



*Alós d'Isil, Pyrenees, Spain  
[Photo @ Iro Evlampidou]*

## Editorial

Dear friends,

Another winter is here... And also the time for the EAN winter 2018-19 newsletter.

We were happy to see so many of you at ESCAIDE 2018 last year in Malta. In this seasonal edition we look back at ESCAIDE 2018 and we present as usual the winners of the best oral and poster presentations, and best photo of the EAN photo contest. We also give you an overview of the EAN satellite events while we congratulate yet another successful graduating cohort of EPIET and EUPHEM fellows, cohort 2016!

Following the General Assembly, two new EAN board members were elected and one EAN Board member was re-elected; they will introduce themselves in this newsletter. To our leaving EAN board members, Alma Tostmann (former Vice-President), and Suzan Trienekens (former Secretary): we are grateful for all your hard work and dedication in service of EAN and we are sure our paths will cross again in the future!

The Winter Edition is not all about ESCAIDE. We would also like to introduce you to Daniel Thomas, one of the EPIET scientific coordinators, and Lisa Hansen is sharing with us her experience with TEPHINET accreditation in Nigeria.

Enjoy the Newsletter!

**The EAN Board**

### The EAN board

**President**

Amrish Baidjoe

**Vice-President**

Kostas Danis

**Treasurer**

Lieke van Alphen

**Treasurer**

Céline Barnadas

**Secretary**

Iro Evlampidou

**Secretary**

Diogo Marques

## Word from the president: An Outlook upon a new year

Dear members, although late, yet never too late, we would like to wish you all the best for 2019. As a new board we are getting ready to meet in Maastricht at the end of this month to discuss our annual strategy and main objectives for this year. As mentioned last year, if you have any feedback for us or would like to help the board in any of the soon to be established working groups please do reach out to us.

A few things that are planned for this year are intensifying our collaborations with international partners. Especially with TEPHINET. At the end of last year, the sad news reached us that Dionisio Jose Herrera Guibert passed away. I had the pleasure to meet him on a few occasions and many will agree with me that he was one of a kind in the most positive way you can imagine. The type of leaders we possibly need at this time in age. Within the global FETP community Dionisio was highly appreciated for his unique ways of bringing together different people while always carrying a warm smile and strong hug with him. He played a large role in supporting many new FETP programmes. He will be greatly missed. We wish his family, but also his family at TEPHINET warmth in this difficult period. As a network, we will keep collaborating in that same warm spirit of collaboration which Dionisio stood for with TEPHINET and all other global partners.

This year will also be the year in which we will run the new EAN membership survey. The last one was [conducted back in 2013/2014](#). Expect it into your inboxes in Q2 of this year. Results will follow later this year.

Our door is always open, any ideas for a new workshop? Or ideas for the newsletter? Please e-mail us (that includes current fellows). Thank you!

Best wishes,  
Amrish



*[Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]*

## Meet the EPIET/EUPHEM Coordinators: Daniel Thomas

We would like to start our Winter 2018/19 Newsletter by introducing a (relatively) new EPIET scientific coordinator, Daniel Thomas. Daniel is based in the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, Public Health Wales and joined EPIET in September 2017. He also became a member of EAN recently, so we took this opportunity to interview him and learn a little bit about him.

### **EAN: First of all, can you describe your background and how you ended up in field epidemiology?**

I got hooked on epidemiology when studying Biology at Imperial College, London. This was in the 1980s when Roy Anderson and Bob May were applying population ecology methods to model the transmission dynamics of infectious disease. After graduating from Imperial I had a number of short-term field jobs in nematology and entomology before undertaking a Ministry of Agriculture-funded PhD in veterinary epidemiology. I spent three years driving around Snowdonia in my wellies studying the population dynamics of nematode parasites of sheep. This was quite literally 'field epidemiology' (I spent quite a lot of my time in fields). After completing my PhD I moved back to South Wales where I got a job in the Public Health Laboratory Service running a cohort study of zoonotic illnesses in farming communities. Thus, I made the move from animal to human health. I have worked for the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, now part of Public Health Wales, for over 20 years and have developed an expertise in public health surveillance and applied epidemiology.

