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EMPHNET's Word By: Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour, Executive Director

Contently, our continuing efforts are producing EMPHNET newsletters quarterly, to enrich our readers with the latest and most informative news of applied epidemiology; accordingly our care to give more to the benefit of our precious readers led us to add a summary of each article in French Language. EMPHNET would like to announce its 2nd Regional Conference which will be conducted between the period 6-9 December 2011 at Sharm Al-Shiekh, Egypt. The aim of this conference is to share knowledge between epidemiologists and public health specialists in the region; a special website was

launched to give you more details about participation and applying abstracts. Remain in touch via EMPHNET website www.emphnet.net In this issue, you will be reading various news including latest EMPHNET active workshops conducted in the last three months in addition to welcoming the new FETP members. While The 60th EIS Conference was acting successfully in Atlanta, Georgia; EMPHNET has conducted its 2nd Technical Committee meeting. You will enjoy reading more details in this issue.

Your contributions are welcome!

If you like to share a paper, article, idea, or any another material with the readers, please do not hesitate to send it to: tech@emphnet.com

Outbreak in Yemen

An outbreak of unknown etiology came to attention in Al-Hodiedah; Yemen. Unusual number of cases who were complaining of fever and joint aches followed by diarrhea, vomiting, internal bleeding, and, in severe cases, kidney failure were recognized. Many of these symptoms were similar to those of dengue and Chikungunya fever, but this was disproved by the laboratory tests. EMPHNET participated in the investigation of this outbreak. On March 8th, the executive director of Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET), Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour, as well as its FETP technical officer, Dr. Ali Radaidah, joined three FETP 2nd year officers to work on the investigation. The Ministry of Public Health & Population (MOPHP) collaborated with the team through the MOPH surveil-

lance office, the Governorate of Al-Hodeidah health office, and the MOPH malaria control program. Also, WHO office in Yemen collaborated in this investigation. CDC/Atlanta provided the necessary technical assistance for the investigators team. An analysis was made to study the correlation of getting the disease with the age and gender of patients. It was found that most of the cases were among those less than 30 years old. No difference was recognized between males and females in the distribution of the disease. Blood and tissue specimens were collected during field visits for testing at NAMRU3 and CDC. NAMRU3 identified chikungunya in about 50% of the samples (total: 65). Further analysis is being conducted to distinguish features reported in fatal, severely ill with hemorrhagic manifestations, and mild/moderate illness cases.

**Une épidémie d'étiologie inconnue a été signalée à AL-Hodeidah au Yemen le 2 février 2011. *Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour, Directeur exécutif de EMPHNET et Dr Ali Radaidah, agent technique de EMPHNET- FETP ont rejoint l'équipe d'investigation. * 2500 cas et 71 décès ont été reportés durant cette éclosion épidémique.*



Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour working with Yemeni-FETP in Al Hodeidah Outbreak



Participants group work during the NCD testing pilot material workshop

NCD Testing Pilot Material Workshop

The Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development at the Centers for Disease Control is developing training on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) for the Field Epidemiology Training Program. The training is comprised of three levels of curriculum: basic, intermediate and advanced. The audience for the curriculum ranges from first year FETP fellows and non-FETP Ministry of Health professionals to second year FETP fellows. The CDC, in coordination with EMPHNET and the Jordan FETP, introduced six training modules from the basic level course to participants in Amman, Jordan from March 27-29, 2011. The goal of the Amman NCD training workshop was threefold: 1) to provide first year FETP fellows with introductory skills on NCD epidemiology, surveillance and prevention and control, 2) to provide second year FETP fellows exposure to NCD training and give them the opportunity to co-facilitate, 3) to test the training modules in order to improve them for other FETPs in China, Thailand, Columbia and Tanzania.

The total number of participants at the workshop was 20 (six 1st year FETP fellows, four 2nd year FETP fellows, five participants from the Ajloun Health Directorate and five participants from the

NCD Directorate). The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Bassam Jarrar, Acting Director, Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development, Center for Global Health, CDC, Dr. Kamil Barbour, EIS Officer, CDC, Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour, Executive Director of EMPHNET, Miss. Heba Jayyousi, EMPHNET NCD Project Coordinator, Dr. Ali Al Saad, Director, Ajloun Health Directorate and Dr. Sahar Jriesat, Director of Jordan FETP.

