



“When field gives you sticks, make blood smears”, Ghana, May 2016, photo by Corrado Minetti

## Editorial

Dear EAN friends,

Happy New Year! We hope that your year 2023 will be even more interesting but also much calmer as 2022 #makeepidemiologyboringagain.

The last few months have seen what we have all been waiting for: getting to meet again face-to-face and most importantly at ESCAIDE and for our General Assembly! And what an ESCAIDE indeed. In addition of the conference itself, we had all EAN-organised side events, a graduation ceremony for three cohorts and, last but not least, the celebration of the 20 (+2 COVID-19-induced delay) years since the creation of the EAN and the 25 (+2) years of EPIET. Such important steps deserved a celebration!

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

- Get a summary of the **EAN general assembly** of 2022
- Meet the entire **advisory board**, including the newly elected, the old ones and former members coming back to help as co-opted members
- Read about EAN activities at **ESCAIDE 2022**, with an amazing plenary session, EAN-organised side-events and the winners of our photo contest and best presentation award
- Congratulate three cohorts on their official graduation
- Discover or remember what happened over 27 years of EPIET and then EUPHEM and what brings us all together
- Learn about past and future EAN activities
- **And much more...**

Enjoy the reading and see you soon.

The EAN Board

### The EAN board

#### President

Iro Evlampidou

#### Vice-President

Jane Whelan

#### Treasurers

Maximilian Riess  
&  
Charlotte Hammer

#### Secretaries

Dorothee Obach  
&  
Laura Bubba

#### General Board Member

Justine Schaeffer

#### Co-opted members

Stine Nielsen  
&  
Alma Tostmann

## Word from the president: over 20 years of bringing people together



Dear EAN friends and colleagues,

After two full years of COVID-19 restrictions, finally 2022 started to show some signs of normality with most of the traditional face-to-face activities of the EAN returning back.

The 2022 EAN Board set a very ambitious agenda for 2023 and I am happy and proud to say that we achieved most of the

objectives we put during the annual in-person meeting in Mallorca. In this Winter 2023 edition of the EAN newsletter you will read about their realisation including the last of three mini-modules, the face-to-face ESCAIDE 2022 activities, some of the get together but most of all the celebrative event of the 25+ years of EPIET and 20+ years of EAN.

On Saturday 26 November 2022, the EAN Board organised a one-day event where many EAN members, EPIET & EUPHEM founders, supervisors, coordinators, past and current fellows, colleagues from the ECDC Fellowship office and from the UK and German FETP met in the Public Health Agency of Sweden for a full day of memories, discussions, brainstorming but also laughs, happy tears and lots of hugs!! It was a very emotional day where the older of us remembered and the younger learnt about how the EPIET and EUPHEM programmes had started, the challenges faced and how they were overcome, how the EAN was created and flourished over the years, and most of all, the role the Programmes and EAN played and continue to play in the life of its members! EPIET & EUPHEM are not just another training programme where people get in, learn something new and then go on with their lives. It is not just an

instant but the beginning of a new life-long relationship through the active participation in the EAN network where strong friendships are forged and collaborations happen. During the day, apart from remembering and being happy with each other, we discussed our role as field epidemiologists in the present scene, about the leadership we need to exercise and our relationship with politics and politicians. There was also a great exchange on the future of intervention epidemiology, how we achieve our potential and to be a strong and influential voice in an ever-changing world full of challenges and surprises.

The EAN has a crucial role to play in keeping our membership connected through an active network of people and scientists that are scientifically up-to-date, empowered, feel supported and safe to actively shape the present and future of the health of populations in Europe and beyond. The EAN's role through its Advisory Board is to provide the platform and the space to keep the network alive but its members are the ones to make it strong and lively! A big thanks to all our Members that were present in this 25+ years celebration event, whether in person, online or by thought. We wouldn't have made it without you all through the years. An even bigger thanks to my Board colleagues - Anna, Charlotte, Justine, Tim, Laura and Stine - as well as to the many volunteers, members of the Network, for their great support and help in its organisation and for making it happen!

But this event of course is not the end, just a stop-over that helps in reflecting back. The road continues, sometimes it will be easy other times a bit more bumpy. For 2023, we plan more face-to-face but also online events. We started with the Board's annual meeting in Paris where we set our yearly objectives and we promise you that it will be another year of scientific and social meetings to allow us to stay connected and be together!

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful 2023, full of energy and creativity! Hope to see many of you during one or more of our planned activities.

Iro Evlampidou



Celebration of the 20+ years since the creation of the EAN and the 25+ years of EPIET, 26 November 2022



# EAN General Assembly 2022

## Summary of 2022 activities

The EAN general assembly took place in a hybrid format Thursday 24 November 2022 during ESCAIDE in Stockholm, after 2 years online. In addition to the 7 board members, 78 people attended face-to-face and 14 online.

In 2022, the EAN was rich of 318 active members, including 22 external members, and 97 fellows. But sadly 410 members were non-active: **see details for how to pay your EAN membership at the end of the Newsletter!** During the year 2022, the board managed to propose « back to normal » activities. In addition to the 52 weekly bulletins sent, 220 job offers and 30 courses advertised, the board organised **three mini modules**, of which two face-to-face and one online. Fellows and alumnus were offered to train on geographical information systems in Rome just after the time series analysis module of cohort 2020, and on media and infodemic management in Stockholm before ESCAIDE. The EAN also made a partnership with Applied Epi and offered online training on R, proposing grants for course candidates to the course. In addition, EAN members were proposed **two webinars**: “equitable access to medical interventions” on 27 April by Els Torrelee; “xenomonitoring and surveillance” on 26 October by Corrado Minetti. The EAN board also continued its fellowship related activities by participating to the quarterly Training Site Forum/National Focal Point for Training meetings organized by ECDC, and to the supervisors meetings. The board was part of the cohort 2023 selection Committee for EPIET and EUPHEM currently ongoing, and facilitated some modules for the current cohorts. Finally at least one board member was still involved in five fellowship working groups: the EPIET/EUPHEM Curriculum development, International assignments, underrepresented countries, Selection process and Quality improvement.

As a member of the scientific committee, EAN was involved in the preparation of **ESCAIDE 2022**, organised in a hybrid format. The EAN board members participated in abstract review, organised a

plenary session on refugees’ health, moderated some poster sessions, and coordinated the BarCamp event. Three side events were also organised by EAN: the career compass, the ESCAIDE’s photo contest, and the best oral presentation. But the major event during this year ESCAIDE for the board was the 20+ years celebrations since the creation of the EAN and 25+ years of the EPIET fellowship: look out the next part of this newsletter!

The board maintained engagement with the network, advertising 13 in-person Drinks and Dinner events organised by EAN members, and keeping active the EAN website, the Discord channel, and EAN groups on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter. The board continued its bi-weekly meetings, with one face-to-face in Mallorca in February 2022. Also, continuing the process of strengthening links with other networks, the EAN kept collaborations with TEPHINET, where the EAN president is member of the Field Epidemiology Learning Advisory Council (FLAC) and of the TEPHICONNECT advisory board. Additionally, EAN board members participated in GOARN activities including weekly operational calls, global meeting of partners and EIOS global technical meeting, and the EAN board disseminated 19 WHO GOARN requests for assistance. Eleven members applied and three were deployed.

This year, there were three positions for the EAN Advisory Board to fill during the annual elections. The outgoing members were Stine Nielsen as Vice-President, Timothée Dub as deputy Treasurer, and Anna Maisa as deputy Secretary, replaced respectively by Jane Whelan, Maximilien Riess, and Dorothée Obach. Big thanks to all outgoing board members for their work and dedication to the Network, especially during these challenging times, and congratulations and good luck to the new EAN Advisory Board members!