### **When did you first hear about the EPIET/EUPHEM programme?**

I first heard about the EPIET programme a long time ago, in the 1990s I think. Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre hosted a Fellow from one of the early cohorts, Gunnar Nylen. We all enjoyed having Gunnar based with us. We have had many EPIET fellows in Cardiff since. They have all been special, great fun and are an important part of the history of the unit.



*Daniel Thomas*

### **Why did you apply for the function of coordinator?**

To give something back to the programme. We have gained a lot in Wales from hosting EPIET Fellows. It's great to now be able to help support the programme.

### **What do you like about your role as coordinator?**

I'm always so impressed by the fellows. They are inspiring to work with, and each has a different background and skill set. I enjoy working as part of the coordination team and learning from others. It's great to work with so many experts. Site visits provide the opportunity to see how other institutes approach the same complex public health problems that we have in Wales.

### **What kind of activities does your function involve? Can you describe 'a typical day' of a coordinator's life?**

I am 50% contracted as a Scientific Coordinator on the fellowship so my challenge is to juggle my EPIET work with my Public Health Wales responsibilities. I try to work from home or 'hot desk' at the Keir Hardie Health Park in Merthyr Tydfil to help me protect some time for EPIET business, reading through abstracts and project protocols, Skype calls with fellows, preparing for site visits and modules. Of course, the scientific coordination role requires some overseas travel, so this provides an enjoyable break from the routine.

### **How do you see the EPIET/EUPHEM programme developing in the future?**

Public health threats are constantly emerging. We must keep ahead of the curve on antimicrobial resistance, emerging infections, and the pressures caused by infectious disease on over-stretched health services. We also must keep a watch on the usefulness of new technologies, for example Whole Genome Sequencing and new data science techniques. Having said that, the core principles of field epidemiology don't change. The fellowship must keep abreast of changes whilst adhering to its core principles. I wonder whether the syllabus will be extended in future to include environmental hazards other than communicable disease, such as outdoor air pollution.

### **Based on your own experience, what would you consider worthwhile transferring over to the programme?**

I have a strong scientific background and try to combine this with a desire to make a difference to the population of Wales. I hope this is a good fit to the programme's objectives.

### **Any tips for the new fellows?**

Start writing early and keep communicating with your supervisor and frontline coordinator. Take full advantage of the opportunities offered through the programme. Enjoy!

### **Is there something typical about you (work or private) that people don't know and that you want to share with the network?**

In my youth I played guitar in a punk rock band. Now I help run Pontypridd Jazz Club.

### **Is there something you would like to say to the EAN?**

Hello to all the alumni who have spent time in Wales! Although I didn't do EPIET myself, I feel part of the extended family. Keep up the good work EAN!

## TEPHINET Accreditation 2018, by Lisa Hansen, EPIET coordinator

In November 2018, I spent a week with the Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (FELTP), as an external reviewer for TEPHINET (Training in Public Health Interventions Network): the Nigeria FELTP has been in operation for a decade, trains about 50 fellows per cohort, and sought accreditation as recognition that the programme meets the global standards of a two-year field epidemiology training programme. Spoiler: the Nigeria FELTP is now accredited – hooray! So, what’s in it for a reviewer, and for the larger FETP community?

As a history lesson, the first FETP was the U.S. CDC’s Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), founded in 1951 during the Korean War to build public health capacity in the U.S. The model was adopted in Canada starting in 1975 (I was in Cohort 30 in 2004!), and the Thailand FETP was the first outside of North America, launching in 1980. There are now 71 programmes operating in more than 100 countries, many supported by “Resident Advisors” who are graduates of EIS and other international FETPs: TEPHINET was founded in 1997 as a global network of FETPs, including those with laboratory and veterinary components, to support quality improvement, continuous learning, and operational support.