Overall, the NCD training was well received by the participants and they demonstrated their ability to successfully meet each module objective. On the evaluation forms, the majority of participants rated themselves as “very confident” or “completely confident” performing the competencies taught. The facilitators found the Facilitator Guides (which included copies of the slides and instructions on what to say and do) very helpful. Andrea Bader, the Deloitte Consulting Contractor who worked with staff from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to design and develop the training, will modify the six modules based on feedback from the Amman Workshop.

* Le test du matériel pilote de l’atelier consacré à l’épidémiologie des maladies non transmissibles (MNT) a été mené, à Amman en Jordanie, Le 27-29 Mars 2011 pour fournir aux résidents FETP une base introductive de l’épidémiologie, la surveillance, prévention et le contrôle des MNT.

* Les 20 participants qui ont assisté à l’atelier, appartiennent au programme FETP de Jordanie, à la direction de la santé Ajloun et à la direction des MNT.

* Cet atelier a été mené par US.CDC en coordination avec EMPHNET et FETP de Jordanie.

The 60th Annual Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference

The Center for Disease Control’s special group of “Disease Detectives” known as “EIS” held its 60th annual Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference April 11th thru 15th in Atlanta, Georgia. This year’s scientific program included 95 oral presentations and 30 poster presentations that spanned a wide range of topics from “Extinguishing the Tobacco Epidemic” to “Public Health Response after Disasters in Haiti and Pakistan.” International Night 2011 took place on April 13th. The session was moderated by Dr. Kevin DeCock, Director of the Center for Global Health at CDC and Dr. Mark Rosenberg, President and CEO of the Taskforce for Global Health. Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the CDC, presented the International Night awards to the following recipients: Dr. Prameela Baral (India) - William H. Foege Award for Outstanding Public Health Abstract. Dr. Hirunwut Praekunatham (Thailand) – Best Oral Presentation. Dr. Yira Tavaréz (Dominican Republic) – Best Poster Presentation. The EIS Conference is unique in that it has a dual purpose. It’s a scientific conference that allows EIS officers the opportunity to gain experience in making scientific presentations, but there are also special sessions which highlight the activities of the CDC.

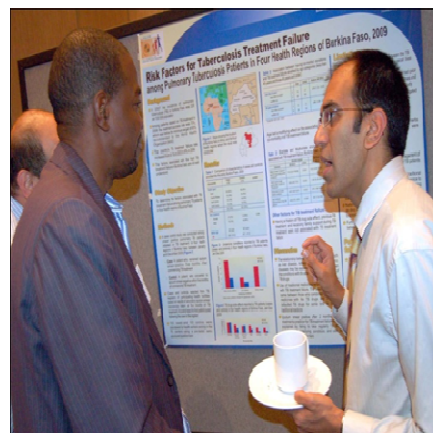
The Epidemic Intelligence Service of the CDC began in 1951 and has trained over two thousand public health professionals in applied epidemiology. According to Dough Hamilton, MD, PhD, (CAPT. USPHS), EIS Chief, (EIS 1991), for the second consecutive year, the EIS program has received a record number of applications for the program. The average number of applicants during the last decade has been approximately 280. Last year, the program received 412 applications and this year the number increased to 470. To access the EIS Conference Program Archives, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/eis/downloads/2011.EIS.Conference.pdf>

To access the EIS Conference Late-Breaking Reports Archives, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/eis/downloads/2011.LateBreakingReports.pdf>

*La conférence EIS a eu lieu du 11 au 15 Avril 2011 à Atlanta en Géorgie.

* La conférence EIS avait un double objectif, acquérir de l’expérience dans les présentations scientifiques et mettre en valeur les activités du CDC.

* Trois posters de la région ont été présentés à cette conférence.



Posters discussions during EIS Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

Pakistan FELTP Second Cohort Graduate Participants in International Night

Dr. Aslam Pervaiz, graduate of the Pakistan FELTP Second Cohort, conducted a study in July 2009 to assess the prevalence and risk factors for HIV and HCV infections among prisoners in a jail in Punjab Province in Pakistan. His work on this study was accepted as a poster in the EIS Conference, and Dr. Aslam presented his poster during International Night on April 13th in Atlanta, Georgia. With hundreds of entries submitted to EIS and only 15 posters chosen for presentation, this is both an honor and a testament to the quality and importance of Dr. Aslam's work. Congratulations to Dr. Aslam! To access information on Dr. Aslam's study, please visit <http://library.tephinet.org/abstract/risk-assessment-hcv-and-hiv-infections-among-prisoners-punjab-pakistan>

