



Torrelodones, Spain
[Photo @ Stine Nielsen]

Editorial

Dear friends,

Time does fly!

It has now been more than a year of a pandemic and since the release of the last newsletter.

This was a year where we could not meet or organise trainings, but during which we did our best to maintain the link between all of us, through whatsapp, slack and online events.

Since the last time we wrote to you, more than half of our board changed following the elections during the General Assembly at ESCAIDE.

Celine Barnadas, Lieke van Alphen, Iro Evlampidou, Kostas Danis and Diogo Marques (and his owl) have now left us. Many thanks for your dedicated involvement, we hope to see you again in the coming years!

Now, speaking of board members, there are six of us you might not have met yet: Amy, Anna, Annika, Stine, Tim and Zsafia. They will be introducing themselves later in this newsletter.

In this issue, we will try not to talk too much about how we miss being able to meet and focus on everything we can do to keep in touch in these challenging times.

Hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter and do not forget to wash your hands, keep safe distance and take care of each other!

Enjoy the Newsletter!

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The EAN board

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Word from the president: An Outlook upon a new year

Dear friends,

I am sure this newsletter was long anticipated, it certainly was for us since it took us more than a year to get a new edition of this newsletter out. My humble apologies for that! I don't have to tell anyone how the world has changed on top of the more routine things we were doing in our day-to-day job as field-epidemiologists and public health microbiologists. The future remains very uncertain with challenges that will stay with us as we continue to live through these pandemic times, whenever that may be, but it was nice to see how the network still managed to find each other. In March last year we managed to bring many of the global FETP colleagues together and played a role in the establishment of the WHO expert group on contact tracing. We were all writing policy on the fly whilst dealing with many scientific uncertainties and had to deal with politics at the same time. The latter is something we are not being trained for, but often can be our biggest bottleneck and can hamper with an effective public health response. A response is built on science but more often the main bottlenecks are not those caused by science.

Vaccines have arrived on the market but largely unavailable for large parts of the world, whilst new SARS-CoV-2 variants have reached the surface, which create extra uncertainty for the longer-term outcomes of this global crisis. In the meantime, challenges grow. Challenges that scream for more collaboration on the European continent. I have always strongly believed that graduates of EPIET and EUPHEM can play a strong role in this and I hope to

see us collaborating even more. Amongst the many uncertainties in this crisis there is one certainty, we won't resolve it without holding on to each other. This was one of the reasons for the foundation of Field Epidemiology and Public Health Microbiology programmes. I wish that with the entry of more daylight during spring and summer we all get some rest and good moments for reflection.

Warmest wishes,
Amrish



[Photographer Elisa von Brockdorff/ESCAIDE]

25 years of EPIET

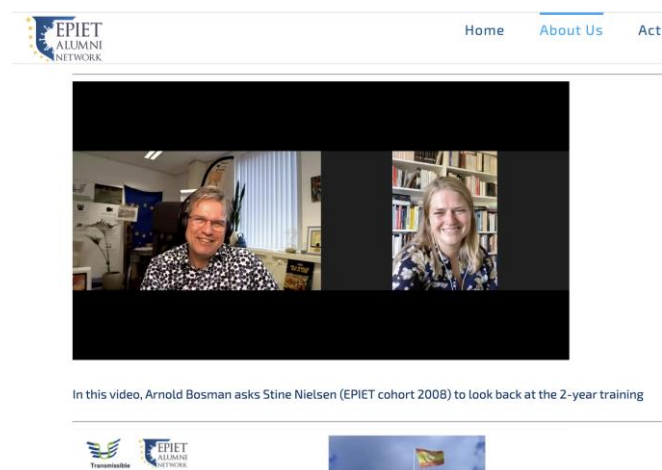
In September 2020, it was 25 years since the EPIET programme began. To mark this anniversary, the EAN board together with [Transmissible](#) has collected a number of video testimonies from alumni and former scientific coordinators from the programme who were asked to reflect back on their EPIET and EUPHEM Fellowships and to share their wishes for the training programme in the future.

We conducted about 20 interviews in the autumn of 2020 and so far, the first nine are available on the EAN website:
<https://epietalumni.net/epiet-testimonies/>

More videos will be uploaded in the coming weeks and months. We interviewed alumni from the first cohort (who started in 1995) as well as with people who did the programme in more recent years.

This project would not have been possible without a big effort from Arnold Bosman. A big thanks to him as well as to all who participated in this project so far.

We really hope many of you will watch, enjoy and be inspired by these videos – including those of you who have been in the network for decades as well as those who are new to our wonderful network.