### Learning from each other through accreditation

FETPs everywhere subscribe to the mandate of building national and global workforce capacity through learning in service to public health. Although programmes share tools, curriculum and personnel, they also organize and deliver their programmes depending on regional and national structures and needs. The growth of this model around the world created a demand for international FETPs to gauge whether their programmes are aligned with, and comparable to, their peers. A TEPHINET working group established measures that would allow programmes to identify areas of improvement and, if desired, apply for external accreditation from TEPHINET. The working group also developed a training module to prepare evaluators for their role: the face-to-face training was piloted at ECDC in February 2017.



[Photo from TEPHINET training @ ECDC]

The accreditation working group, representing global partners and programmes, identified 4 domains for accreditation standards:

1. Management, Infrastructure and Operations
2. Integration with Public Health Service
3. Staffing and Supervision
4. Selection and Training of Residents



[Photo from TEPHINET training @ ECDC]

Within each domain are several minimum indicators and standards that programmes must demonstrate that they meet, in order to achieve accreditation. The first step is for programmes to assess themselves and send a Letter of Intent to TEPHINET. If eligible, the programme is then invited to assemble documentation to apply for accreditation. An external team of trained reviewers, convened by TEPHINET, assesses the application and supporting documents, and decides if the programme should receive a site visit for further information-gathering and verification.

Here’s where the field epidemiologists get busy! In the first two rounds of TEPHINET accreditation in 2016-2017, eight well-established FETPs earned accreditation, including the U.S. EIS, the Canadian Field Epidemiology Program and the UK FETP. In 2018, several global programmes applied for accreditation and received site visits. I was invited to join a review team for the Nigeria FELTP, along with Manickam Ponniah of the India FETP, in Abuja.

The Nigerian FELTP has a unique – and complex – structure. It is the product of a partnership between two federal ministries (Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoA&RD)), two universities (University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University), the newly-established Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, AFENET (the African Field Epidemiology Network), and is funded primarily via the U.S. CDC Global Health Program. It recruits fellows (“residents” in Nigeria) for 3 tracks: medical epidemiology, laboratory and veterinary sciences. Residents of the Nigeria FELTP have no shortage of field opportunities: we heard about Lassa fever and monkeypox outbreaks, lead poisoning, and polio immunization in extremely difficult conditions.



[Photo from TEPHINET training @ ECDC]

In our five days in Abuja, Manickam and I reviewed a mountain of documents from the Nigeria FELTP, visited labs, classrooms and training sites, and interviewed over 30 individuals including current fellows and alumni, supervisors, MoH and MoA&RD



representatives, U.S. CDC partners, and the executive director of the Nigeria CDC, Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, who just happens to be an alumnus of EPIET!



*Lisa Hansen, Chikwe Ihekweazu [Photo from TEPHINET training @ ECDC]*

The Nigeria FELTP received accreditation from the TEPHINET Global Accrediting Body, who met in Mozambique in November, shortly after our site visit was completed. (Manickam and I were very happy to recommend accreditation for the programme, based on our site visit and assessment, although the final decision rests with TEPHINET).

#### **What's the benefit of accreditation?**

Of course, receiving accreditation has value for programmes which they can leverage for more resources or recognition. Going through the process is also intended to help programme staff identify areas for improvement. Speaking as a reviewer, participating in the process really made me reflect how we manage our programmes and document our achievements: at every step, I was comparing how the NFELTP recruited, trained

and evaluated residents to my experiences with the Canadian FETP, the Caribbean FELTP, and the ECDC Fellowship Programme. Manickam brought the perspective of a coordinator who works with a degree-granting, university-affiliated FETP. I am sure we had at least as many conversations about how we teach specific topics in our own programmes as we did about the content of Nigeria's curriculum, and have discussed future collaboration on evaluation methods.