**Dr. Aslam Pervaiz, diplômé de la deuxième cohorte du programme FELTP-Pakistan a participé à la conférence EIS par la présentation d'un poster le 13 Avril lors de la Soirée Internationale, au sujet de la prévalence et des facteurs de risques du HIV et de l'Hépatite Virale C parmi les détenus d'une prison de la province du Punjab au Pakistan.*



EMPHNET Technical Committee 2nd Meeting

The Technical Committee Second Meeting was held during EIS Conference in Atlanta, 11-15, April, 2011. The attendees were: Dr. Peter Bloland, Dr. Aisha Jumaan, Dr. Faris Lami, Dr. Dionisio Herrera, Dr. Lisa Bryde, Dr. Henry Walke, Dr. Kashef Ijaz, and Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour. The Technical Committee duties and responsibilities are to advocate, promote and ensure the quality of EMPHNET's activities, promote the collaboration between EMPHNET and other related sectors, identify and address the related needs and concerns in the region, assist in the development of new ideas and initiatives to support EMPHNET activities in the region, and advise on policy decisions at the EMPHNET. The agenda of the meeting included the following topics: EMPHNET workshops, conferences, outbreaks, networking achievements (including new FELTPs, issues, projects...), EMPHNET work plan (2011/2012), regional conference, EMPHNET in future, CDC and EMPHNET, challenges and concerns, and many other topics.

**La seconde rencontre du comité technique a été tenue à Atlanta durant la conférence EIS, 11-15 Avril 2011.*

**L'ordre du jour de la réunion comprenait les sujets suivants: réalisations de EMPHNET, plan de travail de EMPHNET (2011-2012), la conférence régionale, le futur de EMPHNET, le CDC et EMPHNET, les défis et les préoccupations, et plus.*

Excellence in Reporting Science Workshop

From May 1 through 12, 2011, a course jointly sponsored by EMPHNET, TEPHINET, and the US CDC was conducted for FELTP trainees from Iraq and Yemen in Amman, Jordan. During the 2 weeks of instruction (approximately 80 hours of classroom contact time and 30 hours of out-of-class time), participants were involved in lectures, small group discussions, problem solving sessions, and individual writing and presentation assignments. Each participant searched the international peer-reviewed literature, chose a journal that seemed appropriate for his subject matter, wrote a brief scientific report, and submitted it for review. These reports were reviewed by the workshop leader and by at least three additional resource reviewers, who attended the course and are senior staff members in the participating host organizations (including Drs. Ali Al Aboid, Ali Al Radaidah, Wasan Al Tamimi, Senan Ghazi, Anwar Ghazala, and Faris Lami). At the end of the course, each participant translated his scientific report into a non-technical oral presentation for an audience of his choice and presented

it orally to his colleagues and mentors.

Guest lecturers and additional reference resource personnel for the course included Ms. Alice Haddadin, Director of the Medical Library, King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan, and Dr. Sarah Patrick, a consulting epidemiologist with the US CDC and former trainee in CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service.

The workshop was conducted by Ms. Elliott Churchill, Senior Communications Officer (retired), US CDC. Ms. Churchill managed CDC's publishing office for more than 20 years and has taught for CDC, WHO, UNICEF, and other national and international health organizations in over 100 countries and reports that she would rather be in a classroom than anywhere else in the world. (Read the details in the news page).

**Un atelier de rédaction scientifique a été mené à Amman en Jordanie du 1 au 12 Mai 2011 pour les résidents du Yémen et d'Irak. *Le cours a été conduit par Me Elliott Churchill, responsable de la Communication (à la retraite), US.CDC. *A la fin du cours, chaque participant a traduit son rapport scientifique en une présentation orale non technique, pour une audience de son choix et l'a présenté oralement à ses collègues et mentors.*



A picture at the last day of the workshop for all attendees

Training of Trainers in Reaching Diverse Audiences Workshop

Immediately following a 2-week Amman-based course titled “Excellence in Reporting Science,” which was attended by a group of FETP trainees and their mentors from Iraq and Yemen, a second 2-week course was conducted by CDC retiree Ms. Elliott Churchill. For this session, the participants were 12 mid- and senior-level public health staff associated with EMPHNET training programs and allied institutions of higher learning in Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, and Yemen. The sessions were held from May 15 through 26, 2011, in Amman, Jordan. During the 2 weeks of instruction (approximately 80 hours of classroom contact time and 30 hours of out-of-class time), participants were involved in lectures, small group discussions, problem solving sessions, and individual writing and presentation assignments. These sessions were designed in such a way that participants were provided with numerous tools and tips to be used in their own classrooms and other types of training sites, and participants were encouraged to add to and otherwise modify the materials to make them more relevant for regional application with groups of medical officers or other trainees in public health settings. At the end of the course,

each participant translated a scientific report of his own choosing into a non-technical oral presentation for an audience of his choice and presented it orally to his colleagues in a presentation-feedback session.