We would like to say a big thank you to all our members, both alumni and fellows for attending the GA and for their constructive input and suggestions!

## The place of MediPIET fellows in the EAN

One of the major change in the network this year was the inclusion of MediPIET training program by ECDC, beginning with cohort 2021. This 4th cohort of MediPIET is now joining some modules with EPIET, EUPHEM and PAE fellows, and the FETP is planning to develop its own alumni network. For the moment, alumnus can apply to the EAN as external members but the board proposed during the general assembly to include the MediPIET fellows in the EAN for the duration of their fellowship. A show of hand during the

assembly was in favour of the proposition but a more official **poll will be organised to confirm this result** with all the active members of the network. The board is also looking at the EAN statutes to assess if this would require a change of it. If so, a vote will be conducted after formal presentation and discussion at the coming General Assembly with the EAN active members. We hope to include the new fellows as soon as possible in the network!

## Future of the EAN: what can we do better?

A major topic of this general assembly was the discussion of the future of EAN. The board presented the results from the 2021 member survey, that showed the evolution of members, and the benefits of being active member felt by the interviewees. But the board also spoke about the increasing challenges faced by the board members to engage non-paying members, and with the workload. Despite of the increase of board members in 2019, the board faces challenges to achieve the objectives of the year. The organisation of the 20+ years celebration showed that the help of volunteers from the network was highly valuable, and the volunteers enjoyed it. The EAN members showed interest to volunteer for time-limited tasks, and therefore the EAN board will

not hesitate to ask for help for some specific tasks during the year! **So watch-out your emails and do not hesitate to contact us 😊.** In addition, two co-opted board members will help the regular board members during 2023: huge thanks to Alma Tostmann and Stine Nielsen! The board will also explore the possibility to subcontract some routine non sensitive tasks to a professional, as it would help board members to focus on bigger projects. However, due to economical constraints, this should be done through a cheap option and the board would welcome any suggestion from the EAN members such as on where to find additional funds or contact EU Public Health Institute that would be happy to help the board.

## Meet the EAN Advisory Board 2022-2023

The EAN is happy to present you below the composition of the new Advisory Board for 2022-2023 together with a short biography of its members.

### **President: Iro Evlampidou, EPIET Cohort 2012 (2021-2023)**



Iro is an EPIET Alumna (cohort 2012) and General Medicine and Public Health and Social Medicine doctor (dual specialization) with a Master's in Public Health. She is currently the Epidemiology Advisor of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) - Operational Centre Brussels responsible for the epidemiological support and operational research of the MSF projects in South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya and Haiti. Before that, she was the Scientific

Coordinator of MediPIET, cohort 3. Since 2001, she has been working with MSF in multiple positions (medical doctor, project medical referent, field coordinator, medical coordinator and epidemiologist) in Africa (Zambia, South Sudan, Liberia, Kenya, Mozambique), Asia (Myanmar) and Europe (Greece, Belgium) and with academic and public institutions as a researcher, teacher/mentor of health professionals and students and organizer of educational courses. Her professional interests are in emergencies and outbreaks and her research interests in key and marginalized populations (refugees, internally displaced, migrants, etc.), in infectious and neglected tropical diseases including malaria, leishmaniasis control, hepatitis B, Ebola virus and in environmental health and especially access to and quality of drinking water.

### **Vice president: Jane Whelan, EPIET cohort 2009 (2022-2024, newly elected)**



Jane is a medical epidemiologist and public health specialist originally from Ireland, and an alumna of EPIET cohort 2009 (RIVM, NL). She holds a medical degree from University College Dublin, working initially in clinical medicine in Ireland and New Zealand before specializing in Public Health Medicine in Ireland. On completing EPIET, Jane joined the Municipal Health Service in Amsterdam.

She holds a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology from the Academic Medical Centre (University of Amsterdam) where her research focused on the use of surveillance data for the control of vaccine preventable disease. Her interest in vaccines led her to private industry where she worked in vaccine research and development for with Novartis and GSK Vaccines. Jane left industry in April 2021 to work independently, taking her first steps into the start-up world while rediscovering her roots in public health.

### **Secretary: Dorothée Obach, EPIET cohort 2020 (2022-2024, newly elected)**

Hi everyone! I am your new deputy secretary. I am French and I just graduated from the EPIET fellowship that I did at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare in Helsinki. I started my studies in academia, with a master degree in microbiology-virology for what I worked on rabies at Institut Pasteur. Just after I thought that working at the population scale would be more interesting for me and switched to public health-epidemiology, doing first a master degree and second a PhD focusing on health economics. My PhD

topic was applied public health in a middle-income country and made me want to continue helping countries in need. I then engaged with MSF Belgique and did seven missions in different contexts, doing monitoring and evaluation, surveillance of communicable diseases, intervention evaluation after outbreaks, and operational research. Eventually, I applied for EPIET for its opportunity to work in Europe but also for its network, the EAN, and to be part of the big family. And luckily was successful! After my fellowship I began a position in Luxembourg but only for a short time, as I realised I needed to take some time away from work to digest the fellowship and previous work experiences. Doing the fellowship during the pandemic was quite challenging, but I am grateful for what I learned during that time, on the scientific and human sides. Being now part of the board is a great opportunity to be actively involved in the network, for the network, and to keep links with alumni, current, and future fellows. I am sure you will enjoy what the EAN will propose you this year and I will do my best to support the network!



### **Secretary: Laura Bubba, EUPHEM cohort 2016 (2021-2023)**



I am Italian and I started my scientific activity at the University of Milan in 2008. I applied for EUPHEM in 2016, working at Public Health England in London. During my EUPHEM experience first and my position at Global health later, I had several opportunities to work on different aspects of public and global health, focusing part of my activities on laboratory capacity building and

respiratory bacterial infections. After maternity leave, I worked with the European Society of Clinical Virology (ESCV) mapping the SARS-CoV-2 serological testing approaches across European countries. Later I joined my old team at the University of Milan working on SARS-CoV-2 and influenza surveillances and since October 2022 I am a consultant for the primary endpoint on WHO solidarity trial vaccine. I believe EAN can enhance and improve EPIET and EUPHEM fellowships, helping to keep alumni updated on all aspects of public health, creating links between the European epidemiologists and microbiologists. As secretary I am happy to learn new competences and to actively contribute to the network supporting communications, meeting and modules organisation.

### **Treasurer: Maximilian Riess, EUPHEM Cohort 2018 (2022-2024, newly elected)**

Hello there! My name is Max and I had the pleasure of doing the EUPHEM fellowship at the Public Health Agency of Sweden with cohort 2018. My background is in molecular microbiology with focus on virology and immunology and I did my PhD on host-pathogen interaction of HIV and innate immune regulation.

For me, public health was a long-standing keen interest but only thanks to the fellowship I transitioned from academic research. For me, that program was an impressive, rich, humbling and inspiring journey and I never regretted following this path. After my



fellowship, I had the opportunity to stay for a short term at the RKI in Germany and then went back to the Public Health Agency of Sweden working in the national influenza and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance. Since then, I am another German settling in Sweden, only half-jokingly calling myself an early climate migrant fleeing from hot German summers. Today, I am working with the implementation of molecular surveillance for influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens and coordinating related laboratory training activities as public health microbiologist at ECDC. I volunteered to join the EAN board in November 2022 in the role of deputy treasurer (thanks to Justine after a beer on Spetses) and would like to thank you for allowing me to pursue this role of keeping up with the membership finances and keeping our membership database up to date. Hope to see you all lots in the coming years!