Going through the review with the NFELTP resident advisors and residents illustrated how many moving parts there are: as in our programme, the NFELTP relies on a network of motivated site supervisors and coordinators. The final products (demonstrated in a 'bound volume' for NFELTP residents, portfolios for EPIET and EUPHEM fellows) don't always reflect the energy and expertise that residents and supervisors bring to their projects – which, I am happy to report, came through loud and clear in our in-depth interviews.



*[Photo from TEPHINET training @ ECDC]*

More than anything else, contributing to the accreditation review reinforces my appreciation for the global endeavour of building public health capacity. Each country or region deals with their own challenges, but we share a common goal and are part of a much greater initiative.

## ESCAIDE 2018

This year's ESCAIDE took place in the beautiful island of Malta! The weather was great and allowed us to enjoy not only the very interesting conference but also the old town of Valletta, the lovely island Gozzo and to get together with old friends and colleagues and meet new ones! Below are some highlights of the conference.



[Photo@ Iro Evlampidou]

## Best Oral and Poster presentation winners

Conference attendees coming from many different places of the world presented their scientific work at ESCAIDE 2018 through oral and poster presentations. Continuing the tradition, EAN awarded a prize to two presentations, one for the “best oral” and one for the “best poster”, which were most effective in transmitting a public health message. EAN members comprising the “EAN Prize Committee” judged the oral presentations. This year, the poster presentations were judged by the conference attendees via an online voting system embedded in the ESCAIDE 2018 application. As usual, many presentations were of high-quality and competed for the prize! The first authors of the presentations with the highest scores received the prize by our President during the closing ceremony. We would like to thank all judges scoring the oral presentations and the conference delegates who voted for the best poster.

Congratulations to both!

### Best Oral presentation:

**Lauriane Ramalli:** “Evaluation of the seasonal human surveillance system for neuroinvasive West Nile virus infections in France: a surveillance system that does not meet its objective”.



[Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]

### Best Poster presentation:

**Diogo F.P. Marques** with his poster on “Outbreak of influenza B and group A streptococcal co-infection among international travellers on a coach tour of Scottish Highlands & Islands”.



## ESCAIDE 2018 – Photo Contest

Apart from the best oral and poster presentation prize, EAN awarded for one more year a prize for the best photo! Conference delegates sent in their photos presenting their experiences in the field. There were 16 very nice shots, taken from different parts of the globe that showed the reality in the field!

### Submitted photos for ESCAIDE 2018 EAN Photo Contest



The photos were displayed during the conference and many delegates voted for their favourite photo. The three best photos were revealed during the closing ceremony and the one that got the most votes was awarded a prize.



**First Place:** *“Despite it all”* by Lucia Reh

This year, following the idea of one of the winners and current fellow Raquel Medialdea and with the consent of the photographers and the help of other fellows, EAN is organizing a “Traveling Field Epi and Public Health Microbiology Photo Exhibition” with all the submitted photos that will be displayed in various Public Health Institutes around Europe! The Traveling Photo Exhibition will soon make its debut in Malta at the Department for Health Regulation, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and the next destination will be Germany! The idea is to raise awareness about the realities in the field and to promote the EAN Photo Contest during ESCAIDE so that more people will submit their photos! A provisional programme will be available in our website soon, so keep an eye out for it!



**Second place:** *“Field visit to Jamtoli camp, Cox’s Bazar”* by Stefanie Böhm



**Third place:** *“The gaze of hope”* by Raquel Medialdea



## Career Compass

Following the success of last year, a second edition of Career Compass was organised during ESCAIDE 2018 by Cohort representatives of the graduating cohort 2016 (Alastair Donachie, Zsafia Igloi) jointly with cohort 2017 (Timothy Dub, Lucia Reh), EAN (Alma Tostmann) and the ESCAIDE organising committee.

The panel this year consisted of Chris Barbara (Mater Dei Hospital, Malta), Grazia Caleo (MSF – Manson Unit), Thibaut Jombart (RECON, Imperial College), Jane Whelan (GSK) and Emilie Perron (WHO) and was moderated by Arnold Bosmann (Transmissible).



