EAN News

Newsletter of the EPIET Alumni Network





Autumn in the Isle of Skye – Scotland. Photo by Diogo Marques

Editorial EAN Autumn Newsletter

Board 2018/2019

Dear EAN friends,

Autumn has arrived, and what a busy few months! These past months have seen a new EAN workshop on Social Media for Public Health Professionals (#SoMe4epis), a new cohort of fellows starting, many fellows and alumni getting ready for ESCAIDE (and C2017's graduation!), several GOARN calls for assistance and many new job opportunities.

We are all very much looking forward to meeting many of you at ESCAIDE and discussing EAN's activities and future directions during our annual General Assembly.

In this Autumn edition of the EAN newsletter, you will:

- Meet James Stuart, previous EPIET coordinator and supervisor
- Read about Raquel and Simon experiences during the TEPHINET global conference 2019
- Read about all the EAN activities during ESCAIDE 2019
- Welcome to Cohort 2019 and give congratulations to Cohort 2017

Enjoy the reading and see you soon!

The EAN Board

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A few words from the EAN president

Dear EAN friends,

Hope you are all doing well. In the midst of autumn we are also at a time where we will see many of you soon at ESCAIDE (more accurately, in a few days, sorry for being late with this newsletter, that is on me!). As always EAN is heavily engaged in the preparations of our activities during ESCAIDE including the organisation of our General Assembly. This year we will have another exciting number of activities of ESCAIDE. Starting with the workshop we are organising with RECON on outbreak analytics, this year at ECDC. On Tuesday evening we hope to see many of you at our annual traditional get together at Vapiano Kungsbron near the central station in Stockholm. Further we will be cohosting the barcamp with our own Florian, a place for informal discussions around all subjects in public health. The graduation of another cohort of EPIETs and EUPHEMs and our general assembly.

This year we have a few subjects on the agenda for discussion and voting, most notably: the formal inclusion of our UK friends into the network (post Brexit), the expansion of the advisory board with one General Member to meet the growth of our activities, the felowship evaluation (please do read the executive summary!) and last but not least, we would like to look forward to next year - a special year for EPIET with its 25th anniversary - something we will organise a range of activities around and likely a main activity in September 2020.

Towards what EAN can be, it is evident that field epidemiologists and public health microbiologists are essential to the public health workforce, but more importantly, we also need them as teachers, not just around the technical skills but also as strategists, leaders and sources of inspiration. Some of these discussions I also had in Atlanta with global FETP partners during their global conference. I see a great role there for our network as a group of friends with technical skills that are always willing to help one another. That is the fundament EPIET was shaped on and that is the spirit we want to abide by as an inclusive, strong, progessive and warm network.

I am looking forward seeing and talking with many of you at ESCAIDE (or by mail/other venues).

Warm wishes, Amrish

Interview with James Stuart, previous EPIET coordinator and supervisor

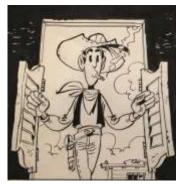
Can you describe your background and how you ended up in field epidemiology and public health?

After qualifying in medicine, I worked for ten years as a clinical doctor in the UK and rural South Africa. Running a small hospital and health district in KwaZulu Natal was an intense and inspiring period both personally and professionally. Helping people with a multitude of severe illnesses was highly rewarding, while at the same time I slowly began to realise the importance of disease prevention and political advocacy. When I returned to UK, I decided to try a career in public health and although I missed involvement in the direct care of illness, I appreciated the value of public health and loved the challenges of epidemiological investigation. In contrast to the clinical doctor role, you don't often get thanked for preventing illness, but you can always reflect from time to time and thank yourself!

How did you start your involvement with EPIET?

My first involvement at EPIET came through Mike Rowland when I was consultant with responsibility for field investigations at Colindale in 1995 I think it was. He asked me to help with project supervision for Cristina Furtado from Cohort 1. I am not sure how that went but he asked me the next year to give a talk in Week 3 of the Introductory Course at Veyrier. On matching. Probably not the easiest subject to introduce me to the EPIET family but I survived. All I can remember is holding up Rothman's Modern Epidemiology and suggesting any questions are referred to him......