#### **Treasurer: Charlotte Hammer, EPIET 2018 (2021-2023)**

I am Charlotte, your treasurer, an EPIET fellow from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare in Helsinki. I am now based at the University of Cambridge in the UK in the Disease Dynamics Unit and maintain a firm foot in both applied epidemiology and academia. When I am not taking time out of my research to run off and do applied epi, right now mainly for the WHO, I research the early stages of outbreaks of emerging zoonotic diseases to develop targeted surveillance systems. During my fellowship, I was one of the cohort representatives and enjoyed it a lot. While my fellowship was during a challenging time, I found it extremely rewarding, particularly being a part of such a strong and committed group of like-minded people. This is an exciting time for the network, the fellowships and field epidemiology and public health microbiology in general and I am grateful to have been trusted with a position that gives me the opportunity to be an active part in the general field but also in the development of the alumni network. As treasurer, I will not only be collecting your money but I am also determined to make sure it is money well spent. Additionally, I am



keen to support the current cohorts and to strengthen the ties between applied and academic epis which has been extremely important these past two years, if not always successful.

I am looking forward to meeting many (more) of you in person and online (but really, I just want to meet you all in person) in the near future at various events.

#### **General Board Member: Justine Schaeffer, EUPHEM cohort 2019 (2021-2023)**

I am a EUPHEM fellow from cohort 2019, and I was lucky to do my fellowship at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), in Vienna, Austria. I started my studies in academia, with a PhD at the Institut Pasteur. During my PhD, I got the chance to participate in the international efforts against the West-African Ebola outbreak (2014-2015) by working in an Ebola diagnostic lab in Guinea. It was the start of my switch, from research to public health. My EUPHEM fellowship included projects on a wide range of pathogens



and many genomic analyses, thanks to the AGES sequencing facility. Like most C2019 fellows, I had the opportunity to work on COVID-19, which led me to my current position. I am now working at SpF, in the COVID variant team. As a general board member, I will support my fellow board members in all the routine tasks but also hope to start newer and more exciting projects. We already have started thinking of all the amazing EAN mini-modules we can organise F2F!

#### **Co-opted member: Stine Nielsen, EPIET cohort 2008 (2022-2023, newly nominated)**



I have enjoyed being the EAN vice-president from 2020-2022 and as I have one more year as the EAN representative on the ESCAIDE scientific committee - and because I really love our awesome alumni network and it is really fun to be part of the EAN board! - I am happy to stay on the EAN board as a co-opted member for another year.

I 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/Europe in the unit for HIV, Hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. After EPIET, I stayed at RKI working mostly on bio-behavioural surveys among female sex workers and people who use drugs. In 2015, I moved with my Spanish husband and our daughter to Torrelodones (Madrid) and worked from home as an independent consultant for clients such as WHO/Europe, RKI, EMCDDA and Epiconcept mostly on projects related to viral hepatitis and HIV. In August 2022, I moved back to Copenhagen to work in the outbreak team at SSI.

I highly recommend others in our network (both new alumni and those who did their fellowship a long time ago) to consider joining the EAN board. The more we are, the more we can do. And it's fun!

#### **Co-opted member: Alma Tostmann, EPIET cohort 2009 (2022-2023, newly nominated)**

I am a hospital epidemiologist and deputy head of the Infection Prevention and Control unit of a large academic hospital in the Netherlands. As infectious disease epidemiologist and assistant professor, I aim for increasing the evidence for infectious disease prevention and control methods, both in the Netherlands and in



resource constrained healthcare or public health settings. I enjoy teaching university students and (public) health professionals about the exciting field of infectious disease epidemiology and I want to contribute to strengthening the public health and infection control workforce and build capacity in the field of applied infectious disease epidemiology, antimicrobial resistance and infection prevention. During the COVID19-pandemic, I took up the role of explaining epidemiological concepts on national radio, TV and written media. As a former vice-president of the EPIET Alumni Network board (from 2016-2018), I feel strongly connected to the network and I therefore could not resist the request to contribute to the EAN network for another year as co-opted board member. I will focus on the mentoring program, and help out with organising activities as well as providing ad hoc support to the EAN Board where needed.



## ESCAIDE 2022

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, ESCAIDE was back face-to-face! The conference was held on 23-25 November 2022 as a hybrid event, in Stockholm and online on the virtual platform Swapcard which hosted all features of the conference, including plenaries, abstract sessions, side events and networking. There were 2400 online participants and 600 in-person participants attending the venue across the three days.

The agenda included five plenary sessions with prominent speakers and panellists on ethics in the time of a pandemic (plenary A), refugee health (plenary B), new vaccine technologies (plenary C), infodemic management (plenary D) and post-pandemic changes in surveillance (plenary E). In addition, a large diversity of topics were covered by over 50 oral presentations distributed in 9 Fireside sessions and over 70 posters distributed in 13 poster tours. Complementary sessions and seminars were hosted (Modelling, Communicating science, national FETPs, social science methods) as well as the different activities and events organised every year by EAN that you can read more about below.

The recordings of ESCAIDE2022 sessions are available on [Swapcard](#) and Recordings of the ESCAIDE 2022 plenaries, opening ceremony and side events are now available on [#ESCAIDE2022 - YouTube](#).

## Career compass

*By Timothée Dub (EPIET 2017) and Justine Schaeffer (EUPHEM 2019)*

EPIET, EUPHEM and other FETPs open many doors, but it is sometimes hard to know which ones are right for you. Who would be better placed than program alumni to provide a large overview of what you can do once you completed your fellowship? This is the reasoning behind the Career Compass organised by fellows in collaboration with the EAN and held at ESCAIDE since 2017. This Q&A session gathers a panel of alumni with different career paths and provides the ideal platform to help junior public health professionals connect with senior professionals and discover future career opportunities.

If the 2021 Career Compass focused on alumni at a later stage of their careers, the 2022 session aimed at having guest fellows can identify to. We were lucky to have four amazing panellists joining us on 23rd November and share their views on careers in public health.

**Zsófia Iglói** is a cohort 2016 EUPHEM alumna (RIVM, the Netherlands). Originally from Hungary, she studied biology and

moved to the UK for a PhD and postdoc on hepatitis C virus. Her stepping stone into public health was during the West African ebola outbreak where she supported laboratory diagnostics in Public Health England established laboratories. She is now working at the Erasmus Medical Centre (Rotterdam, The Netherlands) as a research scientist coordinating and executing national and international arbo-, emerging- and haemorrhagic fever virus reference laboratory tasks.

**Kostas Danis** is an EPIET cohort 2002 alumni (HSPC, Ireland). He initially trained as a medical epidemiologist in Greece and in the UK. He did in 2002, in addition to a four-year specialisation in occupational and public health medicine and a PhD in epidemiology. Kostas worked for many years in Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and WHO, responding to public health and humanitarian crises. He also worked as a regional or national epidemiologist in the UK, Greece and France. He was a scientific



Panel and moderators of the ESCAIDE 2022 Career Compass (left to right: Justine Schaeffer, Kostas Danis, Jane Whelan, Giri Shankar, Zsófia Iglói and Timothée Dub). © European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (available [here](#)).

coordinator of EPIET for 6 years and he currently works at ECDC as scientific coordinator of MediPIET.