There is an option to leave comments on the EAN webpage with these videos – it would be great to hear your feedback after watching them. We also invite you all to share your best EPIET and EUPHEM memories and/or your thoughts on what is needed to keep EPIET strong in the coming 25 years ahead!

Interview with Marc-Alain Widdowson, director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp and EPIET alumnus

This interview was conducted in January 2020 by Kostas Danis

Short bio:

Marc-Alain Widdowson graduated from Cambridge University in Medical Sciences and Anthropology (1989) then in Veterinary Medicine (1992). In 1995, after 3 years in mixed practice, Marc-Alain moved to Zimbabwe to work on the epidemiology of wildlife diseases and domestic animals. From 1997-1999, following a MSc in Communicable Disease Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, he worked in Bolivia on zoonotic infections including rabies and cysticercosis. In 1999, Marc-Alain underwent further training in the Netherlands at the National Institute for Public health (RIVM) for two years as an EPIET fellow. Marc-Alain joined the US CDC in 2001 with focus on epidemiology and control of rotavirus and norovirus domestically and internationally. In 2009, he became the lead of the International Epidemiology and Research Team, focusing on understanding the epidemiology, burden and prevention of seasonal and pandemic influenza worldwide.

Marc-Alain served as Acting Deputy Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases for 3 months in 2014 and co-Principal Investigator of STRIVE the CDC-sponsored Ebola vaccine trial in Sierra Leone.

In 2015, he moved to CDC-Kenya as the Director of the Division of Global Health Protection, with responsibility for the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa) and a wide-ranging portfolio of public health science and research, workforce development, immunization, laboratory science and One Health. In 2019, Marc-Alain was appointed Director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp. His research interests lie primarily in the epidemiology of vaccine-preventable and pandemic viruses.

EAN: What is your current role and what are the challenges in your new role?

I am currently the director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp. I am still finding my feet as I have only been in this position for 5 months. My role is to ensure that ITM continues to grow and expand in its three core missions: 1) conduct excellent, problem-driven research 2) education through short courses, Masters, and PhDs 3) service delivery through our clinic (vaccinations, travel medicine, HIV) and by supporting low- and middle-income countries to develop research capacity.

As for challenges – there are many, but I could list three: 1) prioritisation and time management- making sure that the core essential goals and strategies are adhered to without getting distracted by other considerations; 2) learning and being expected to make decisions on things that I have little experience on, such as financial and legal issues, and 3) staying connected to the science and maintaining some expertise - if only because the science of public health is what makes me happy.

How did EPIET contribute to your career path?

When I applied for EPIET, I was a veterinarian in Bolivia working for the British Department for International Development (DFID) on rabies, foot-and-mouth disease and cysticercosis. Or truthfully said, I was gaining experience rather than helping in any real way. I didn't want to stay in international work unless I had something very concrete to offer and didn't want to be "tropicalised". The latter is a term that Denis Coulombier used when I brought this up at my first phone interview for EPIET from Bolivia. I didn't feel an urge to go into academia that I felt was often divorced from the real world, and felt I needed to move into more applied, mainstream

public health. EPIET for me was the perfect opportunity to think critically, be applied and move to Europe. Thanks to EPIET I made a life-long connection with the people and the culture of public health in Europe. Because of the work I did with Marion Koopman, who was at RIVM at the time, I was offered a position at the US CDC, which I would never have gotten if not for EPIET. And lastly, I learned the rudiments of Dutch upon which I am building now as I work in the Flemish part of Belgium. More intangible, but equally valuable, was the infectious (no pun intended) enthusiasm, epidemiologic rigour, idealism and fun of the whole EPIET teaching staff, mentors and colleagues.



Photo@ Marc-Alain Widdowson

How do you see the current landscape of public health, and how should the global health community adapt to that?

Since I was an EPIET fellow there have been several defining events that have shaped global public health. Emergence and re-emergence of H5N1, SARS, Ebola, the 2009 Influenza pandemic, combined with societal changes in migration, travel, animal movement, have led to a focus on global health security. At the same time, non-infectious diseases are affecting more and more countries. So, health issues have become global and countries have to stretch resources to deal with both public threats. And these are common threats: take the global epidemic of measles which is affecting rich and poor countries alike, not because of new viruses but lack of vaccination. Though contexts are different, there are some common lessons here that affect us all. We struggle at the Institute for Tropical Medicine with the question – what is "tropical medicine" these days? I strongly believe that for the most part we can't box diseases like we used to.