...before heading off to the Lucky Saloon.



I continued teaching on the Introductory Course, joining the EPIET scientific coordination team from 2002 to 2003, and then became supervisor at what I believe was the first designated EPIET training site outside a national institute, at Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre in South West England. Chikwe Ihekweazu was the first fellow to be based there, followed by Maarten Hoek.

What is your current role?

Although I used to give my title on the Introductory course in Minorca as "retiring epidemiologist", the retiring bit is still not quite there. I am currently on contract with WHO, helping with a global strategy to defeat meningitis by 2030.



James Stuart

How do you see the future of FETPs and the contribution of EPIET/EUPHEM alumni to public health from your professional perspective?

I am confident that there will always be a future for FETPs because of their added value to public health. My experience of research and investigation with EPIET fellows really shows the added value of new epidemiological skills and enthusiasm. Fellows like Chikwe Ihekweazu using both epidemiological and diplomatic skills to chase down an E.coli outbreak, Maarten Hoek coordinating and encouraging high response rate in a Europe wide survey of public health practice, Delia Boccia exploring the value of novel

investigative methods in Salmonella outbreaks, Anders Wallensten finding an original source of Legionnaires' Disease, Susan Hahne leading a systematic review of early treatment for meningococcal disease, all of these leading to first author peer reviewed publications. These skills are of value not only to the practice of public health but also to teaching and making sure that those skills brought to new generations epidemiologists. And teaching definitely helps to develop the teacher. Starting with my experience of trying to address matching, I know that my skills have evolved enormously after joining EPIET as a teacher, coordinator and supervisor. In large part attributable to the one and only Alain Moren, such an inspirational teacher.

Perhaps more difficult to quantify is the immense value of the network, the shared experience of belonging to a FETP, the personal connections at all levels that facilitate cooperation in research and public health investigations within and between countries. Although I have not been directly involved in the EPIET/EUPHEM training programme these last years, I have been in contact with many old EPIET colleagues and friends like

Marta Valenciano, Arnold Bosman, Kostas Danis, Noel McCarthy, Pawel Stefanoff, Olivier Ronveaux and many more.

From that same perspective, are there essential and new skills that should be implemented in the EPIET/EUPHEM training programme?

I was recently involved with a survey of field epidemiologists who helped with the Ebola outbreak in West Africa (Holding M et al. J Epi Global Health 2019; 9:169-75). Respondents identified skill attributes that epidemiologists deployed in future should possess and that should inform FETP programmes. Leadership and management skills identified as important for deployments were in areas like diplomacy, negotiation, and teamwork. Priorities in relation to technical skills included managing complex data sets, data base management, GIS tools. Finally, they emphasized the importance of cultural awareness, intercultural relations and community engagement.

Long Live EPIET and all FETPs!

Thank you very much James!

Interviewed by Kostas Danis

Attending the 10th TEPHINET Global Conference in Atlanta, 2019

At the end of October, Raquel Medialdea and Simon Packer, EPIETs from cohort 2018 and 2017 respectively, attended the 10th TEPHINET Global Conference in Atlanta. The conference was a unique opportunity to learn about global disease detection, prevention and response and was attended by representatives of over 80 field epidemiology training programmes (FETP) across more than 180 countries. Imagine ESCAIDE but on a larger and global scale.

The conference provided a great opportunity to meet a large number of epidemiologists working across all the continents and learn the different practises and challenges that each country experiences. A wide range of pre-conference workshops was available. Raquel joined a super interesting workshop on "Qualitative Methods for Field Investigations" developed by Lisa Hansen and Lisa Jensen while Simon went to "Ethics in the practice of epidemiology and field investigations" that provided a stimulating discussion on a frequently overlooked topic.



The European Gang in the 10th Global TEPHINET Conference. From left to right: Thomas Waite, Biagio Pedalino, Simon Packer, Marion Muehlen, Raquel Medialdea-Carrera, Amrish Baidjoe, Carl Reddy (current director of TEPHINET) and Ioannis Karagiannis.