**Giri Shankar** was trained as a medical doctor in India before moving to the UK to obtain further higher specialist training in Public Health by completing a Master's programme. He joined the Indian FETP program in 2001. He is now the Director for Health Protection at Public Health Wales, responsible for the delivery of the health protection services across Wales, through the national public health institute for Wales. During the pandemic, he was one of the Incident Directors for the COVID-19 response, contributed to the overall pandemic control strategy and provided advice to a range of senior civil servants and policy officials.

**Jane Whelan** is an alumna of EPIET cohort 2009 (RIVM, the Netherlands). Before EPIET, she trained as a medical epidemiologist and public health specialist in Ireland. She completed a PhD on the use of surveillance data for the control of vaccine preventable disease. On completing EPIET, Jane joined the Municipal Health Service in Amsterdam. Her interest in vaccines led her to private industry where she worked as a senior epidemiologist for 7 years with Novartis and GSK Vaccines. Jane left industry in April 2021 to work independently, taking her first steps into the start-up world while rediscovering her roots in public health.

After a short description of their background, our panellists answered the questions of on-site and online participants. They provided some more details on how they ended up choosing the path they have been walking. They shared their optimism regarding the opportunities for younger public health professionals and see a bright future for public health. When asked about advice on what skills and topics younger professionals should work on, they recommended to follow what they like most, as what makes a job your dream job is that it is aligned with your interests and your values. They underlined the need to rethink the clichés of “career progression” and embrace changes when given the opportunity, which is an important message for individuals but also for managers that need to provide growth opportunities to their teams.

If you want to hear more of these inspirational discussions, you can still listen to the recording on [Swapcard](#) ! We are very thankful to Cristina da Cruz (ESCAIDE organiser) for her support in organising and running the event.

*If you are interested in being a panel member for future Career Compasses, have new ideas for a different format etc. please contact the EAN board.*

## EAN plenary session “Refugee Health”

**By Stine Nielsen**

The EAN, represented by Stine Nielsen (EAN vice-president), as part of the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee and based on input from several EAN members, organised a plenary session addressing the “Inequality pandemic” with three invited speakers: Paul Spiegel (Johns Hopkins Center, United States), Aurélie Ponthieu (Médecins Sans Frontières), Elke Jakubowski (Health Policy Europe, Germany), Apostolos Veizis (INTERSOS, Greece).

The focus of the sessions was to inspire and give some concrete examples to public health professionals - especially the kind we have in our alumni network - on how to act for improving health inequity issues.

You can find a recording of this session on ESCAIDE2021 YouTube channel and [here](#).

*If any EAN members have thoughts or suggestions for topics and speakers which they would like to see at the plenary sessions for ESCAIDE2022 then please get in touch with the EAN board - send us an email at [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com) - with the subject “ESCAIDE suggestions”.*



Inequality pandemic session at ESCAIDE 2022. © European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (available [here](#)).

## Barcamp 2022

**By Jane Whelan**

It was BarCamp, but ‘4real’ this year! There was a party atmosphere from the outset. Participants filed in, grabbed a drink and some snacks and the hum of conversation grew. It was so refreshing and energising to meet old and new friends in person, it took quite a while to get us all seated. Thanks to the wizardry of our tech support, BarCamp went hybrid for the first time this year allowing participants who were unable to join in person to actively take part from a distance, drink in hand. Hybrid yes, but with a respectful nod to the original vision...still mercifully PowerPoint free!

The concept of BarCamp was entirely new to me at its debut at ESCAIDE in 2014. An open, participatory workshop-event, the content was provided by ESCAIDE participants who nominated and

voted on their topics of choice (via Slido) throughout the conference.

Two topics were elected for discussion:

**1. ‘How do we make sure that our ‘field’ epidemiologists and microbiologists have enough ‘field’ experience and not only computer / PhD / technical skill?’** The first point that really struck me was how we think about the ‘field’: a distant place, somewhere ‘beyond’. The field can be much closer to home, a nursing home down the road, a local restaurant, a nursery, for example. Post-pandemic, cost and / or time saving ‘digital first’ attitudes may limit our scope of experience, a core value of the applied nature of EPIET training. Proposals for all field epidemiologists (not just for fellows) included rotations in regional health units to develop our



observational skills and our understanding of the 'farm-to-plate' nature of infectious disease transmission, for example. Such a rotation could be beneficial to both parties, the EPIET/EUPHEM fellows and the local department alike. Pay a visit now! Don't just wait for an outbreak.

**2. 'How do we ensure a smooth transition from the COVID emergency to a routine surveillance: ongoing high workload, but cuts in the workforce. How do we prioritize?'** Phew, what a discussion this unleashed! Participants lent an empathetic ear as shared personal experiences resonated. Frustrations vented, reflections on workload and stress management, coping mechanisms tried and failed, lessons learned... There is no easy answer to this one but open discussions with our leadership,

learning to manage expectations and prioritizing self-care were some of the proposed solutions. One interesting point that arose was the acknowledgement that managers and leaders themselves experience these challenges. Being an effective manager is an acquired skill. It's not 'them and us', we're all in it together but one cannot thrive on (epi) passion alone!

The session was animated, insightful and engaging, in the end 'like a group hug' (as Stine put it!). It was brilliantly chaired and facilitated by Florian, Stine and Iro and a true highlight of ESCAIDE, I think all present would agree!

If you missed this session and would like to hear and see all of these fascinating exchanges, active members can watch the recording on the [EAN website](#).



ESCAIDE 2022 BarCamp © European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (available [here](#)).

## Best oral presentation award

With ESCAIDE coming back F2F came the opportunity to resume one of EAN-organised side events: the award for the best ESCAIDE presentation! Our esteemed panel of enthusiastic, sharp and incorruptible volunteer judges covered all fireside sessions to evaluate and rate the different presentations.

This year, the winning presentation asked a simple but yet important question: instead of monitoring people, can we look at their poop? Behind this topic that might have made you smile is a very comprehensive study that Oliver McManus presented to the audience of the Fireside session 8 under the official title "Wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 closely mirrors incidence data: results from national surveillance in Denmark, October 2021 – May 2022". He conducted this study during his EPIET fellowship in Statens Serum Institut in Denmark in order to evaluate whether SARS-CoV-2 quantification in waste water is a good proxy for incidence. Long story short, their model predictions based on waste water data fit the incidence curve well, explaining 97% of the variation in incidence throughout the period.

If you want to know more, all recordings of ESCAIDE presentations are still available on the [ESCAIDE platform](#). We thank again our amazing judges that dedicated part of their time to this award. And if you think you are enthusiastic, sharp and incorruptible, keep tuned next November for our call for judges and make sure your

favourite presentation of ESCAIDE 2023 gets the recognition it deserves!