Since the 2000s, with PEPFAR, GAVI, the Global Fund, Presidential Malaria Initiative, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the funding and number of players in global health has dramatically increased, and overall global health metrics are improving. However, the challenge is that inequalities are increasing in many countries possibly exacerbated by urbanisation and conflict. Fragile and vulnerable populations remain afflicted by preventable diseases and we have to finish the work on neglected diseases such as sleeping sickness.

I see two trends for public health in the future. The first is empowerment and true leadership from low- and middle-income countries, such as seen with the establishment of the African CDC. Moving towards a true global public health community, driven by common problems outlined above. The second is clearly climate change, which will affect specific conditions, especially respiratory, but of course will add uncertainty to vector and disease spread among other things. Temperature increases, droughts, floods etc. will bring their own public health and health access challenges that we will have to face and address.

How do you see the future of FETPs in this changing environment?

Naturally I think FETPS are critical. I think this because these training programs identify, train and foster professionals who are interested in applied public health. The training provides professionals with skills and perspectives different to those of clinicians, academics, aid personnel and policy makers, but rather a mix of all of these. Alain Moren identified this when he set up Epicentre. The establishment of public health institutes such as ECDC, Africa CDC and the current push to develop National Public Health Institutes worldwide is further testament to the need for multidisciplinary, technical, applied workforce, protected to the extent possible from political or bureaucratic pressure.

I think what is also needed (and happening) since I was a fellow is to transcend to the extent possible the formal professional structures to allow a better career progression for diversity in public health professionals. When I finished EPIET I could not at the time as a veterinarian, become a Public Health Consultant in the UK. I think that has changed. In the US no one really cared and in fact many assumed I was an MD. And refreshingly, this is not an issue at ITM either – so things are definitely changing.

How do you see EPIET/EUPHEM alumni contributing to the public health workforce from your professional perspective?

Alumni have a tremendous role to play and it was thanks to Natasha Crowcroft, Richard Pebody and others, that the EPIET Alumni Network was born. Despite technological advances and big data, the most sensitive detection method is through people and the quickest way to communicate important events is through professional channels, friends and respected colleagues. That networking ability is paramount, since collaborations can be difficult to forge in crises. I saw this in Mexico in 2009 during the pandemic – in a crisis you tend to hunker down and deal with what is in front of you. No time to build relationships with other sectors or other countries. Those relationships have to be already in place. What has also happened is a diaspora of EPIET alumni globally. For a long while I was the only ex-EPIET at the US CDC, but was delighted to see in the last 4-5 years several more work there.

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

The core of EPIET and FETP programs has to remain technical excellence to be applied in the real world. This has been largely quantitative skills, and in my time at least, there was little emphasis on qualitative approaches which are a key part of public health as we need to understand why people will adopt or not public health interventions. We see this everywhere, the measles example above, but also smoking (so surprised how common in Belgium compared to the US!) or Ebola vaccination in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This perspective could be extended; as societal and environmental conditions change, we have to change with these and appreciate that any public health intervention is more or less effective depending on a wide range of factors. This argues for continued diversity in the EPIET program.

EAN Webinars & online social events

Following last year's silence, this year we have started strong when it comes to webinars. We already had three successful webinars covering two very relevant topics with high attendance, one on Risk Communication (2 March 2021) and two on the implementation of Go.data in different settings (16 and 30 March 2021). Our presenters for risk communication were Dr Mirjam Jenny, who leads the [science communication unit at the Robert Koch Institute](#) in Berlin and focuses on science and risk communication, (digital) risk literacy, risk communication, data science and algorithmic and medical decision making, and Dr Jeni Stolow, who has expertise in qualitative methods, ethnography, risk communication, health promotion, community-based participatory research, as well as health behavior programming and evaluation. She is currently responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as the Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network (GOARN) Research Focal Point for [Risk Communication and Community Engagement](#).

The two webinars on [Go.Data](#) were also followed with great interest and the first part was presented by Ana Hoxha, EPIET alumna (C2018) and Epidemiologist at Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, who deployed with GOARN in September-October 2020 to implement Go.Data in Kosovo, and by Raquel Medialdea-Carrera, EPIET alumna (C2018) and Epidemiologist in the COVID-19 Epidemiology Pillar within the WHO World Health Emergencies Programme, who deployed with GOARN in February-June 2020 to support the Go.Data Team.

The second part was presented by Giovanna Jaramillo-Gutierrez, EUPHEM alumna (C2010) and Senior Epidemiologist at the WHO, where she is working for the Go.Data project team. She has been

involved in country roll-out activities and implementation of Go.Data since May 2020. Previously, she has worked with Go.Data during the Ebola outbreaks in Guinea in 2015, and in Democratic Republic of Congo in 2019. The second presenter was Sofia Burdi, German FETP fellow, PAE (C2020), based at Robert Koch Institute Berlin, who deployed with GOARN in November-December 2020 to support the COVID-19 response in a refugee camp in Greece. Recordings of the presentations will be uploaded to the EAN website soon.

