EAN members Giovanna Jaramillo Gutierrez and Aileen Kitching sparked off the discussion by relating their experiences from Guinea and Sierra Leone respectively, together with Annie Wilkinson feeding back her experience from the anthropological perspective. Emergent themes included: the clear benefit of integrating epidemiological and anthropological approaches and knowledges to develop improved outbreak responses; the need to systematically incorporate anthropology in international disease response both at the ground level (in the field) and the macro level (at co-ordinating institutions such as WHO Geneva); the difficulties of reconciling the more long-term methodological approach of anthropology with the need for speed in decision-making in outbreak situations; and the challenge presented by community responses to outbreaks being unpredictable and therefore difficult to anticipate and plan for in “peace time”.

On day two attendees split into two groups to determine practical ways to promote and improve integration between epidemiology and anthropology in outbreak response.

Save the date:



Suggestions from the groups included the following:

- Incorporate basic anthropological training in FETPs
- Supply community briefing papers to epidemiologists going to the field to prepare them for the socio-cultural context they will encounter
- Train local health workers as “cultural brokers” who can help give epidemiologists key local insights that may help them design appropriate interventions
- Develop an emergency anthropology network to provide immediate expertise in outbreak situations
- Advocate for anthropology at high level (e.g. World Health Assembly, G7 meetings)
- Include regular anthropological contributions in widely-read field epidemiology publications e.g. Eurosurveillance, MMWR
- Publish a paper calling for better integration between epidemiology and anthropology in a high-impact journal, citing the proceeds of this workshop

Overall, 95% of participants who responded to an evaluation survey (n=21, response rate 72%) said they were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the workshop. For those of you who couldn’t make it, presentations are available on the EAN website in Powerpoint and video format – <http://epietalumni.net/workshop1/>.

Please email the board at eanboard@gmail.com if you have any trouble accessing the videos.

The board would like to thank the UK Infectious Disease Research Network (www.idrn.org) for hosting the workshop, and the University of Glasgow for providing funding (secured through a Skills Training Award to Georgia Ladbury, who is currently conducting a PhD at the university and organised the workshop).

Aside from the inspiring discussions, the workshop was another great opportunity to get EAN members together and strengthen the bonds of our network. We would encourage members to take the initiative to organise similar workshops/mini-modules in their own areas of expertise! The EAN board will be able to assist you with logistics and costs, so just drop us a line at eanboard@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!





Pocket App

The Pocket App saves articles, videos and other web content for you to read later. The layout of the content is optimized for an easy-to-view experience for your phone and tablet.

It's free of charge and available on all major mobile platforms.

This might be a great app to take to the field, where internet connection might be expensive or unavailable. Plus, desktop Browser extensions for Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Internet Explorer let you save anything from your Desktop to your Phone and Tablet in a one click.



From your EAN Board



JOIN US

EAN Best oral presentation Prize ESCAIDE 2015

We are looking for people from the EPIET Alumni Network that will be attending ESCAIDE 2015 to help us in comprising a jury panel to judge the Best Oral presentation for the EAN prize.

send us an email to eanboard@gmail.com if you are interested
**include the sessions you would like to judge!*



Winner 2012



Winner 2013



Winner 2014

As usual, EAN is organizing, in collaboration with ECDC, the **fourth edition of the photo contest**, open to all conference attendees.

Therefore, if during your adventurous life as an epidemiologist/microbiologist/public health expert:

- you came across a situation, a landscape, a character, an unusual and memorable "something" related to public health,
- you took a picture that can represent and depict one of the many facets the life in "the field",
- and you want to share your memories and emotions with those who can grasp their meaning,

The deadline for submission of a photograph is Monday 2nd November , 2015

You can submit your artwork to the following link: <https://ssl.voozanoo.net/vooean/code/scripts/aindex.php>

You will also find the rules and guidelines of the contest.

All photos will be displayed during the conference and attendees will be asked to vote for their preferred picture. Voting will close after the lunch break of the third day (13th November) of the conference.

If you face any issue while uploading your picture, please let us know and alternatively you can send it by email with the title, time and place where it was taken, and a description.



Literally! We can't change the Statutes without you!

During the 2014 EAN General Assembly it became apparent that the current statutes need to be updated in order to be fit for purpose. In light of this, the board has drafted several amendments which are available for voting on now.

We need as many members as possible to vote, so that the potential statute changes can be valid. Please go to the members area on the website to vote on the poll for Statute changes.

The rationale for each change is available on the poll, but feel free to email us at eanboard@gmail.com for any question you might have.



The beginning

In a cold November, back in 1995, the first EPIET Introductory Course was held, with cohort 1 including 10 fellows. This marked the start of the European Intervention Epidemiology Programme, under the daily leadership of Frank van Loock and the scientific coordination of Alain Moren and Mike Rowland.

Twenty years have passed and the program has grown quite a lot, with around 40 fellows starting in current cohorts. They now have several paths (including the EPIET and EUPHEM), EU-track and MS-track fellows and EPIET Associated Programmes that are actually National FETP's that decided to join EPIET training.

A lot has changed, but the matrix is always there, as well as a sense of belonging.

We have a network of enthusiastic epidemiologists that have sprung to the field in many of the Global Health challenges that we have faced, be it the Ebola Epidemic or the Influenza Pandemic for example.

The next 20 years will probably present new challenges and we will all be looking forward, as a network, to make a dent in the Universe!

20 Years, 20 Stories

We invite storytellers to share their anecdotes, perspectives or events that are worth sharing. It should be possible to bring at least 20 personal stories together. Who could forget the fake “outbreak” in Menorca, the shopping cart races or the “Games” at Circus Maximus?

Don't hesitate to share the stories from these 20 years!

Go social!

If you use Twitter, use the hashtag #EPIET20 to celebrate! And you might find some trivia about EPIET and EUPHEM!

Facebook is also included: Join in the fun!

Go (even more) social!

if you can, be there! Getting together as many Alumni as we can will certainly be the best gift we can give to the Programme. So, if you can, join the celebration in Stockholm, on the 13th November 2015.

See you there!



ERRATUM on donation for Travel Grant

There was a mistake in the last edition of the EAN newsletter. In the text concerning the EAN Grant Challenge, it was mentioned that “In 2014, cohort 11 (2005) got together and chipped in enough money to pay” for one travel grant.

In fact, it was cohort 10 (2004) that adopted one travel grant, and it was a great example.

Thanks Annick Lenglet for pointing that out!

Still, the challenge is on! Can your cohort also make a donation for a Travel Grant?



From the treasurers:

DON'T FORGET to pay the annual membership fee which is €20 (GBP 18) 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, we kindly ask you to contact the EAN board (eanboard@gmail.com), putting "membership payment" in the subject line.

Please, note that members that are not up to date with their membership payment won't be able to vote at the GA. So do not forget to pay your membership fees before the GA!!

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).

Thank you for your support!

EAN Bank details

EURO ACCOUNT (€20)

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

GBP ACCOUNT (£18)

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