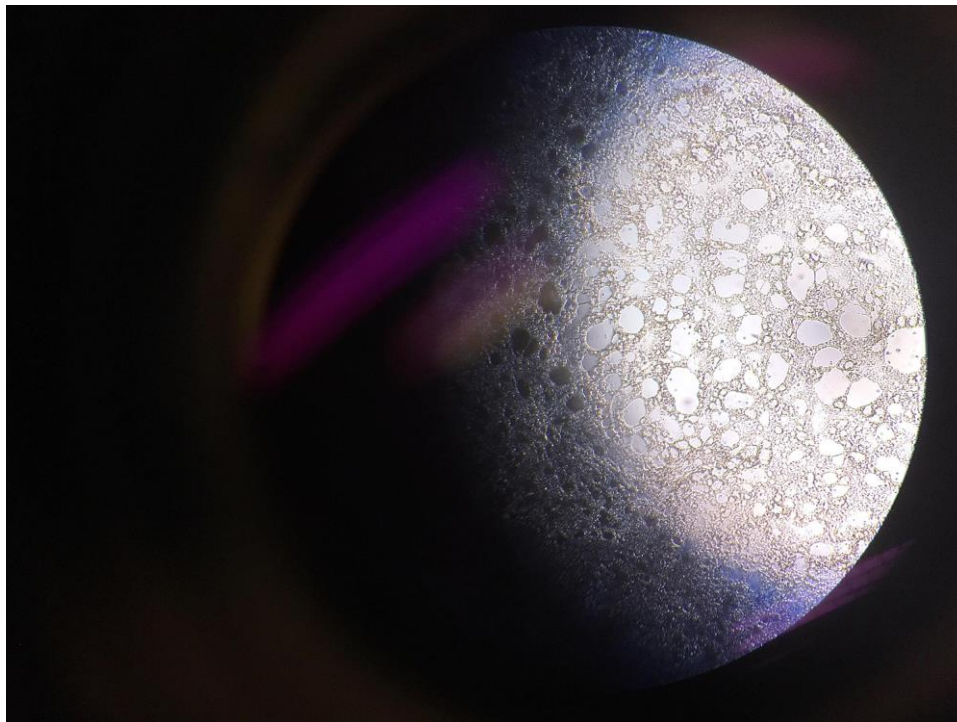
ESCAIDE 2022 Fireside session 8 © European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (available [here](#)).



## Photo Contest

During ESCAIDE 2022, the EAN organised the traditional photo contest. A call was sent to the network for fellows, alumni and friends to submit photos that transmit the spirit of field epidemiology and public health microbiology. This year, nine photos entered into the competition. Conference attendees (both on site and online) were able to participate and vote for the best photo.

The winning photograph for 2022 was taken by Marius Linkevicius, and is now the cover of EAN weekly bulletin.

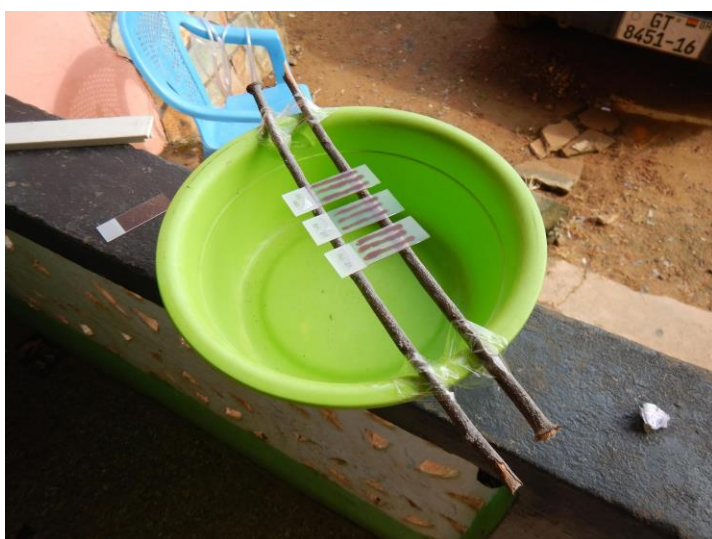


**1st place: "Planet Measles" by Marius Linkevicius**

*"This photograph was taken during my EUPHEM training project at THL in Finland, where we aimed at predicting measles virus transmissibility by performing virus isolation experiments. It shows the destructive effects of measles virus on the Vero/hSLAM cell line through an inverted microscope. In the field of vision, the camera flare created an eclipse effect, which made me think of celestial bodies of our solar system, while the measles virus damaged cells reminded me of the lunar surface. That is how the planet Measles was born."*

In second and third places came photos from Corrado Minetti and Natalie Fisher.

**2nd place: "When field gives you sticks, make blood smears"**  
by Corrado Minetti



**3rd place: "On the road towards the endless sky"**  
by Natalie Fisher



## Graduation party for cohort 2020 (and 2019 and 2018)

ESCAIDE is traditionally the place where EPIETs, EUPHEMs and PAEs fellows get to officially celebrate the end of their fellowship. The graduation ceremony for cohort 2020 was held on November 25<sup>th</sup>. After two years of hard work and countless repetitions of the 10 steps of an outbreak investigation, they got to celebrate and party. As the two previous cohorts, C2019 and C2018, had to hold their graduation ceremony online, the fellowship office kindly invited them to get some of the spotlight and get a taste of what their graduation should have been.

In addition to ECDC fellowship office, coordinators and supervisors, five cohorts from 2018 to 2022 joined together for this graduation ceremony. Over a nice dinner and a few drinks, various speakers addressed their congratulations to the graduating cohort(s), shared some memories of the time spent together since the beginning of

the program and expressed their hopes for a bright future. Cohort representatives also had their share of stage time, to share what the two years of the fellowship meant to them, with both good and difficult times. The traditional cohort videos (and a surprise choreography) showed once again how these two years spent together create bonds that will last forever. Last but not least, what would an EPIET/EUPHEM celebration be without a crazy party! Music and dancing carried on until dawn (or almost until dawn, given that it was November in Sweden).

Our warmest congratulations to C2020 fellows, EAN is happy to welcome you as alumni in the network. And for those who haven't paid their membership yet, it is all explained at the end of this Newsletter! And a (late) congratulation to C2019 and C2018 who could finally have their "end of fellowship" get together.



Cohorts 2020 (top), 2019 (left) and 2018 (right) getting their diploma at the 2022 graduation ceremony. We thank João Pires for his beautiful pictures of that memorable evening.

## Celebration of the 20+ years of EAN and 25+ years of EPIET

**By Justine Schaeffer (EUPHEM 2019), Kostas Danis (EPIET C8/2002, EPIET coordinator 2012-2018) and Vera Manageiro (EUPHEM 2021)**

2020 marked two important anniversaries for the EAN community. 25 years ago, the first EPIET cohort started their fellowship, and 5 years later, the EPIET alumni network was created. Plans were made to celebrate these two events, but fate and a new coronavirus decided otherwise. In 2022, in person events were back and the prospect of a face-to-face ESCAIDE led the EAN board to resume the planning. This led to what was finally named the celebration of the 20+ years since the creation of the EAN and the 25+ years of EPIET.

After two years of isolation and mostly online life, we seized this opportunity to bring back together current and former EPIETs, EUPHEMs, PAE, UK-FETPs, national FETPs and friends of the network. We took one day to remember all that had happened over the past 27 years, reflect on how much public health in general and field epidemiology in particular has evolved, imagine how much more it will change in a near future and consider the place of the EAN in all of this. We then took the evening to just enjoy each other, which as always included dinner, drinks, discussions, and dance!

This event's magnitude and ambition made it a great challenge to organise. The 2022 EAN board deserves a great deal of congratulations for still deciding to go through with it and for their hard work in making it happen. But none of it would have been possible without the invaluable help



of volunteers, who agreed to dedicate an important amount of time and brain power to organise this event. They designed the scientific content, found the various venues, and took care of all the little logistic details that no one notices but that still need to be thought through and handled. For that, we are immensely grateful and offer our warmest thanks to Kostas, Emma, Vera, Amrish, Adam, Susane, Chris, Jane, Maria, Arnold, Ioannis, Barbara, Benedetto and more. Another round of thanks goes to everyone who attended this celebration and made it the passionate, interactive, friendly, and festive event it was.