We also hosted a well-attended online social event on 14 January 2021 and plan to host such events regularly as an option for alumni and current fellows to meet in a relaxed, fun and friendly atmosphere with several break-out rooms facilitating chats in smaller groups.



Virtual (not) face-to-face EAN Board Meeting, anywhere, Jan and Mar 2021

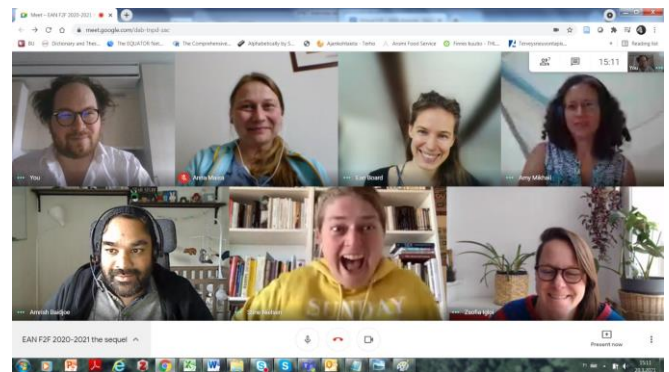
This year we were forced to meet online for our usual annual strategic discussion and although we could not be all together in real life, it was still a very fun and productive get together.



To ease the online fatigue we had 2x separate weekend sessions and discussed topics such as addressing and improving every day board tasks related to website, banking options, memberships, newsletter, webinars and social activities. A big focus was placed on the strategic planning of this year's activities of which rolling out the EAN member survey is a top priority.

We also hope to be launching an additional EAN communication platform on Discord soon to supplement the EAN WhatsApp group and which should facilitate discussions and information sharing between EAN members (also on non-COVID issues as we emerge from this pandemic).

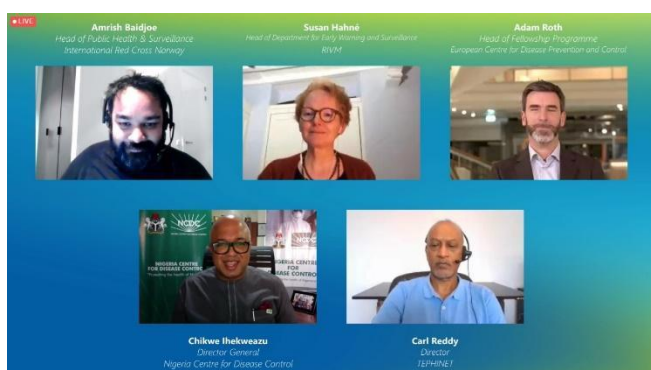
We also have regular board meetings every two weeks and are planning longer working sessions on specific topics every 6 weeks.



As a board we have endorsed a “community” mentality when it comes to EAN membership rights for active and non-active members. This means that paying members will still enjoy certain benefits like discounts to mini modules and access to active links of advertised jobs, but the webinars (unless requested otherwise by the speaker), the bulletin and the newsletter will be sent to all alumni and subscribers. Recording of webinars will sometimes also only be available to active members. Being part of the EAN board is a voluntary “side job” which we all do because we are committed to maintaining the network we are all proud members of. Membership fees contribute to maintaining this service from which we believe we all benefit. As soon as times allow it again we will get back to organising more mini-modules and activities for you all

ESCAIDE 2020

Even though this edition missed one of its main components, the possibility to meet and hug and drink (lemonade of course) with each other, ESCAIDE 2020 fostered very interesting presentations and discussions between attendees including a very relevant session on field epidemiology through these challenging times.



Photo@ Twitter @ESCAIDE

ESCAIDE 2020 online received 1553 registrations, representing 93 countries (1144 participants from 28 EU/EEA countries and 409 participants from 65 countries outside EU/EEA). The higher number of participants compared to other in-person editions and a broader country representation indicates that the online format has created

opportunities for attendance for participants who might not attend in normal circumstances due to costs and traveling.

ESCAIDE online offered four plenary sessions and 46 individual abstract oral presentations, discussed and debated over 11 fireside chats and viewed by more than 1100 participants. There were almost 70 posters exhibited that were visited more than 12000 times. The content of ESCAIDE covered several topics related with infectious disease prevention and control, with a special focus on the latest research concerning COVID-19, food-and waterborne diseases, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, influenza and respiratory viruses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging diseases.

