

Minutes of tropEd General Assembly Meeting

29th June to 1st July 2017

Center for International Health

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

*Meeting Venue: Surgical Hospital, Innenstadt Campus,
Nußbaumstrasse 20, 80336 München, Seminar room 1st Floor*

Participants:

- **Andrea Kinigadner (AK), Munich;**
- **Axel Hoffmann (AH), Basel;**
- **Bernadetta Peterhans (BP), Basel;**
- **Carola Eyber (CE), Edinburgh;**
- **Flore Header (FH), Student rep.**
- **Govert van Heusden (GvH), Antwerp;**
- **Guenther Froeschl (GF), Munich;**
- **Ina Hammersfahr (IH), Berlin;**
- **Joan Tallada (JT), Barcelona;**
- **Ning Beyer (NB), Basel;**
- **Nuria Casamitjana (NC), Barcelona;**
- **Pauline Grys (PG), Heidelberg;**
- **Rodney Reynolds (RR), London IGH;**

Eight full members, one student representative



1. **Welcome address:** Prof. Michael Hoelscher, Director of Department for Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine, Prof. Katja Radon, Chairman of the Center for International Health and Prof. Hans van Ess, vice president of the university warmly welcomed the GA to Munich. They gave a short presentation about the history and the current status of the University and the Center for International Health. Dr. Guenter Froeschl gave the presentation on the current education and research programme of the institute.

Due to some administrative and legal issues the launch of the Master of International Health programme will be postponed for one year to 2018. This year the Diploma course for tropical medicine and international health will be started. It is exist now in the institute: Master of Science in Integrated Clinical and Community Mental Health, MSc. of International occupational safety and health, MSc. of professional health education.

2. **Review of meeting agenda / of minutes of the Barcelona GA:** Agenda of Munich GA meeting is accepted. Minutes of the Barcelona GA are approved with change of one name on page one.

3. **Information from Secretariat:**

3.1.) **Congratulations to Laura Magaña** who has been selected as President and CEO of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). ASPPH, through the effective leadership of former Past President Professor John Finnegan, was one the founding member networks of WFAIGH. We look forward to strengthening the collaboration between ASPPH and tropEd.

3.2) **Self-evaluation report from Ifakara** received. Nuria conducted site visit in Ifakara from 29-30 May.

3.3) **Self-evaluation report received from Morocco**, green light to site visit. Candidates for the site visit are needed.

3.4) **Cat. 2 courses accredited since last GA:**

- Bergen: Global Nutrition
- Bergen: Culture and psychopathology

3.5) **Member drop out:**

- **GIZ:** Greetings from GIZ office in Bonn." *My name is Elke Wemhoff and I am contacting you today as Ruth Schumacher, the GIZ contact person for tropEd so far, moved to another position within GIZ to Cameroun. I partly took over Ruth's task regarding development of health related trainings/courses. I am very sorry that it falls into my area of duties now to inform you that from GIZ side we are unable to maintain our membership in the tropEd network for different reasons. After consultations with the relevant departments working on health related projects, it unfortunately became clear that no department within GIZ disposes of the necessary (human) resources for attendance of meetings and active contribution to the network. tropEd secretariat will send the official letter to them.*
- **Brisbane:** "For some time the School has been considering its position on tropEd and as you will have noticed we have not been very active. The School has

decided it would like to suspend its membership, can you advise who the Chair is and contact details so that we can write officially.” **tropEd secretariat will send the official letter to them.**

3.6) **New student representative group** was elected, instead of one person. We have a group of representative now.

- Kata Stete - Swiss TPH Basel
- Miriam Müller - Heidelberg
- Carmen Sant - Swiss TPH Basel
- Adrian Alonso Ruiz - IS Global Barcelona
- Luis Villacis - Charité Berlin
- Flora Haderer - ITM Antwerp
- Emily Liu - KIT Amsterdam

3.7) New rules on which kind of course can be circulated through tropEd mailing list: At this moment all kinds of courses are coming to the secretariat. We have decided that only tropEd accredited courses will be announced by the secretariat. All members can use the mailing list to send out their announcement for their non-tropEd-accredited courses by themselves.

3.8) **New tropEd representative from Uppsala: Mats Målqvist**

4. **Second tropEd alumni survey**

After Barcelona meeting we have collected the second round comments and sent out a pilot trial of the survey. Pauline repeated the target group again: All graduates from accredited core courses, graduated from May 2010 to May 2015. This means not only tropEd students but also the residential master's alumni. Since the questionnaire changed, we will invite the six pilot students again. We should open the survey tool longer since it may take some time for some institutions. Reminder can be sent out again.