## Day event

The EAN 25+ year celebrating event took place in the Swedish Public Health Agency in Stockholm on Saturday 26 November 2022, one day after ESCAIDE. It was a get together event to reflect around the past, present, and future of EPIET and field epidemiology in Europe. It gathered about 150 alumni from all the previous and current cohorts. The hosts were Kostas Danis (EPIET C8/2002, EPIET coordinator 2012-2018) and Iro Evlampidou (EPIET 2012, current EAN president).

The **first session** was a **chronological walk through the history of EPIET during the last 27 years**. During this session, Alain Moren, the first EPIET Programme Coordinator (1995-2006) shared his experience and expectations during the initial implementation of the programme and his aspirations for the future. Frank van Look from the European Commission talked about the establishment of EPIET and Andrea Ammon, current director of ECDC shared her experience as alumna of the first EPIET cohort. Three chairs of the EPIET Steering Committee, Nohynek Hanna, Johan Giesecke, and Mike Catchpole shared their memories of the early phase of the programme. Natasha Crowcroft, alumna of EPIET cohort 1 and the first EAN President talked about the creation of EAN and Arnold Bosman, EPIET Scientific Coordinator (2002-2008) & Head of Public Health Training Section at ECDC (2006-2016) shared his experience with the founding of the EUPHEM & the EPIET MS-track and paid tribute to the alumni who are not with us anymore. This inspiring session closed with an open discussion on how far we are from the initial aspirations. The session was organised and moderated by Kostas Danis (see above) and Iro Evlampidou (see above).

The **second session focused on the present** and there was a discussion about public health, field epidemiology, leadership, and politics and on the challenges faced during the pandemic. The session was introduced by Adam Roth, current Head of Fellowship Programme at ECDC and was organised and moderated by Arnold Bosman (see above) and Amrish Baidjoe (EUPHEM C2015, former EAN president 2018-2021). At the end of the session, Vicky Lefevre,

(Head of Public Health Functions Unit at ECDC 2018 – present) and Carmen Varela Santos (Head of Public Health Training Section at ECDC, 2017 – present) provided the ECDC perspectives.

The third session focused on the **future of intervention epidemiology**. It was organised and moderated by Chris Williams (EPIET C12/2006), Jane Whelan (EPIET C15/2009) and Susan Hahné (EPIET C5/1999, EAN President 2005-2007). It was introduced by Yvan Hutin (EPIET Chief Coordinator 2012-2015) and was followed by group discussions and plenary feedback on how to find our voice and achieve our potential in a changing world

Between the sessions and during the **last session**, the following alumni shared stories/memories or anecdotes about EPIET: Katrine Borgen (EPIET C10 /2004 and EPIET Supervisor Norway 2007-2017), Gerard Krause (chairman of the EPIET Steering committee 2006-2007), Chikwe Ihekweazu (EPIET C2009, WHO deputy director), Fernando Simon, EPIET C7/2001), Richard Pebody (EPIET C2/1996, EAN President 2001-2005), Susan Hahné (EPIET C5/1999, EAN President 2005-2007), Barbara Schimmer (EPIET C10/2004, EAN President 2007-2009, current EPIET coordinator), Lorenzo Pezzoli, EPIET C12/2006, EAN President (2009-2013), Naomi Boxall (EPIET C11/2005, EAN President 2013 -2015), Amrish Baidjoe, (EUPHEM C2015, EAN President 2017-2021), Viviane Bremer (EPIET C5/1999, EPIET Chief coordinator 2008-2012), Marion Muehlen (EPIET C9/2003, EPIET Coordinator & Head Scientific Coordinator 2008-2019), Lisa Hansen (Canadian FETP alumna C30/2004, EPIET Scientific Coordinator 2016-2020), Louise Coole (EPIET Scientific Coordinator 2016-2020, Director of the UK-FETP 2020-present), Christopher Williams (EPIET C12/2006, EPIET Scientific Coordinator 2014-2017), Daniel Thomas & Mari Morgan (EPIET Scientific Coordinators 2017-2020 & 2020-2021 respectively), Innes Steffens (Editor in Chief Eurosurveillance /Head of Eurosurveillance Editorial Office & friend of the EAN), Diogo Marques (EPIET C2015), Alberto Mateo Urdiales (EPIET C2019), Joaquin Baruch, EPIET C2020) and Vera Manageiro (EUPHEM C2021, current fellow).





## Dinner party

After getting together to reflect around the past, with inspirational stories and memories told in the first person, the challenges of present, and the promising future of field-epidemiology in Europe, was time to mingle, have dinner and drink with friends, at Pålunds Matsal. Following a delicious buffet, the party moved to the dance floor with live music by the Södra Akademiens Jazzgrupp until late hours.

For those who stayed around the next day, there was still time to eat and relax with friends living far away at a brunch at the ISH Café.

“In Challenging Times, the Strength of our Network is our Most Valuable Asset”, Arnold Bosman



## Dutch field epi's: building a national platform for applied infectious disease epidemiologists!

By Raïssa Tjon-Kon-Fat, Alma Tostmann and Sonia Boender

In the summer of 2021, Sonia Boender (Robert Koch Institute, EPIET C2018) and Alma Tostmann (Radboudumc, EPIET C2009) joined forces to initiate a platform for infectious disease epidemiologists in the Netherlands. Their vision was to be able to build a strong network of infectious disease epidemiologist associated with the Netherlands, who all have a distinct skill set that can be relevant specifically for epidemic and pandemic preparedness. The national network is there to think globally and act locally.



They received a small grant to start the Special Interest Group for Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology within the Dutch Society for Epidemiology<sup>1</sup>. This special interest group has the following goals:

- to establish a Dutch network of infectious disease epidemiologists and exchange experiences among fellow infectious disease epidemiologists
- to improve visibility and share specific 'field epidemiology' knowledge with professionals working in healthcare and public health in the Netherlands

This special interest group quickly grew larger with active contributions from Jossy van den Boogaard (RIVM, EPIET C2017), Arnold Bosman (Transmissible), Mirjam Knol (EPIET supervisor RIVM), Susan Hahné (RIVM) and Raïssa Tjon-Kon-Fat (GGD Zuid-Holland Zuid, EPIET C2018).

From autumn 2021 this special interest group came together every 2-3 months to discuss activities to achieve the abovementioned goals. One of those activities was to host a pre-conference workshop on infectious disease epidemiology during the annual

<sup>1</sup> The Society for Epidemiology (VvE). Website: <https://www.epidemiologie.nl/en/>





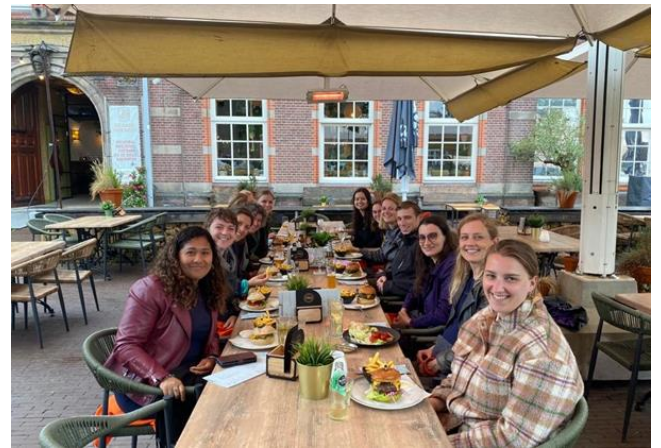
Sonia's presentation on infodemics (left) and cases study on vaccine effectiveness of Haemophilus influenza type B (right) at pre-conference workshop.