From left to right: Alastair Donachie, Thibaut Jombart, Jane Whelan, Emilie Perron, Grazia Caleo, Chris Barbara [Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]

The event was attended by many fellows, alumni but also other conference delegates who were interested to hear about and ask questions on the professional choices, career paths, challenges and opportunities of our five colleagues working in the public, private and NGO sector.



[Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]

This year's high participation filled us with optimism that we'll see Career Compass No. 3 next year in Stockholm!



[Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]

## BarCamp

This year's BarCamp, organised again by Florian Burckhardt, Amrish Baidjoe and the ESCAIDE organising committee was another highlight of the Conference!



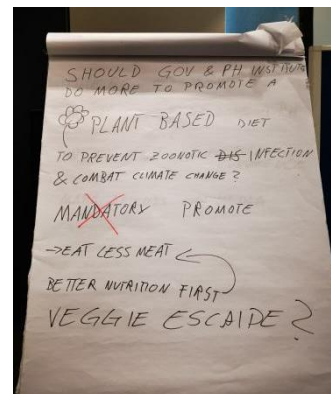
[Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]

In a room full of people and energy, with the support of some wine and appetizers, we actively discussed suggested topics, argued and laughed!



[Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]

The topics included the role of governments and Public Health institutions in promoting plant-based diets to prevent zoonotic infections and combat climate change, failures and opportunities in public health and the role of political convenience, international missions in the Fellowship Programme and the usefulness of predictive models in outbreaks.



[Photo@ Amrish Baidjoe]

Very very interesting and inspiring!



## ESCAIDE 2018 – Graduation of Cohort 2016

The ESCAIDE is not only a Conference, it is also the time and place for the graduation ceremony of EPIET, EUPHEM and EAP fellows!!

We gathered to celebrate and congratulate cohort 2016 for graduating from their fellowship! The ceremony, dinner and consequent party was held at the “The Xara Lodge”.

Graduating fellows from cohort 2016, fellows from cohorts 2017 and 2018, scientific coordinators, site supervisors, Fellowship Office staff and of course EAN Board members and many friends and alumni of the programme were there.

At the opening of the graduation dinner the Heads of EPIET and EUPHEM Programme, the chairs of EPIET and EUPHEM Training Site Forum, the EAN President and the cohort representatives spoke a few words about the graduating fellows and their future adventures in Field Epi and Public Health Microbiology!



*Cohort representatives giving their farewell speech (Alastair Donachie, Zsofia Igloi) [Photo@ Iro Evlampidou]*



*Graduating fellows waiting for their diploma (Monique Pereboom, Ikaru Bolt, Ashley Sharp, Zvezdana Lovrić) [Photo@ Iro Evlampidou]*

We also saw the traditional presentation with fellows’ photos and a great goodbye video prepared by the graduating cohort!



*Cohort 2016, with love from Spetses, Greece [Photo@ Iro Evlampidou]*

The buffet dinner that followed was excellent and we all enjoyed the tasty Mediterranean/Maltese cuisine!



*[Photo@ Amrish Baidjoe]*

And of course after having eaten well, we joined the lively party that was full of dancing until (unfortunately) 03:00 hrs.



*Dancing till the music stopped! [Photo@ Iro Evlampidou]*

Big thanks to the organizers of this fantastic event and to all for the great evening! See you again this year for the anticipated graduation of cohort 2017!

# ESCAIDE 2018 Satellite Events

## EAN joint workshop with RECON: “Introduction into R for surveillance and outbreak analytics”, Malta, 19-20 October 2018

In November 2018, after the very successful workshop in October in Sofia, Bulgaria, EAN in collaboration with [RECON](#) (R Epidemics Consortium) organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on “[Introduction into R for surveillance and outbreak analytics](#)” that took place at the Mater Dei Hospital in Malta during two days (19-20 November 2018) as a satellite event of ESCAIDE 2018. Chris Barbara (Clinical Chairman, Pathology Department), together with Maria-Louise Borg (EPIET Alumni, cohort 17, Department for Health Regulation, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, MoH, Malta) and Raquel Medialdea (fellow, cohort 2018) helped us in the organisation while being wonderful hosts!