5. **Issues around using podcasts and videos in lecture based teaching**

Rodney pointed out how the use of social media has changed the teaching. New course delivery methods, podcasting, whether creating own or using existing materials, created by either teachers or students etc. But many issues are not discussed or carefully thought about, e.g. copy right issues, how does the used methodology serves the learning objectives, how can lecturers monitor student's performance, what is the academic efficiency of new tools?. Experiences have been exchanged among the group.

6. **Preparation of tropEd session in ECTMIH about elearning**

In ECTMIH we will try to have an organized session with the title of: **Collaborative initiatives for capacity building and education**. The organizer will be Marjan Pirard, Mieke Stevens, Maria Zolfo and Govert van Heusden from Antwerp. Expected number of attendees is 50.

The abstracts are:

- Rodney Reynolds, UCL, London, UK, rodney.reynolds@ucl.ac.uk: “Shaping tropEd, a Higher Education Network in International Health, to meet contemporary needs”; own funding

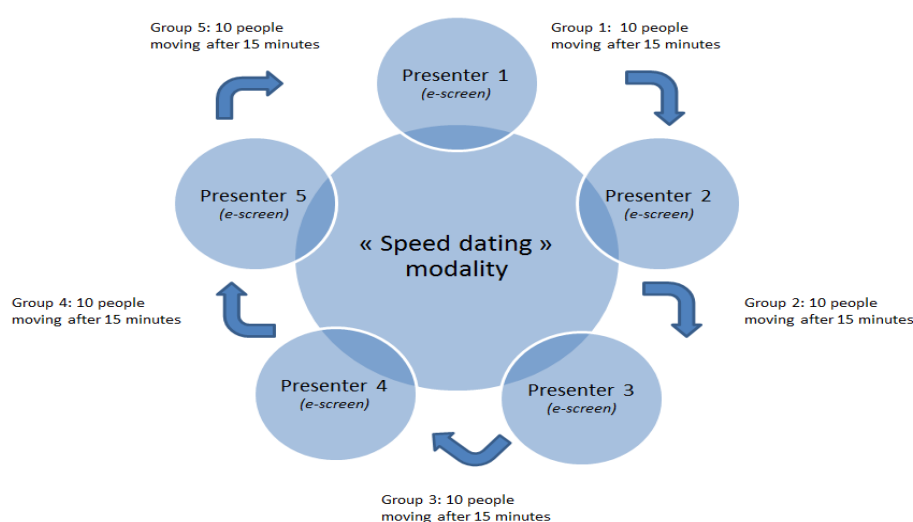
- Govert van Heusden, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium, gvanheusden@itg.be; Lai Jiang, Instructional Psychology and Technology, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, lai.jiang@kuleuven.be: “Networking for quality in international health teaching and learning”; own funding
- Aku Kwamie, Ghana Health Service, Research and Development Division, Accra, Ghana, agkwamie@hotmail.com: “AMPLIFYING INFLUENCE: The West African Network of Emerging Leaders in Health Policy and Systems”; own or Alumni budget funding
- Rony Zachariah, Operational Research Unit, Médecins Sans Frontières, Luxembourg city, Luxembourg, rony.zachariah@brussels.msf.org: “Building sustainable capacity for operational research at a global level using the Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT IT) model”; own funding
- Lisanne Gerstel, KIT Health, Amsterdam, Netherlands, L.Gerstel@kit.nl: “Virtual student mobility in international/ global health”; own funding

In this session, we will discuss challenges and opportunities identified by different international networks and collaborative projects in education and capacity building. We will focus more specifically on the link between capacity strengthening, research and changes in health policy and practice; the conditions for effective quality assurance in health education; and physical and virtual mobility of international health students.

We plan to use “Speed dating” format as the following Figure:

- 10 minutes plenary introduction to the session;
- 75 minutes “rotation”: each presenter has 15 minutes for presentation and discussion, with rotating groups (expected: 4 rotations; 10 people per group; 5 different groups);
- 5 minutes to round off and conclude the session.

Some group members suggest reducing the rotating times to three.



7. Core course revision

We would like to review the core courses of tropEd in order to allow for student exchange based on similar learning objectives and content, to some extent represents our ambitions as a network in line with Bologna Accord (“comparability & quality = increased harmonisation”), to

facilitate the Erasmus programmes as students should have learnt more or less the same things in different home institutions and to encourage more institutions to take up core course! We also want to think about core course delivery, maybe to offer a joint online core course in Erasmus plus II programme?