In general terms, ESCAIDE online also created opportunities to establish connections and a network. More than 3000 messages and comments were posted in the chat boxes and this is a fairly good indication of participants' engagement. The key results from the feedback survey conducted after the conference indicated a high satisfaction with the event.

ESCAIDE 2021 will happen online again, from 16 to 19 November. The call for abstracts will be open from 19 April until 19 May. This year there will be more opportunities for presenting abstracts, in particular poster presentations, which last year were limited to the posters displays.

Please suggest additional skills needed in intervention epidemiology and public health microbiology



Photo@ Twitter @ESCAIDE: Word cloud created live during ESCAIDE 2020

Best Oral and Poster presentation winners ESCAIDE 2019

Even though we did not organise a competition in 2020, we will consider one for next ESCAIDE. However, it is still time for us to congratulate the ESCAIDE 2019 winners and thank all oral presentation judges and conference attendees who participated in delivering this award.

Best oral presentation

Joanna Nederby Öhd, from the department of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention of Stockholm County for her oral presentation on "Lessons learned from the transmission chain of a measles outbreak in Stockholm County 2017"

Best poster presentation

Ana Lúcia Figueiredo from the Public Health Unit, Primary Health Care Grouping Porto Oriental for her poster on "Norovirus outbreak on a Douro River cruise ship in 2019: successful pathogen detection despite hampered epidemiological investigation".

Congratulations to both!

The best oral and poster presentation contest was unfortunately not organised during ESCAIDE 2020, but we are considering a possible format for the next online ESCAIDE 2021. Suggestions are welcome and can be sent to the EAN: eanboard@gmail.com.

Photo contest ESCAIDE 2019



Photo@ Trent Herdman

Apart from the best oral and poster presentation prize, it has now been 8 years that EAN awards a prize for the best picture depicting experiences in the field and the pictures from ESCAIDE 2018 have now been touring Europe being displayed at several Public Health institutes all year round. If you would be interested in hosting this travel exhibit, please contact us for more information.

In 2019, the prize went to Trent Herdman's "Boots": a picture taken at Matineh Ebola Treatment Centre, Sierra Leone in March 2015.

"During my time working with the International Medical Corps and UK Med at the Ebola Treatment Centre in Makeni, I was struck by the way a safe and effective response to the disease was critically dependent upon the combination of a dedicated team and sufficient resources for infection control and clinical care. Seeing the daily accumulation of boots - meticulously cleaned after our time in the wards - made it clear to me that the lives of our patients and our colleagues depended upon materials, infrastructure, skill, and dedication. Making this a safe place to be cared for, or to deliver care, required the combined efforts of community volunteers and professionals from many disciplines, near and far, looking after each other."

Career Compass ESCAIDE 2020

During ESCAIDE 2020 we had the pleasure to continue with the tradition of organising Career Compass, a session in which senior public health professionals have an informal conversation with early career colleagues about possible professional paths in the world of epidemiology, microbiology and public health. The session was co-organized by Zsofia Igloi (EAN board) and by Alberto Mateo Urdiales (EPIET fellow cohort 2019).

Alberto kindly provided a short summary of the events:

This year we had the pleasure to invite five speakers that cover very different fields of public health. Sabine Dittrich (EUPHEM), told us about her past academic experience and the exciting work that she does now at FIND related with new diagnostic tools. Sabine also has experience working internationally, which is one topic that the audience was quite interested in.

It seems there was a strong interest among early career professionals in exploring how it would be to work in global health for non-for-profit organisations, so they found it really interesting talking also to Monique Pereboom (FETP), who is an epidemiology advisor for MSF. Attendants wanted, particularly, to understand what organisations like MSF look for when they recruit, in terms of skills and previous experience. Monique was able to address these questions, as well as explaining how MSF is organised and what the day to day work there looks like.

Another ex-MSF on the panel was Marc Rondy (EPIET alum). He is now working for the WHO country office in Guatemala. Given that working for WHO is also one of the favourite aspirations of young professionals, people were really interested in finding out how he

ended up there, the type of job that he does and the pros and cons of working for such a big organisation.

Although working for big national or international organisations may seem like the natural goal for early career epidemiologists/microbiologists, more and more people are starting to consider becoming independent consultants. Attendants explained that the prospects of being able to organise your own schedule, freedom to work from home and less bureaucracy are attractive aspects of this career path. The main issue raised is the insecurity of not having a stable salary and the fear of not finding enough jobs to do. For these reasons they were delighted to speak to Stine Nielsen (EPIET alum), who is an independent epidemiology consultant, and who explained how in her experience there has been plenty of work (thus more challenging to pace oneself).