At the end of ESCAIDE 2018 Conference, on 24 and 25 November 2018, there was additionally a [hackfest](#) that brought together seasoned field epidemiologists and R developers for two purposes: to document case studies for outbreak analytics (<https://reconlearn.org>) and to generate automated situation reports for the users' data.



[Photo@ RECON]

A big thanks to the participants, speakers, facilitators and one especially to **Amrish, Lieke, Thibaut, Zhian and the rest of the RECON team** for making this workshop possible!



[Photo@ Amrish Baidjoe]

Participants listened to presentations, got introduced to the software and the basic code used in outbreaks, learned how to produce automatic situation reports, debated and discussed with RECON facilitators during this 2-day workshop.

The workshop was aimed at people currently undertaking, or having recently completed, a field-epidemiology training programme (FETP), with some interest in epidemics analysis using R. Participants got an overview and gained practical experience of new packages for outbreak analysis developed by RECON, including descriptive approaches (epicurves), short-term forecasting, or automated sitrep generation.



[Photo@ Amrish Baidjoe]



## Pre-ESCAIDE EAN Drinks & Dinner

ESCAIDE could not be without the traditional get together of EAN alumni, fellows and friends! This year we took advantage of the good weather of Malta and we met at “Naar” in beautiful Saint Julian’s bay on the 21 November 2018, just after the R workshop ended.



[Photos @Iro Evlampidou (1-5) & Amrish Baidjoe (6)]

It was a great evening with lots of good vibes and energy! Thanks to all who joined us! Hope to see you again soon.

## ESCAIDE - 2018: Meeting of cohort representatives and EAN Vice President

ESCAIDE is the time of year when the cohort representatives meet face-to-face with the EAN Vice President in addition to the regular telephone conference that takes place every 2-3 months. During these meetings matters that relate to the fellowship and the alumni network are discussed, opinions are exchanged and advice is given.

The current cohort representatives for cohort 2017 are Lucia Reh and Regina Selb replacing Lucia (EUPHEM) and Timothee Dub (EPIET). For cohort 2018 are Sonia Boender (EPIET), Max Riess (EUPHEM) and Ettore Amato (EUPHEM). Max and Ettore are EUPHEM cohort representative and deputy respectively for year 1 and vice versa for year 2. Alastair Donachie (EPIET) and Zsofia Igloi (EUPHEM) were the cohort representatives for C2016.



From left to right: Sonia Boender, Alastair Donachie, Zsofia Igloi, Alma Tostmann, Timothee Dub, Lucia Reh, Maximilian Riess, Regina Selb and Xanthi Andrianou

## ESCAIDE 2018 – EAN General Assembly

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 the EAN General Assembly (GA) and EAN Board elections took place during ESCAIDE 2018 at the Hilton Malta and was attended by more than 100 people.

The board initially presented the Annual and Financial Report that included two modules in R co-organised with RECON, many communications and social events with members such as Newsletters, Job Bulletins, GOARN calls and Drinks & Dinners in various cities in Europe like Madrid, Stockholm and Barcelona.

An important announcement that will make the life of our members easier was that the EAN membership year will now run from GA to GA (Nov 1st to Oct 31st) independent of on when during that period the membership has been renewed/paid. 2018-2019 will be a transition year.



*EAN board 2017-18. From left to right: Amrish, Alma, Céline, Lieke, Suzan and Iro.*

Amrish Baidjoe, presented an overview of EAN's planned activities for 2018/19 that included more modules, the creation of working groups dealing with various topics or tasks like the newsletter and the EPIET/EUPHEM Yearbook, the upcoming membership survey and the intensification of our external collaborations with different networks including TEPHINET, MediPIET, CARPHA, etc.