The GA did have group discussions on the learning objectives and the content of the core course. **Result of the discussion please see Annex 1 in track change version.**

We will discuss it in Antwerp GA meeting further.

8. Accreditation and re-accreditation of advanced modules Result please see annex 2

9. Membership issue Ifakara Health institute, Tanzania

Nuria visited IHI on 29-30 May. So far everything looks fine on paper. The masters programme did not started yet but everything is ready. They cannot send out students so far since they are not clear how to convert the credits to the university. But they are working on it. Since Dr. Shubis cannot be connected in skype, we have decided to postpone the decision on tropEd membership to next GA meeting when he is reachable at least online.

10. Brain storming about Erasmus plus II Details please see annex 3

11. Student issues

Students have elected a new student representative group. The work plan for this group will be:

- improving the tropEd website: better service and responding to the students' needs collecting critique points and ensure that they are fed back comprehensively to the tropEd secretariat and institutions
- foster communication, exchange and networking among tropEd students moderating and maintaining the facebook group being (physically) present at each home institution
- serving as link between students and tropEd institutions in particular be a joint voice of all students at the tropEd General Assembly but also supporting students at each home institution, General Assembly representation No GA without SR!
- reorganizing student representation setting up a new structure to achieve a sustainable and permanent student representation and its fair election

They plan to have regular meetings. At least every 2 months online meetings to discuss current issues in combine with online working space (dropbox, google doc). The online working space will be open to all tropEd students, so everybody can look up any time which projects we are currently working on.

Will facilitate our work and document our activities - so knowledge can be passed on to newcomers and next generations can build on past work.

We suggest using email and the facebook group as main tool for communications for now. One of our first tasks as SR will be to collect email addresses of all tropEd students - to ensure direct communication, tropEd home institutions has to check with students whether they are allowed to forward the email address to the student representatives.

Flora (who is one of the few of us who doesn't plan to finish the master in 2017) will be continuously present in the working group for the whole SR period until 2019. To facilitate our work she will also be the main contact point for the tropEd secretariat.

Suggestion for the website:

- Course title: add: country +city +institute? NB will try to change it.
- The description of the tropEd programme page is not updated. And it is not easy to understand what the network is. NB and FH will work on the first draft for the update.
- FH can share the minutes with the student representative group
- tropEd master is different in different home institutions. Student cannot read it through the website.
- Course database is not on the course page, NB will ask the webmaster
- Student representative page on the menu bar, with all detail information

FH will share the further suggestions to NB.

12. Update of tropEd thesis guidelines

Guenter has updated the tropEd generic thesis guidelines and added the part on Publications in Scientific Journals of the thesis. He will update the file according to the comments from the meeting and send to NB. NB will circulate it again to the whole network. In case we haven't heard anything from members within two weeks, we will consider it is confirmed by the network.

13. Updates on different organizations

- **Erasmus joint PhD:** there are totally 34 PhD students so far. The first group are defending their thesis in the coming weeks. This Erasmus PhD fund programme does not exist anymore in the near future, the consortium decides to apply for Marie Curie fund for the next round. New construction of the consortium has been considered and new partners may be accepted.
- **WFAIGH:** the chairman will retire soon; a new chair will be elected. The next meeting will be in Berlin in WHS. All members are invited to the Spring School of Global Health, University of Geneva. WFAIGH also start to work together with the planetary health association.

14. Service offered to non-member institutions: *postpone to next meeting*

15. tropEd recognition

Martina Arnold from Basel has fulfilled the requirement of tropEd recognition and certificate was issued to her.

16. ECTS Grading table

All presenting members have some experience exchange on the practice of using ECTS grading tables.

17. Upcoming meeting, dates & locations

- Oct.14-16 2017 Antwerp (ECTMIH 16-20 October) one half day for task force Erasmus plus II application on 13th October
- February 2018 Hanoi? Jan-March 25-27 Jan. 1-3 March 2018 Ning will make a doodle link to check how many members can join this meeting
- June 2018 Edinburgh Dates to be decided
- October 2018 place to be decided

- 18: tropEd Secretariat should check with Craig,** whether we should write an official letter to LSHTM, explain the situation and try to find a way with them together to keep at least the online course.

We will also check whether Laos will continue with tropEd collaboration. Daniel will leave his new director to decide on this issue.

19. Possible topics for next meetings:

- Core course revision, continued
- In next meetings, discuss again on the topic of two years working experiences.
- Service offered to non-members