From Monday to Friday, the time seemed to fly. There were great plenary sessions with a diverse range of experts discussing about emergency response to address natural disasters, veterinary epidemiology or the Global Field Epidemiology Road Map. It was fascinating to hear about the impact of sorcery in outbreaks in Papua New Guinea, epidemics of not-so well-known viruses such as Mayaro in South America or the health of migrants in refugee camps in Morocco.

The brilliant thing about the conference was the diversity. This is in terms of the participants and presentations looking at communicable and non-communicable disease in humans, animals and environmental drivers. The conference provided a greater understanding of the drivers of disease and challenges faced in lower and middle-income countries. During the week Raquel presented a poster with findings of her Mosquito-borne diseases surveillance work conducted in Malta. Simon presented work undertaken during his fellowship on the evaluation of national ambulance syndromic surveillance in the UK.

The amount of fieldwork fellows around the world undertake and the value of this to outbreak investigations was impressive. Most FETP Fellows were frequently mobilising to the field and as a result, they were getting a greater contextual understanding of the outbreak. One of the main take-home messages for us was: "Let's get out and do more fieldwork!".

The conference was located in the beautiful Stone Mountain National Park where we enjoyed hiking and jogging around the forests with some impressive views and breathtaking scenery. The International Night was indeed one of the highlights. We went into the evening without any expectations and we experienced one of the most entertaining (if a little odd) evenings at a conference we can ever remember. During the night, groups of epidemiologists from over 20 different countries performed different traditional dances. We represented Europe with a Scottish ceilidh "The Gay Gordons" and a Spanish Flamenco with "Pick the apple, eat the apple, throw the apple". It was a really special experience to see a room full of experts in field epidemiology dressed in traditional clothes or Halloween costumes while singing and dancing traditional songs from all over the world.

TEPHINET offers a totally different experience from ESCAIDE, where with presentations mainly from Europe, there is not such a high number of different techniques, methods and approaches taken. The diversity and level of commitment from FETPs around the world is amazing to see and inspiring. You learn a lot from meeting different FETP fellows and understand that we are all working towards similar goals but under quite different circumstances.

If you want to stay more engaged with TEPHINET they have released the TEPHIConnect platform which forms part of the global FETP alumni network, check it out! (https://tephiconnect.org/)

You can check more TEPHINET conference action on TEPHINETs'website, on their social media and by checking #TEPHINET2019 hashtag.



Ah... and congratulations to Simon for winning the TEPHINET Travel Grant for Environmental Epidemiology for Planetary Health.

Well done Simon!

Thank you very much Raquel and Simon!

Interviewed by Diogo Marques



EAN at ESCAIDE - November 2019

<u>ESCAIDE 2019</u> is fast approaching and we are getting ready as usual! This year's ESCAIDE returns to Stockholm and will take place from **27 to 29 November 2019**. The event will be hosted at the <u>Brewery Conference Centre</u>, in the southern district of the city.

ESCAIDE: EAN-RECON workshop



Location: ECDC offices, Stockholm

Further information: see workshop website.

ESCAIDE: EAN Drinks & Dinner



Join us for one more time, meet friends and colleagues, chat with the new cohort of fellows, drink, eat and (why not) dance at the Drinks & Dinner social event of EAN!! It will be at the last day of the Epi + R modules and the night before ESCAIDE, so don't miss out!

Further details: see website event and facebook event.

Location: Vapiano Kungsbron

ESCAIDE: EAN Annual General Assembly

The EAN General Assembly (GA) is our big annual event, where we catch up on each other's and EAN's activities, discuss what happened the year passed and what we would like to do next. It is where we have the opportunity to talk about our strategy, the challenges we face and to come up with new ideas. And it is also of course the place and time to strengthen our Network and see old friends!

The EAN General Assembly will take place on **Thursday November 28**th **during lunchtime**. EAN members (active and inactive, although the latter can't vote) are welcome to join. Current fellows, please come and join us as well – you are part of the EAN and we would like to see you there!