The GA continued with a presentation of an introduction to TEPHINET given by Miriam Alderman, the Deputy Director of TEPHINET. This was then followed by an interesting discussion on training and education both during and after the fellowship. The GA was then closed by a discussion on the challenges that some of us face in certain countries in regards to the acknowledgement of our EPIET professional qualifications. In response to this, EAN has just created a new working group to work on this issue. If you are interested in joining in, drop us an email!



*Miriam Alderman, TEPHINET and EAN Board [Photo@ Transmissible/@iTrainEU]*

We would like to say a big **'Thanks and keep in touch!!'** to Alma Tostmann (Vice President, 2016-2018) and Suzan Trienekens (Secretary, 2016-2018) whose two-years' term ended in this GA. Both Suzan and Alma were a big asset for the Board and contributed greatly to the day-to-day affairs, the organization of activities and to the strategic discussions we had in these last years! Alma was very much appreciated for her support to the fellows of the programme and Suzan will be forever cherished for organizing and putting an order to our email inbox!!! Lieke van Alphen also stepped down after two years serving as a Treasurer (2016-2018) but she enjoyed that experience so much that decided to run for Treasurer again! So, many thanks to you all for your enthusiasm, time, effort and input to EAN Board and the network in these last two years.



Finally, we would like to say another big **'Thanks!'** to all our members, both alumni and fellows for attending the GA and for their constructive input and suggestions! We will share the minutes of the GA with the active EAN members very soon.



## New EAN Board Members (2018 – 2020)



**Kostas Danis**  
**Vice-President**  
**EPIET cohort 2002**

Kostas (EPIET cohort 2002) is a medical epidemiologist and public health specialist. He has worked for several years in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and Central America with MSF and WHO. He also worked as a regional epidemiologist in the UK and as the head of the vector-borne disease unit of the Greek CDC. He has taught in many courses of field epidemiology worldwide. During 2012-2018, he worked as an EPIET scientific coordinator.

He currently works as an epidemiologist in the unit of respiratory and vaccine preventable diseases of the National Public Health Institute in France.

Kostas trained as a medical doctor in Greece and obtained his master in Epidemiology in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK. He completed EPIET in Ireland and Northern Ireland (cohort 2002). His training also included a four-year specialization in occupational and public health medicine and a PhD thesis in public health.



**Diogo Marques,**  
**Secretary**  
**EPIET cohort 2015**

I'm a Portuguese epidemiologist with a veterinarian background. Following my degree in veterinary medicine I moved to Scotland to work in veterinary epidemiology research at the University of Glasgow. In 2013, I crossed to the human side and joined Health Protection Scotland as an epidemiologist. The national public health institute in Scotland has since been my base both during and post-EPIET programme. I'm very proud to be part of the amazing Cohort 2015.

Currently I'm working in the Respiratory team where most of my time is spent around influenza surveillance, vaccination programme and outbreak response. When I'm not dealing with EAN or influenza related activities, you will probably find me walking my six Castro Laboreiro dogs or flying my Snowy Owl. You might also see me wearing a kilt at ESCAIDE :).

It is a great pleasure to be part of the EAN board and to be able to help improve this already great network.



**Lieke van Alphen**  
**Treasurer**  
**EUPHEM cohort 2015 (re-elected)**

Lieke van Alphen (EUPHEM cohort 4 (2011)) is a Medical Molecular Microbiologist at the Maastricht University Medical Centre, the Netherlands.

She is head of the molecular typing lab at the academic hospital, involved in the molecular diagnostics of patients from the academic hospital and the region, teaches within different programs of the Maastricht University and is involved in Public Health related research with a focus on antimicrobial resistance and STDs.

## Face-to-face EAN Board Meeting and EAN Drinks & Dinner, Maastricht, 2 February 2019

The EAN Board will have the annual face-to-face meeting in **Maastricht** during the first weekend of February 2019. Please come and join us for Drinks & Dinner on **Saturday evening 2 February 2019**.