The panel was completed with Mathieu Bangert (EUPHEM alum) who works for Sanofi in Lyon, France. Again, the audience was extremely interested in how he ended up working in the pharmaceutical industry and what it is like compared to working in the public sector. Mathieu explained his experience and helped also to clarify some of the prejudices that sometimes exist against this sector.

Overall, the session ran smoothly and, even though it had to be online this time, there was great engagement and discussion. We really hope that this session continues to be organised at ESCAIDE next year!

Graduations and welcome to the new cohorts

Graduation of Cohort 2017

Cohort 2017, we won't talk too much about your ceremony and the weird sing-along it involved...



Photo@ Cohort 2017

Graduation of Cohort 2018

Cohort 2018, you had no graduation party, even though we would have loved to dance with you to the killers' Mr brightside!
We are sure we will get a rain check on that...



Photo@ Cohort 2018

Congratulations to you all!

P.S: Cohort 2019 and 2020, you might want to tell us what your cohort songs are...

To the current fellows: we are very excited to **welcome you to the EAN!**

We are here to hear your thoughts about the challenges and opportunities that present themselves as your fellowship progresses. We are in contact with your EPIET and EUPHEM cohort representatives to catch up and see where we can support you. You can also contact us anytime via our [email](#) or via any of the other EAN platforms: [Website](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#) accounts. We wish you the very best for your fellowship and look forward to meeting you soon - even if only virtually.

For our alumni: don't hesitate to reach out to the fellows in your country.



Welcome to the “CamBabe” Cohort 2020



Photos@ Cohort 2020

Welcome to UK-FETP Cohort 2020



Photo@ UK-FETP 2020

ESCAIDE 2020 virtual EAN Drinks & Dinner

ESCAIDE could not be without the traditional get together of EAN alumni, fellows and friends! Unfortunately, for ESCAIDE 2020 this took place virtually, but was not less fun!! It was a really great evening despite the distance and thanks to all who joined us! Hope to see you again soon.



Photo@ Annika Wendland

ESCAIDE 2020 – EAN General Assembly

The EAN General Assembly (GA) and EAN Board elections took place virtually on 25 November 2020 during ESCAIDE 2020 and were attended by more than 100 people.

Amrish Baidjoe presented the main activities conducted by EAN in 2020: participation in several technical working groups with partners, implementing several communication channels to increase communication between epidemiologists and researchers involved in COVID-19 response, as well as doing our best to keep the network updated with job and training opportunities. We also discussed our plans for 2021: keeping the network as strong as possible given the current situation with the organisation of online training opportunities, a member survey so that we can know you better and answer your needs, as well as representing the network in the FETP community.

Over the past two years, several changes to the network statutes were put to up to members' vote, in order to have a better reflection of how the network and its missions has evolved.

In 2019, a vast majority of voting members approved that UK-FETP fellows and alumni remain in the network, that EAN sources of funding could also be through training and workshop fees and that the board could be extended from 6 elected members to 7 elected members and 1 to 3 co-opted members depending on the needs of the network.

In 2020, we asked the network about the possibility to allow for the network to have 15% of external members instead of 10% previously. At the time of the 2020 GA, external members accounted for 9% of active members

External members are for example people who did a non-European FETP, host site supervisors who did not do a training programme or others who are interested in contributing to the EAN activities but have not undertaken an EPIET, EUPHEM or affiliated program. External members are required to send a motivational letter about how they would contribute to the EAN, along with two endorsements of their candidature from current members.

This statute change was approved by 75% of voting members.

We would like to say a big thank you to Kostas Danis (Vice President 2018-2020) and Diogo Marques (Secretary 2018-2020), as well as Celine Barnadas, Lieke van Alphen and Iro Evlampidou who left the board in 2019.

Finally, we would like to say another big thank you 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 (2020 - 2021)



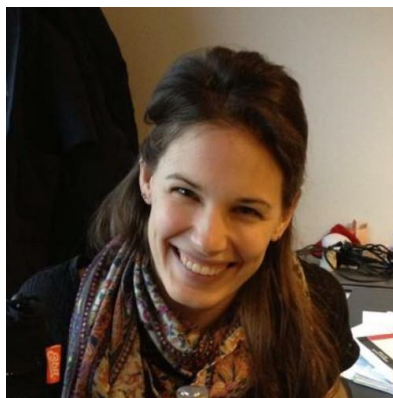
Zsafia Igloi
General member
EUPHEM cohort 2016

I'm from Hungary originally where I have finished my biology studies and then moved to do a PhD in the UK (Leeds).