If you have a topic or issue that you would like to be discussed during the General Assembly, please send us an email at: eanboard@gmail.com.

You can check what was discussed at EAN GA 2018 in the EAN Winter 2018/19 Newsletter.





ESCAIDE: Become part of the EAN Board

The EAN General Assembly (GA) is also where we elect our Advisory Board Members to represent the Association. The members of the Board are chosen from amongst, and by, active EAN members (members up to date with their membership fees).

This year there will be four open positions:

President (x1), Secretary (x1), Treasurer (x2)

We strongly encourage applications from our active members. Being part of the EAN Board is a great opportunity to contribute to the shaping of the Network and the future of Field Epidemiology. It is also an opportunity to get closer to the alumni, current fellows and it's a lot of fun too!

If you are interested in standing for election, please let us know by email to eanboard@gmail.com by Monday 25th November 2019. Please specify 1) the position you are standing for and 2) a brief introduction on your background and why you are interested in the position, for us to share with our members.

More information on the open <u>Advisory Board positions can</u> be found here.

Please be reminded that only active members of the EAN Association can apply for and vote on the new Advisory Board Members.

You can check your membership status and update your membership through our website or send us an email. If you are not up to date, it is not too late to go ahead and make payment for the coming year or 10 years (please see payment details at the end of the newsletter).

Please be advised that current fellows are welcome to attend but they do not have the right to vote.

The EAN Advisory Board Member elections will take place on November $28^{th} - 29^{th}$.

Voting will open after the EAN General Assembly on Thursday 28th November. Active members will be able to vote online for 24h. Results will be announced by email on Friday 29th November.

Please drop by the EAN stand at ESCAIDE any time to meet the Board. Board members will be happy to answer any question, receive feedback on what you would like EAN to do better, or just have a chat and get to know you.

ESCAIDE: Photo contest

Stockholm will see the 8th edition of the ESCAIDE photo contest, organised by EAN in collaboration with ESCAIDE. The photo contest is open to all conference attendees. Therefore, if during your adventurous life as 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 of the life in "the field" and/or in "the lab";
- and you want to share your memories and emotions with those who can grasp their meaning;

Please email us at eanboard@gmail.com with up to two photographs (by November 25th) and the following information:

- Photographer's name
- Date of the photograph
- Place of the photograph (location, country)
- Title of the photograph
- Accompanying text (120 words max)

Accepted formats for the photographs are the following: jpg, tiff, png, psd, bmp. Files must not be over 10 MB. When submitting please also return the following consent form.

More information on the photo contest guidelines and copyright statement is available here.

The submitted photographs will be exhibited during ESCAIDE. ESCAIDE participants will vote for the 'best photo' during the conference.

We will announce and award the winner of the 'best photo' during the ESCAIDE closing ceremony on Friday 29th November.



ESCAIDE: BarCamp

If you are coming to this year's ESCAIDE, please make sure to visit the BarCamp on the evening of **Thursday 28th November**.

What is the BarCamp@ESCAIDE?

It is a dynamic forum for discussion of raw ideas, methodological hiccups, data challenges and more. Offers a professional exchange of ideas with your peers in a relaxed environment.

How does it work?

BarCamp is an informal event, a get-together, where the audience is generating the content.

The BarCamp participants create the agenda. On the first day of the conference and on the morning of the second day, event members of the audience propose topics or volunteer to speak briefly about their ideas, puzzling findings, methodological challenges, etc.

The participants then vote on the topics proposed, and the ones with the most votes (highest interest) are included in the agenda of the BarCamp.

The setting is casual, usually drinks are provided to add to the relaxed atmosphere.

How to propose a topic?

You can propose a topic prior to the conference on our <u>FemWiki page</u>. You can use it to suggest topics beforehand (even if you cannot attend) or exchange ideas and continue the discussion after the event.

You can also do this directly at the venue during the first day and/or on the morning of the second day of the conference.

How to participate and vote for a topic?