**Location:** a nice restaurant/bar in Maastricht, Netherlands.

More details will follow, and will be available on the [EAN website](#), but please spread the word to all EPIET/EUPHEM fellows, alumni and friends. We hope to see you all there!



*EAN Board 2018-19, from left to right: Céline Barnadas (photo-editing), Amrish Baidjoe, Kostas Danis, Iro Evlampidou, Diogo Marques, Lieke van Alphen*

## Obituary – Dr Dionisio Jose Herrera Guibert, Director of TEPHINET

[source: [TEPHINET](#), reposting]

### **An Enduring Legacy: A Tribute to Our Late Director, Dr. Dionisio Herrera**

On December 4, 2018, the global field epidemiology community lost a visionary leader, nurturing mentor, fierce champion and generous friend. It is with unspeakable sadness that the TEPHINET Secretariat announces the passing of our director, Dr Dionisio Jose Herrera Guibert.

Always with a ready smile, and always willing to listen and help, Dr Herrera—or “Dio,” as he was affectionately known—was, to most of his colleagues, a friend first and a co-worker second. His genuine interest in people gave him an almost magical ability to build connections and create opportunities with colleagues in more than a hundred countries regardless of culture or geographic distance. As we in the global health arena know, overcoming precisely these obstacles is one of the biggest challenges to achieving results in our field. The global enterprise of field epidemiology training programs benefited from having a leader in TEPHINET who was able to do this with relative ease. Dr. Herrera helped TEPHINET grow, but he also helped develop and/or expand regional FETP networks in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the Eastern Mediterranean. Public health systems around the world are stronger because of his tireless efforts.

When Dr Herrera took the helm of TEPHINET in March of 2009, our network consisted of 30 field epidemiology training programs working in the same number of countries. Today, our network comprises 71 programs serving more than 100 countries. Upon Dr. Herrera’s arrival, the TEPHINET Secretariat operated with four staff members; today, we have a team of 20. Overseeing all of this

growth was a leader unmatched in his patience and compassion for others.

On October 30, 2018, The Task Force for Global Health honoured Dr Herrera with its inaugural Consequential Compassion Award for Extraordinary Achievement in Global Health in a ceremony held at its headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. In attendance were members of his family, including his wife, children, and parents. Dr Herrera often remarked that his family motivated his work. It is no wonder, then, that under his leadership, TEPHINET became more than a professional network; it became a family that worked together, and together we will continue his legacy.



*Dr Dionisio Jose Herrera Guibert*



## In the next edition!

- ✓ The Board will present a summary of their plans and main activities for the coming year following their face-to face-meeting in Maastricht, Netherlands
- ✓ A brand new 'Where are you now?'
- ✓ Introduction to EAN working groups + new "How can you get involved" section
- ✓ Information on forthcoming EAN workshops
- ✓ And much more

## Membership

**The annual membership fee is now €30 / £28.**

**There is a 10-year membership available at €250 / £230.**

**Please note that membership year runs from Nov 1st to Oct 31st of each calendar year. Make payment now and have your membership extended until Oct 31st 2019 (or 2028)!**

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

The details for how to transfer fees by online banking are on the EAN webpage; 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) with a copy of the receipt/invoice to inform us about your payment (sometimes names are not correctly transmitted with the transfer). Thank you for your support!

### EURO ACCOUNT (€30 per annum)

**Bank:** HSBC UK

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

**Account Holder:** Epiet Alumni Network

**Account Number:** 71822755

**Sort code:** 40-12-76

**IBAN:** GB67HBUK40127671822755

**BIC/Swift code:** HBUKGB4B

### GBP ACCOUNT (£28 per annum)

**Bank:** HSBC UK

**Address:** 18 London Street, Norwich, NR2 1LG, UK

**Account holder:** Epiet Alumni Network

**Account Number:** 43922782

**Sort code:** 40-35-09