I got into the virus world with my PhD on hepatitis C and got hooked and stuck happily ever since. At the end of my postdoc in 2015 I had the chance to go to Sierra Leone with public Health England to help to fight the ebola outbreak on the diagnostic side. This was also my big step toward public health.

I did my fellowship in the Netherlands (RIVM) and after my fellowship I started my work at the Erasmus Medical Centre in the arboviral reference laboratory as a research scientist in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. However 2020/21 are challenging years in terms of both personal life and workload, I'm enjoying the fruitful connection with the alumni as we now work together more than ever before highlighting the worth of the fellowship more than ever!

Zsafia was elected in November 2019.



Annika Wendland
Treasurer
EPIET cohort 2013

I am a German/Australian and started my EPIET in 2013 as a fellow at the Statens Serum Institute in Denmark.

I started out as a Biomedical Scientist and worked in research and development at a public health laboratory in South Australia. I always had an interest in public health and especially epidemiology, but when our lab saw a huge increase in testing of respiratory specimens during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and I had my first interactions with the Communicable Disease Control Branch in South Australia, I decided to make the switch to surveillance and outbreak investigation.

Since completing EPIET, I have worked with WHO both at the country office in Liberia and at headquarters in the Emergencies Programme. In August 2019, I took a break from formal employment, but have since found myself doing consultancy work on COVID while being stranded in Australia due to months of flight cancellations, and then back at WHO, working on cholera.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to reconnect with the EAN as a member of the board, and am longing for the day to see some of you in person.

Annika was elected in November 2019.



Timothee Dub
Treasurer
EPIET cohort 2017

I am from the land of cheese and wine and did my EPIET in Finland and stayed at Terveyden ja Hyvinvoinnin Laitos [the name of the institute and the only Finnish I know ;-)] afterwards.

Before that, I was a Parisian Public Health resident who fell in love with field epidemiology when staffed on projects related to the neurological consequences of Zika virus infection in French Polynesia.

Am now mostly working on a vector-borne diseases and climate change project, as well as the development of Epidemic Intelligence tools (and COVID, like all of us, I guess).

I am happy to be part of the board and hope we can strengthen the network over the coming years.

Tim was elected in November 2019



Amy Mikhail
Secretary
EUPHEM cohort 2012

I am half Irish and half Egyptian and originally qualified as a zoologist, specialising in the biology of vector-borne disease (mainly malaria) after completing a Master of Science at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. I spent the early part of my career working as a biomedical scientist with Médecins Sans Frontières in India and the Republic of Congo. I became interested in the EPIET and EUPHEM program some years later, after providing technical support to the Central Public Health Laboratory in Afghanistan during the H1N1 pdm09 pandemic.

I completed my EUPHEM fellowship at Public Health England in 2014, and stayed on in various roles at the interface between epidemiology and public health microbiology, in field services, TB and gastrointestinal infections. I was keen to stay involved with the EPIET and EUPHEM programs and became a EUPHEM co-supervisor in 2017 and a UK FETP senior scientific coordinator in 2018.

In March 2020 I started a new role with MSF, developing and piloting a mobile outbreak response laboratory in Central African Republic. Needless to say I was diverted to COVID work for several months, but now back working on my original project.

I'm very happy to be part of the board and look forward to the day when we can all meet again in person. Until then, see you at the next EAN webinar!

Amy was elected in November 2019



Stine Nielsen
Vice-President
EPIET cohort 2008

I am from the land of "hygge" and minks (well used to be) and did my EPIET from 2008-2010 at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Berlin, Germany.

I have a Master's Degree in Public Health Sciences from the University of Copenhagen and before EPIET I worked as an epidemiologist for 4 years at WHO Regional Office for Europe in the unit for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. After EPIET, I stayed at RKI working mostly on bio-behavioral surveys among female sex workers and people who use drugs. In 2015, I moved with my Spanish husband and our daughter to Torreldones (Madrid) and was an independent home-based consultant for six years (working on various projects for and with WHO/Europe, ECDC, EMCDDA, RKI, Epiconcept and others) until I very happily joined the Epiconcept team in February 2021.

I am passionate about contributing to keeping our growing EAN network active and strong.

Stine was elected in November 2020.



Anna Maisa
Secretary
EPIET cohort 2016

I am from Germany and did my EPIET training 2016-2018 at the Public Health Agency Northern Ireland in Belfast.

