



Network for Education
in International Health

Minutes of tropEd General Assembly Meeting

22nd to 24th January 2014

**Umeå International School of Public Health
Epidemiology and Global Health
Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine
Umeå University**

Participants:

Andreas Mueller (AM), Würzburg;	Matthias Borchert (MB), Berlin
Axel Hoffman (AH), Basel;	Ning Beyer (NB), Basel;
Bente E Moen (BM), Bergen;	Núria CASAMITJANA (NC), Barcelona;
Bernadette Peterhans (BP), Basel;	Pascal Millet (PM), Guest
Carina Källeståhl (CK), Uppsala;	Pauline Grys (PG), Heidelberg;
Cláudia Conceição (CC), Lisbon;	Rodney Reynolds (RR), London IGH;
Craig Higgins (CH), London SHTM;	Shirley Pollack (SP), Copenhagen;
Curt Lofgren (CL), Umeå;	Siswanto Wilopo (SW), Yogyakarta;
Giorgia Sulis (GS), Brescia;	Ulrike Taschbach-Hörsch (UTH), Bonn;
Govert van Heusden (GvH), Antwerp;	Anneli Ivarsson (Umeå)
Laura Valladares (LV), Mexico;	Nawi Ng (Umeå)
Lisanne Gerstel (LG), Amsterdam;	Klas-Göran Sahlén (Umeå)

14 Full members, 3 Collaborating institutions

Prof. Ivarsson and Dr. Curt Lofgren warmly welcomed the GA to Umeå. Prof. Ivarsson gave a presentation about the history of Umeå and the university, CL has introduced about the education programmes at the university. (Details please see Annex 1)

1. **Review of minutes of GA meeting in Copenhagen, September 2013:**

The minutes are accepted as it is.

2. **Agenda of Umeå**

GA Agenda is approved by the meeting participants.

3. **Information points from the tropEd Secretariat**

➤ **Date of 9th ECTMIH in Basel: 6-10 September 2015**

➤ **Barcelona applies for home institution status**

Barcelona has fulfilled the requirements to be a tropEd home institution since two years ago. Therefore, after a vote (16/16), GA welcomed Barcelona as a home institution.

➤ **Feedback on ECTMIH in Copenhagen and WHS in Berlin**

There was a quite successful tropEd session with hundred participants during the ECTMIH in Copenhagen. Through the presentation and discussions, tropEd can spread out the information on what the network is doing.

In WHS in Berlin, the World Federation of Academic Institutions for Global Health (WFAIGH; please see also at www.wfaigh.org) is set up the day before the WHS. tropEd is a member of this Federation. All tropEd members are allowed to join any federation events as part of the network. The president at this moment is Fred Binka, from the Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa. The current vice president is Leonel Valdivia from Chile. Nuria is the treasurer. The American Association of Schools and Programmes in Public Health (ASPPH) has already give donations to the federation. Axel is leading a work group on education and should suggest the definition of Global Health.

➤ **Update on EAGHA**

So far the fund rising from EU failed. There are still phone conferences and a physical meeting in March to think about the future.

➤ **Feedback on Berlin meeting:**

SP, PG, NC and AH meet in Berlin after the WHS and prepared the strategic discussion in Umeå

➤ **Membership issues:**

◆ **Stockholm:** exclusion?

- Membership fee 2013 not paid.
- Institutional report 2012 not submitted,
- Meeting participation, three years not participated.
- No course offering.

◆ **München:** self-evaluation report not yet submitted

◆ **Würzburg:** There are difficulties to get a confirmation letter from University. Würzburg may look for other universities for collaboration, such as Heidelberg.