Dutch Epidemiology conference WEON in June 2022<sup>2</sup>. The goal of this workshop was for participants to get a feel of the concept and areas of work within infectious disease epidemiology.

On 8 June 2022 the pre-conference workshop entitled 'The Art of Applied infectious disease epidemiology' took place. The workshop started with six plenary presentations which gave the audience a tour along the different areas of Applied Infectious Disease (field) epidemiology, focusing on vaccine preventable diseases from the perspective of the national and regional public health, the Dutch Caribbean, the international context, the hospital and public health microbiology.

1. Barbara Schimmer (EPIET Cohort 10 – 2004-2006) - introduction on the EPIET and EUPHEM programme
2. Anneke Steens (EPIET C2011) - field epidemiology and vaccine preventable diseases from a national public health perspective: national surveillance on Haemophilus influenzae type
3. Raïssa Tjon-Kon-Fat (EPIET C2018): Field epidemiology and vaccine preventable diseases in the Dutch Caribbean: focus on a deployment to Sint-Maarten during the COVID-19 pandemic
4. Elke den Boogert (EPIET C2020): Field epidemiology and vaccine preventable diseases in regional public health: focus on regional surveillance at a Public Health Service in the Netherlands
5. Sonia Boender (EPIET C2018): Field epidemiology and vaccine preventable diseases in European context: focus on the German perspective compared to the Netherlands and the role of infodemic management
6. Alma Tostmann (EPIET C2009): Field epidemiology and vaccine preventable diseases in the hospital: focus on the role of an infectious disease epidemiologist in the hospital

After the plenary session, the group of 36 attendees was divided into smaller groups to do a case study on vaccine effectiveness of Haemophilus influenza type B. By good habit, we closed the day with an EAN Dinner & Drinks!



After the first very successful event, the group continued their work by publishing a manuscript in the Dutch Epidemiological Bulletin, to share their vision and summarize outcome of the workshop<sup>3</sup>. Now a year and a half further, our work has just begun! The plans for 2023 include organizing a webinar series and at least one more face-to-face workshop that includes an EPIET Case study. Also, the Special Interest Group will assess the possibilities and next steps on how the EPIET diploma can qualify for an official Dutch Epidemiology A registration with the Dutch Society for Epidemiology.

If you are interested in joining our network, please reach out! Send an email to Sonia Boender (BoenderS@rki.de).

<sup>2</sup> Anneke Steens (EPIET C2011) - field epidemiology and vaccine preventable diseases from a national public health perspective: national surveillance on Haemophilus influenzae type B

<sup>3</sup> J. van den Boogaard et al. Toegepaste infectieziekte-epidemiologie op de kaart. Infectieziektebulletin 10-2022. Website: <https://www.rivm.nl/weblog/toegepaste-infectieziekte-epidemiologie-op-kaart-ib-10-2022>

## News from the Network

### Mini-module on Media management and infodemic



Introduction of the first day of the mini-module with a presentation on infodemic management by Emily Meyer.

Just before ESCAIDE 2022, on November 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, EAN organised a mini-module on Media management and infodemics. The mini-module aimed to familiarize participants with a professional background in public health with the basic concepts of infodemics and infodemic management and to provide them with useful knowledge and hands-on skills for communication with media and the public about health-related topics. The mini-module was divided into two parts: (1) introduction to infodemics and infodemic management and (2) media management and communication.

On day 1, Emily Meyer talked about the basic concepts of infodemics and infodemic management. The lecture was followed by a case study on infodemic management, and focused on a real life example (Plandemic movie). The case study was created and reviewed by current c2021 fellows Eftychia Kotronia, Liza Coyer,

Henriëke Prins, and Sonia Boender (c2018). On day 2, c2021 PAE fellow Franziska Badenschier talked about the '12 Golden Rules: how to talk to journalist' and addressed how to communicate about health to the media. Additionally, Mark Brealy, a former BBC journalist who provides media training (<https://mbcommunications.co.uk/>), gave a lecture on how public health officials should handle a media enquiry. His lecture was followed by a practical exercise involving a simulated press conference.

This mini-module was a fun learning experience for everyone involved and was created and facilitated by previous and current fellows. In a period where disinformation and misinformation are getting more and more popular we as epidemiologists need all the available tools to fight against false claims and help navigate the public towards true information about health.

### EAN webinars

#### Xenomonitoring and xenosurveillance

*By Corrado Minetti (EUPHEM C2021)*

On 26 October, the EAN board was very pleased to organise a webinar with Corrado Minetti to speak about pathogen xenomonitoring and xenosurveillance using mosquitoes and the applications in disease surveillance and public health. Corrado gave an introduction on how mosquitoes and their blood-feeding behaviour can be exploited to detect pathogen circulation in human and animal populations in a less invasive and more cost- and time-effective way, and the caveats related to the interpretation of the results. Corrado used examples on West Nile Virus in Europe and lymphatic filariasis in Ghana, drawing from his previous research experience in the laboratory at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and on the field in Africa. The discussion also included the latest approaches for detecting pathogens in mosquito saliva and faeces, and using these vectors to detect human pathogens which are not necessarily vector-borne.

The recorded webinar is available on the [EAN website](#).



EAN Webinar Series - 26 October 2022

### Xenomonitoring and xenosurveillance

*Using mosquitoes to find (and control) pathogens*



Corrado Minetti, PhD

EUPHEM EU-track fellow - Cohort 2021  
Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge, Lisbon



## High-level isolation unit of Radboud university medical centre

By Alma Tostmann

On Friday 16 December 2022, EAN hosted a webinar where colleagues from the Radboud university medical centre, Nijmegen The Netherlands, gave a presentation about infection prevention and control and organisation of medical care in a high level isolation unit.

The newly built **high-level isolation unit** (HLIU) of Radboud university medical centre opened in May 2022 and is designed for safe and innovative care for patients with (suspected) viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF). In the past, VHF-suspected patients were admitted to our regular infectious diseases ward. In the new HLIU facility, healthcare workers (HCW) communicate via communication devices that can be used while wearing their personal protective equipment (PPE). HCWs are monitored for by camera surveillance by the virtual assistant referee (VAR) to improve safe working and to allow intervening in case infection prevention measures are potentially breached. The VAR manages the communication and camera surveillance on site.



A photo of one of the patient rooms in the High Level Isolation Unit of the Radboud university medical centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

In October 2022, **two patients with suspected VHF** were admitted to the unit, which provided a good opportunity to assess the HCWs experiences regarding the communication devices and the role of the VAR in order to further improve the working methods. In this webinar, the team shared how the HLIU was designed and what the improvements are in comparison to the previous HLIU facility that was in the centre of the hospital, and talked about the recent experiences with the patient admissions in October. One of the key features of this HLIU is the focus on patient-centred care, that includes allowing family members to be able to visit an admitted VHF-patient (which is unique), under the condition that the visitor can comply with the strict PPE requirements. In addition, the unit has a dedicated family-room where family members can spend the night and video call with the patient.

The team is currently updating their healthcare workers training program, which will include multi-disciplinary training where people from the ambulance transport services train with the medical team of the HLIU, to facilitate a smooth and safe transfer of a patient with suspected VHF from the ambulance to the unit.

If you want to know more or if you have any ideas or advice, please feel free to contact [Alma Tostmann](mailto:Alma.Tostmann@radboudumc.nl). For those attending ECCMID 2023 in April in Copenhagen, her team will present a poster on the HLIU.