I studied biology and did my PhD in Virology working on Lassa virus including a biosafety level 4 laboratory training. After that I worked in medical research on HIV at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne, Australia. This project sparked my interest in public health and epidemiology and I started working at the regional Centre of Health in North Rhine-Westphalia back in Germany. I briefly went back to lab work on a GOARN mission during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, supporting the European Mobile Lab in Guinea. After completing EPIET, I went to Nigeria with MSF as a Flying Epi and have worked on hepatitis B with WHO and RKI in Berlin as a freelancer. Currently I am in Paris working for Santé publique France supporting the COVID-19 team.

Anna was elected in November 2020.

Become part of the EAN Board in Nov 2021

The EAN General Assembly (GA) at ESCAIDE is also where we elect our EAN 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 during ESCAIDE, 16-19 November 2021, there will be four open positions. Below is a description of the duties of each of the four roles - however in the board we all work closely together and shift tasks around according to people's interest and availability. For example in the latest round of the EPIET/EUPHEM selection the EAN board was represented by Annika and Zsafia. We try to have board meetings at least 1-2 per month.

- President

The president represents the EAN, acts as chairperson at the annual General Assembly, ensures that the posts on the EAN Board are filled, ensures that the decisions made by the EAN Board are executed, runs and controls the general administration of the EAN association, is the legal and public representative of the association, represents the EAN in the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee, represents the EAN in the EPIET Training Site Forum (ETSF), represents the EAN in the EPIET/EUPHEM Selection Committee, represents the EAN in collaborations with any other association or organisation (e.g. ECDC, TEPHINET etc.), deals with any other task that may be decided in consultation with the other board members.

- Secretary

The Secretary and his/her deputy provide operational support to all the activities of the EAN board, are responsible for arranging invitations for meetings, taking minutes of meetings, EAN correspondence, including management of the EAN inbox: labelling of emails, filing of relevant emails, liaison with EAN Members, weekly sending of EAN bulletin (including job listings, relevant courses and conferences etc.) to the network, updating and maintenance of the EAN website as well as the EAN facebook profile and association page, contribution to setting of agenda's for regular EAN board meetings, contribution to logistic arrangements for EAN Annual General Assembly during ESCAIDE, contribution to logistic arrangements to ensure teleconference link ups, responsible for the coordination of the quarterly EAN newsletters (all board members contribute to the Newsletters), deals with any other task that may be decided in consultation with the other board members.

- Treasurer

The Treasurer and his/her deputy are responsible for maintaining the accounts of the EAN, paying bills and using the funds according to the instructions of the Advisory Board, download bank account statements every month, update membership fee database, administer EAN travel grants, find new sponsors for grants, reimburse fees after ESCAIDE, update new board composition to prefecture after GA and forward reply from prefecture to bank in France, deals with any other task that may be decided in consultation with the other board members.

- General Board Member

The general board member is a new role and Zsafia has been the first one to take on this challenge. The idea is that this person helps with various concrete tasks on the board (there is enough to do! ;)) e.g. making the member survey happen, preparing events, supporting the secretary tasks etc. We still need to better formalise this role, but it's very nice to have some extra hands on the board.

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.

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 in the general assembly.

The EAN Advisory Board Member elections will take place during ESCAIDE, 16-19 November.



Photo@ Twitter @ESCAIDE

In the next edition!

- ✓ The Board will present a summary of their plans and main activities
 - ✓ A brand new 'Where are you now?'
 - ✓ Information on forthcoming EAN webinars
 - ✓ Stories from our members in pandemic times
 - ✓ Photo contest to redesign the EAN bulletin banner
- 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 2021 (or 2031)!

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.

Your membership fees can be paid directly through our [website](#). If you are an alumnus of EPIET, EUPHEM or an EAP, you will already have a profile created on the website, and you can make a payment

either via Paypal (giving you immediate access to the member area) or via bank transfer (see bank details below). Please indicate your name and year of graduation as reference in the bank transfer (this is important, as sometimes names are not correctly displayed in the bank transfers).

If you do not have a profile on the website yet, you can fill in the [form](#) to request joining the network.

If you require any further information on membership payment or joining the EAN, we kindly ask you to contact the EAN board (eanboard@gmail.com), putting “membership payment” or “joining EAN” in the subject line.

Thank you for your support!

EURO ACCOUNT (€30 per annum)

Bank: TransferWise Europe SA

Bank address: Avenue Louise 54, Room S52, Brussels 1050, BE

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

IBAN: BE88 9670 3610 1241

BIC/Swift: TRWIBEB1

GBP ACCOUNT (£28 per annum)

Bank: TransferWise

Address: 56 Shoreditch High Street, London E16JJ, UK

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

IBAN: GB22 TRWI 2314 7095 5404 40

Account Number: 95540440

Sort code: 23-14-70