- **New tropEd representative:**
 - Bergen: Bente E Moen
 - Brescia: Giorgia Sulis
- Govert gave a **presentation about tropEd in Nagasaki University in Japan** late September 2013. They are looking for partners worldwide. They have collaboration with LSHTM for a long time. Maybe in the future there could be some collaboration between tropEd and Japanese universities.
- **ECTS /SIT**
 - ✓ tropEd now recognizes 25-30 SIT per ECTS. Only London IGH has changed the calculation for their courses. No other institutions intend to change the number of credits for their existing courses.
 - ✓ In London SHTM, according to the national regulation, 20 SIT hours equal to one ECTS credit. tropEd only recognizes 25-30 SIT/ECTS. Solution still needs to be discussed.
- **Courses accredited since last GA**
 - Amsterdam: Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
 - Bergen: Globalisation and health
 - Berlin: Advanced Vaccinology
 - London IGH: Children in Difficult Circumstances
 - London IGH: Disability and Development
 - London IGH: Health Management: Planning and Programme Design
 - London IGH: Nutrition and Public Health
 - all accredited advanced modules from UCL are changed to 6 ECTS credits since spring semester 2014

4. **Strategic Discussion**

PM summarized the aims of tropEd as defined so far:

- Network of institutions for higher education in International Health based on a Master Program (suggested to change to "based on post graduate level")
- Seek to collaborate with other networks and institutions with similar goals
- Supporting opportunities for postgraduate education and training contributing to sustainable development
- Focuses on improving the management of health services for disadvantaged populations
- Approach based on:
 - ◆ mobility of student and scholar
 - ◆ Exchange of experience
 - ◆ Establishment of a common standard in education and training

According to the preparation questionnaire before the meeting (16 answers), PM summarized the SWOT analysis of the network in the following table:

	Positive	Negative
Internal	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well established long standing international network Good spirit and friendship under regularly revised guidelines EU and other network recognition intercultural Exchange of ideas and experiences Flexible exchange of students International Exchange of teachers Updated Quality standards in Higher education Training accreditation process Source of information in Global Education Support in recognition and marketing own institution programs Support in national accreditation Support recognition and marketing with the own institute Joint research papers on higher education 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long standing network = tendency too large, loose personality, too wide (depends on the aim of the network) Communication only based on tropEd Master, not highlighting enough courses and non-home institutions (few institutes with core course) Management costs limited Human resources limited and not fully dedicated to and supported by tropEd. No scholarships for students or teachers; lack of funding Decrease of student mobility European financial crisis reduces financial capabilities from Institutions Not enough communication from the executive committee between meetings Lack of strategy planning in accreditations and advanced modules Not enough teacher's mobility to strengthen training for institutions from DC. Few strong members from DC Increasing competition between tropEd institutions No research network which could strengthen tropEd collaborations in the field of improving management of health services for disadvantaged populations tropEd not accepted by all administrations
External	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique expertise in Higher Education in International Health; should take this opportunity to develop ToT modules and increase contacts between institutions beside students Collaboration with DC in the field of health, opportunity for direct contact with DC health systems thinking Increase interest private sector for global health, opportunity for financing (be carefull to lack of independence) EU funding opportunities (Erasmus +, Horizon 2020 – EDCTP) Student mobility is promoted and become requirement in many institutions New market with USA – Canada for students No regional boundaries Financing from LMC to support the tropEd Master student New website 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becoming an accreditation agency and without students and staff mobility within the network Financial crisis, Declining availability of scholarships for international students Declining student numbers, The network grows and the misbalanced in students/modules increases. Different fee level from different institutions. Less demand from LMIC students to do master degrees internationally. Competition between institutions and between networks is also a potential threat. tropEd could become larger, looser, and more bureaucratic. Does network have administrative capacity to cope with the expand Some members only use the network for accreditation and quality issues but do not (wish to) be part of the mobility aspects (receive students or send them) Changes to institutional and national regulations regarding credit transfer/recognition

After half an hour snowball discussion, the GA came concluded in a **new version of network aims:**

- 1. Offer the best possible international education program in international/global Health**
- 2. Ensure and enhance quality and standards at post graduate level in international/global health within member institutions**
- 3. Be internationally recognized in order to attract significant funding and recruit a sustainable number of students**

Based on these aims, the GA was divided into three working groups to discuss about the means to fulfil these aims. They should try to make practical suggestion related to:

- The activities (accreditation joint initiatives, mobility...)
- Network structure (governance, membership, funding,...)
- Relations between members (collaboration, competition,...)