Do so on 27-28 November at the Conference venue. If you like one of the proposed topics, please put the post-it with your name next to that topic. One post-it per person, so one person can only vote for one topic. Visit the whiteboard regularly, maybe a new hot topic came up and you want to re-cast your vote.

Note that the event can host limited number participants – so first come, first served.

You can see pictures of previous events at the BarCamp@ESCAIDE page.

ESCAIDE: Best oral and poster presentation prizes

Following the tradition, the EAN selects two presentations at ESCAIDE (one oral and one poster), which are most effective in transmitting a public health message.

Best oral presentation:

The oral presentations will be judged by a judge committee comprised by EAN members that are not part of the graduating or current EPIET & EUPHEM cohorts. Only presentations of submitted abstracts, presented orally during parallel sessions are eligible (i.e. plenary session presentations are excluded).

Best poster presentation:

Poster presentations will be judged by the conference attendees via an online voting system through the conference app. Information on how to vote participate for the "best poster" presentation will be available in the app and during the conference. Don't miss it! Your participation is important.

Prize awards:

The winners of the "best oral" and "best poster" prize will be awarded by the EAN President at the closing ceremony of ESCAIDE on Friday 29th November. ECDC also awards the winners free registrations for next year's ESCAIDE.

ESCAIDE: Become an oral presentation prize judge

The EAN is looking for people among its members that will be attending ESCAIDE 2019 to participate in the jury panel and judge the Best Oral presentation for the EAN prize.

How does this work?

There are 21 parallel oral-presentation sessions, and we need a minimum of two judges per session. As a judge you can participate to as many sessions as you wish, usually the ones you are most familiar with and you plan to attend anyway.

Before ESCAIDE, judges will be provided with the scoring criteria guidelines and an easy to score grid/online form and would be asked to complete these for the sessions that they sign up for. During the conference, the EAN Board Members and volunteers will be available to answer any questions you may have and to support you.

The feedback from previous judges is that the experience is interesting and enjoyable and winners were always very happy, so please help us out this year again!

For those that volunteer, there will be a small thank you gift and a judge's certificate will be available upon request! Please note, that to avoid conflict of interest we ask current supervisors not to judge their own fellows' presentations and judges not to sign up for sessions that they feel have a conflict of interest. Fellows cannot become judges (sorry...).

What do you need to do now?

- Check the ESCAIDE programme for the parallel sessions at the <u>ESCAIDE page</u>.
- Join the EAN jury panel by <u>completing this short</u> questionnaire.



You can read more information at the **EAN website**.

ESCAIDE: Career compass

The Career Compass is an open Q&A session about the different career paths of established public health professionals. This event provides the ideal platform to help junior public health professionals connect with senior professionals and discover future career opportunities. It is organised by EPIET and EUPHEM fellows in collaboration with the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN).

The 3rd edition of the Career compass will take place on Friday November 29th at lunchtime.

This year, the panel will include:

- Marta Valenciano, Director of Epiconcept's Epidemiology Department;
- Victor Dahl, Epidemiologist at the Public Health Agency of Sweden;
- Amy Mikhail, Microbiologist and Epidemiologist with Public Health England;

- Celine Barnadas, Technical Officer at World Health Organization;
- Lina Moses, Assistant Professor at the Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine;
- Julita Cuesta, Operational Research Support Officer at Médecins Sans Frontières.

For more information about the speakers, please see the EAN Career Compass page.



Come and join us!

ESCAIDE: #SoMe4epis

Conferences are a great moment to be engaged on social media/Twitter.

Please be active on Social Media before, during and after ESCAIDE.

This is a great way to showcase your own work and network with peers that cannot be present.

You could for example:

- Announce your presence/presentation at the conference;
- Post a picture with you and your poster promote it! Remember there is an EAN Prize for best poster presentation voted by the ESCAIDE audience. The larger audience you reach, more likely for people to notice your work;
- Share interesting findings you heard/learned at the conference;
- Connect with colleagues attending the conference or interested in similar topics:

Please follow and contribute by tagging <u>@EANBoard</u> and <u>@ESCAIDE</u>. Suggested hashtags: #SoMe4epis and #ESCAIDE2019.