**Speakers:** Prof. Chantal Bleeker-Rovers (MD Internal medicine, professor in clinical outbreak response), Alma Tostmann (PhD EPIET, epidemiologist IPC Unit Radboudumc), Manon Tingen (IPC Expert Radboudumc) and Luca Zweers (junior team member at the HLIU), all from the Radboud Centre for Infectious Diseases, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

The recorded webinar is available on the [EAN website](https://www.ean-network.org/). More info: [Alma.Tostmann@radboudumc.nl](mailto:Alma.Tostmann@radboudumc.nl) or visit the webpage of the unit ([High level isolation unit HLIU - Radboudumc](https://www.radboudumc.nl/en/healthcare/high-level-isolation-unit-hliu)).

## EAN board meeting

The 2022/2023 EAN Board had an hybrid meeting from 20-22 January 2023, with seven board members meeting in Paris and two who joined online. During this meeting, new board members were introduced to EAN's activities and to their role in the board, the plans and ambitions for the coming year were lined up, and there was time for in-depth discussions about the strategy and vision for the network.

**The main objectives for 2023 include:**

- To strengthen the connection between alumni network and the current fellows, to evaluate and continue the Mentorship program, and to explore how the current fellows can be even better connected to the wider network.
- Organising activities for EAN members, including mini-modules, and a monthly webinar in which we will alternate between interviewing leaders in public health and beyond about their career, and inviting EAN members to present their work according to a recently published paper.
- To finalise the EAN Membership Survey and share the results with the wider public health community.

The EAN board will spend a substantial amount of time on routine tasks and responsibilities, such as keeping the membership base up to date, producing weekly bulletins and quarterly Newsletters, organising activities at ESCAIDE, and keeping in touch with the internal (EAN) and external network (partners and collaborations outside EAN). To achieve this, **we will obviously need help from enthusiastic volunteers from our network** (fellows and alumni). Therefore you can expect a 'call for volunteers' for a wide variety of specified tasks in your inbox any time soon.



On Saturday evening (21 January) we organised a **Drinks & Dinner in Paris**. The EAN board met with four alumni and fellows, and we had nice chats over food and drinks. For 2023 we hope our members feel inspired **to explore other meanings of D&D and organise a lot of meet-ups between alumni and fellows**. To give you an example, D&D not only stands for 'Drinks & Dinner' but also for 'Dress & Dance', 'Dungeons & Dragons', 'Discuss & Discover' (hikes and musea), 'Dream & Digest' (picnick) and 'Decorate & Display' (make art together). So we warmly invite you to reconnect and reach out to fellows and alumni in your city or country, and to organise any kind of D&D.

We wish you a very good start of the year 2023, with a satisfying mix of strengthening old connections and making new friends, improving your knowledge and exploring new fields, and starting new projects while keeping an eye on the ball of contributing to public health.



## Drinks & Dinner past events

### Wednesday 9 November 2022 – Utrecht

During their TSA module beginning of November 2022, the EPIET/EUPHEM/PAE fellows cohort 2021 and MediPIET cohort 4 met in the Netherlands at 't Taphuys in Utrecht, and invited the alumni to join them during that evening. Sadly, no photos are available...

### ESCAIDE event, 21-26 November – Stockholm

This year ESCAIDE hybrid format was the perfect moment to meet again face-to-face. Many alumni, fellows, and freshly graduates met in Stockholm during the evenings, including the D&D at Vapiano, aside the wonderful event organised by the board on Saturday.



### Wednesday 7 December 2022 – Berlin

On 7 December 2022, cohort 2022 invited the EAN alumni located in Berlin to join for a drink on Wednesday 7th December. They met at Vagabund Brauerei Kesselhaus and had so much fun that they didn't take pictures ;)

### Saturday 21 January 2023 – Paris

When meeting in Paris in January 2023, your new board took a break from working on the exciting events and trainings it will propose to you this year and went to an EAN Drinks & Dinner at Terrasse Saint-Lazare. Alumni and fellows met to enjoy drinks and some typical French food.



### Tuesday 28 February 2023 – Berlin

Not an EAN Dinner & Drinks - but several alumni took part in a coordination meeting between ECDC, SANTE, WHO/Europe and the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin and took the opportunity to take this nice picture:



From left to right it is: Andrea Ammon (EPIET C1995), Julia Fitzner (EPIET C1998), Marta Valenciano (EPIET C1997), Gianfranco Spiteri (EPIET C2004), Raquel Medialdea Carrera (EPIET C2018), Chikwe Ihekweazu (EPIET C2003) and Johannes Schitzler (EPIET C2001).

We hope to see you soon in other Drinks & Dinners, or Dress & Dance and Decorate & Display. **Give free rein to your creativity, do not hesitate to advertise such D&Ds and share pictures afterward!**



## EAN Communication channels (Discord, WhatsApp, etc.)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, EAN's WhatsApp group was activated to share and facilitate the communication between EAN members, allowing a more rapid and effective response. However, the group grew and another platform was launched to allow smoother communication and interaction.

EAN's new Discord server is a better structured forum to connect, exchange and discuss information within the network. On [EAN's Discord](#), you will get the latest EAN-related information and news as well as find and share resources on analytics, surveillance or outbreak investigations, public health microbiology or discuss the latest news and developments in the field of infectious diseases. Therefore, we are inviting members and friends to switch to Discord considering the WhatsApp group is close to the maximum participant limit. The easiest way to use Discord is by installing the

Discord app on your phone and/or Desktop and then clicking the invite link. After joining the server, you will be directed to the welcome-and-rules channel where you can read more about all the different features and learn how to use the server. Once you are done with that, please come and tell us a few words about you in the [#introducing-yourself](#) channel!

On the weekly bulletin you can always find the link to Discord group and updates on the use of WhatsApp.

EAN has an up-to-date website where you can find several resources and a dedicated member's only area with posts on jobs, courses and conferences, internal news and updates, webinar recordings, and many more!

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#) and [twitter](#)!

## EAN noticeboard - upcoming events

### Mini-modules, webinars, etc...

The board is still working on the events for 2023, so you won't have much detail in this newsletter yet. We are planning two face-to-face mini-modules and have many very nice ideas for topics, but we still need to decide which ones to choose for this year! We are also working on a series of very interesting webinars, so stay tuned for further information!

If there is a topic very dear to your heart and you would like to share it with the network, feel free to reach out to the board! We are always happy to help organise webinars on any topics. And if your field of expertise matches one of the topics of a mini-module, we might ask for your help teaching it! We are always one email away, so reach us at [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com).

### Social events

#### Dinner in Copenhagen on 13 March 2023

The EPIET/EUPHEM Nordic Mini-module is happening at SSI in Copenhagen on 13-14 March with current fellows and facilitators from Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. On Monday 13 March there will be a dinner in Copenhagen at RizRaz (Store Kannikestræde 19, 1169 København) at 18.30.

#### D&D for ECCMID 2023

The ECCMID conference will take place in Copenhagen from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Many alumni will attend, and a D&D is planned! Time and location will be sent soon in the EAN bulletin.

## In the next edition!

- ✓ The Board will present their reflexions regarding topic for 2023 mini-modules!
- ✓ Meet the new EPIET supervisor in Austria
- ✓ Information on all other forthcoming EAN activities
- ✓ And much more!

## Update your Membership

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

Please note that membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October of each calendar year. Make payment now and have your membership extended until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 (or 2032)!

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. A new payment option for credit cards to make membership renewal a bit easier. To use this option, please go to our website and follow the instructions there.

### 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

The details for how to transfer fees by online banking are also 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!