The group discussions have concluded with the following suggestions:

Group 1: Offer the best possible international education program in international/global Health

- We do consider student mobility is essential and very important to reach the aim of the network.
- Improve mobility of teachers
 - Evaluation process of lecturers
 - Improve training of new tropEd institutions by developing ToT and teachers exchanges
 - Improve contacts between tropEd institutions
 - Better define and drive mobility of students
 - Cost transparency in tuition fees
 - Identify scholarships
 - Respond to calls for grants
 - Offer thesis supervision and field work opportunities
- Reach excellent quality competencies: take the opportunity of the network to develop « blended » methodology
- Develop a strategy to involve alumni in tropEd promotion, financing scholarships (alumni with government positions in DC); look for potential employers
- Think about new membership categories based on: Working group
 - Institutions able to send out and receive students
 - Institutions able to receive students
 - Institutions offering other training opportunities (PhD,...)

Group 2: Ensure and enhance quality and standards at post graduate level in international/global health within member institutions

- Accreditation
 - Change the current process: more efficient, partly distance based
 - Working groups: re-accreditation and new courses
 - Reduce to 2 tropEd meetings / year? Video-conferencing?
 - 2 levels of accreditation: Master modules + other modules (quality,...) not taken by tropEd students

- Accreditation of institutions: accreditation forms need to be updated; self-evaluation every 5 years (at least home institutions) + online providers of Global Health training
- Electronic form to be developed
- Staff quality of ToT Working group
 - mobility of staff, exchange between institutions
 - Quality label accreditation of staff, link with publication
- Guidelines structures
 - Student guidance (tutoring)
 - More contact, joint degrees, links between institutions
 - Student's participation to meetings

Group 3: Be internationally recognized in order to attract significant funding and recruit a sustainable number of students

- Website: taskforce to review website for other purposes than for students (proactive in definitions of global health, promotion of tropEd articles, international visibility, video youtube..)
- tropEd as collaborating center for WHO ? How to contact donors, JICA
- Participation in international meetings to promote tropEd (stands) Next meetings
- Alumni can play a role
- Potential to link with other networks
- Scholarship
- Do not expand the program but improve and advertise tropEd
- More studies to be published on tropEd results and benefit

Three prioritized working groups were set up: (other members are welcomed to join in any work groups.)

- **Accreditation process: MB, CH, RR, SP, BM, GvH, NB**
- **Membership structure: NC, GS, CK, NB**
- **Website: CC, SW, AM, PG, GvH, NB**

All working groups should find time before next GA in Edinburgh and work on the detailed concepts, ideas, and suggestions according to the means and activities mentioned above, all results will be presented in Edinburgh. The EC member in the working group will lead the group and report to the GA.

5. Presentation on University for Health Science (UHS), Cambodia

PM presented the history, training programs, and problems from the University for Health Science (UHS) in Cambodia. **(For details please see Annex 2).** tropEd can think about how to be involved in the academic trainings and how to prepare the mobility of the students in Cambodia. UHS is looking for collaboration on three aspects: Administration (Training, student management, international affairs, evaluation,...); Training (medical education theory, clinical training, simulation,); and Research (bring projects to help building a Public Health Research department at UHS). tropEd members who are interested can contact PM for more details.

6. Financial auditing:

UTH and MB have checked the financial report as internal auditors. The auditors recommended that the tropEd EC receive discharge for their work in 2013. The tropEd GA approved this recommendation unanimously (17/17 representatives present, no rejection, no abstention)

After voting, EC is released from the responsibility from the financial report 2013. The financial report will be sent to the lawyer.

7. **Course accreditation/re-accreditation (Minutes please see Annex 3)**

8. **Upcoming meeting, dates & locations**

21-24 May 2014	Edinburgh
23-26 Sep. 2014?	Bergen
Jan. 2015	Australia?
May 2015	Heidelberg
Sep. 2015	Basel (Conference/20 years Jubiläum)