Autumn 2019 in photos!

The EAN board would like to thank the organisers, friends and colleagues who came together for the 'Drinks & Dinner' events during the last trimester of 2019. There will be more! You can check previous EAN social events on our website.



EAN workshop on Social Media for Public Health Professionals #SoMe4epis **Prague – Czech Republic** September 2019

Introductory Course **Spetses - Greece**October 2019





Time-series analysis module

Utrecht – The Netherlands

November 2019

Welcome to Cohort 2019!

Dear Fellows, we are very excited to welcome you within the EAN!

We are here to hear your thoughts about the challenges and opportunities that present themselves as your fellowship. We will be in contact with your EPIET and EUPHEM cohort representatives to catch up and see where we can support you.

You contact us anytime via our email or via any of the other EAN plaforms: Website, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook accounts.

We wish you the very best for your fellowship and look forward to meeting you soon at ESCAIDE.

Alumni, don't hesitate to reach out to the fellows in your country.



Congratulations to Cohort 2017!

As the Board of the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN), we would like to offer our **heartfelt congratulations** to you on completing your fellowship! And secondly, to welcome you (again, and now, formally as alumni) to our EAN family.

As Fellows, you've been non-fee paying members of the EAN for the last two years, but now that you've completed the Programme, you are eligible to join the Alumni Network as full members, i.e. with voting rights. Renewing your membership is easy and you can do it through our website.

Membership benefits:

- EAN weekly bulletin including jobs, conferences and training courses;
- EAN Quarterly newsletters
- Access to GOARN, MSF and other NGO deployments
- Access to the "Ask the Network" service when you have a query to ask your fellow EAN members
- Discounts on future EAN mini-modules
- Access to EAN webinars
- Invitations to social events
- Staying in touch with other alumni
-and lots more...



There are also plenty of activities where your input and availability is very welcome: the newsletter is always open to contributions and editors, mini-modules on your favourite topics can be organised with the support of the EAN Board, and new ideas to foster and strengthen the network can be implemented together. **Reach out to us to make it happen!**

If there is anything you would like to raise with the Board now that you have completed your fellowship, then do just approach us, we'd be happy to hear from you. We hope to see you at ESCAIDE and celebrate together at the Graduation Party!





EAN Membership

The annual membership fee is €30 / £28.
There is a 10-year membership available at €250 / £230.

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.

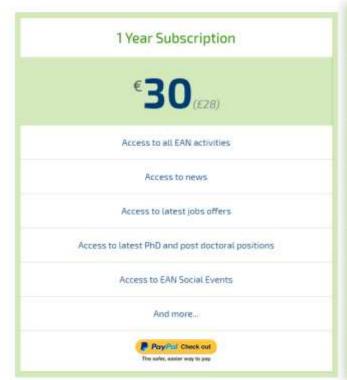
You can <u>renew your membership through our website</u>, or by bank transfer using the bank details below. Please indicate your name and cohort as reference in the bank transfer.

Note that payment by PayPal will give you instant access to the website, whereas access following bank transfers will take longer (this is because bank transfers payment need to be confirmed at the EAN bank account and your web access then manually updated. We aim for this to take no more than one week).

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.

Thank you for your support!

Membership Plans





Note: Membership year runs from Nov 1st to Oct 31st

Pay with Euro (€)

Handelsbank

Bank address: Elsenheimer Str. 41, München, 80687, Germany

Account Holder: E.A.N. (EPIET Alumni Network)

IBAN: DE91 7001 1110 6055 7248 20

BIC/Swift code: DEKTDE7GXXX

Pay with British Pound (£)

Transferwise

Bank address: 56 Shoreditch High Street, London, E1 6JJ, United Kingdom

Account Holder: E.A.N. (EPIET Alumni Network)

Account Number: 95540440 / Sort code: 23-14-70

IBAN (to receive G8P from UK only): GB22 TRWI 2314 7095 5404 40