Guest lecturers and additional reference resource personnel for the course included Ms. Alice Haddadin, Director of the Medical Library, King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan, and Dr. Sarah Patrick, a consulting epidemiologist with the US CDC and former trainee in CDC’s Epidemic Intelligence Service.

The workshop was conducted by Ms. Elliott Churchill, Senior Communications Officer (retired), US CDC. Ms. Churchill managed CDC’s publishing office for more than 20 years and has taught for CDC, WHO, UNICEF, and other national and international health organizations in over 100 countries and reports that she would rather be in a classroom than anywhere else in the world. (Read the details in the news page).

*L’atelier de Formation des Formateurs pour l’équipe de TOT a été menée à Amman, Jordanie 15 au 26 Mai 2011. *Le cours a été mené par Mme Elliott Churchill, premier responsable de la communication (retraité), US.CDC. *Les participants ont reçus de nombreux outils et conseils qu’ils pourront utiliser dans leurs propres classes ou autres sites de formation. Les participants ont été invités à adapter ces outils pour les rendre plus pertinents compte tenu des spécificités régionales avec leurs collègues médecins ou formateurs qui œuvrent en santé publique.



Oral presentations during Training of Trainers workshop

Regional FETP Advisor named for Middle East

Dr. Reinhard Kaiser has been named the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Regional Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) advisor for the Middle East based in Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Kaiser holds an MD from the University of Hamburg, Germany, and an MPH from the University of Hanover, Germany. From 2007 to 2011, Dr. Kaiser was Associate Director for Science and (from September 2009) also acting chief of the Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics Branch for the CDC Division of Global HIV/AIDS in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Kaiser has been with the European CDC in Stockholm, Sweden, from 2005 to 2006, where he helped build the preparedness and response unit and was deputy head of the influenza team. From 1999 to 2005, Dr. Kaiser worked at CDC Atlanta at the National Center for Environmental Health in environmental epidemiology (epidemic intelligence service, 1999-2001) and emergency/refugee health (2001-2005), where he was focal point for HIV/AIDS and principle investigator of HIV and behavioral risk factor surveys in emergency-affected populations in Sierra Leone, South Sudan and DR Congo. Dr. Kaiser has published many articles about various topics in international emergencies, environmental health and HIV/AIDS and has lectured at Emory, Tulane, Columbia and Boston Universities.

*Dr. Reinhard Kaiser a été nommé en tant que CDC-FETP conseiller régional pour le moyen orient, basé au Caire, Egypte.

*Dr Kaiser est titulaire d’un diplôme en médecine, de l’Université de Hambourg en Allemagne, et d’un master en santé publique de l’Université de Hanovre en Allemagne.



A photo of Dr. Reinhard Kaiser

Resident Advisor named for Saudi Arabia FETP

The Field Epidemiology and Training Program in Saudi Arabia have named Dr. Robert Bernstein as its new Resident Advisor. Dr. Bernstein brings a wide range of experience in both the public and private health sectors. With over 30 years of experience in the United States and in more than 20 developing countries, he has managed, implemented, evaluated, and advised USAID missions, UN agencies, and NGO's on such issues as biomedical science, health services research, and policies and practices of public health.

Dr. Bernstein earned his MS and PhD at Penn State University in the field of Biochemistry. This was followed by a 2-year post-doctoral NIH fellowship at the Department of Pharmacology at Yale University School of Medicine. He obtained his MD degree at the University of Connecticut and completed his residency in Preventive Medicine by doing a Medical-Surgical Internship at the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Hospital in San Francisco followed by an MPH at John Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. He also served two years in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) training program of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and was a Medical Epidemiologist at the CDC from 1979 to 1996. In addition to his work in public health, Dr. Bernstein has an appointment as Adjunct Associate Professor of Global Public Health at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University.

More recently, Dr. Bernstein has served as Expert Advisor and Director of a program of International Medical and Public Health Development Assistance at Singapore Health Services, Pte Ltd and assisted the MOH Indonesia in the finalization of their Strategy and Plan for Action for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Surveillance, Treatment & Care 2009-2014. Dr. Bernstein is the author of more than twenty peer-reviewed publications.

**Le programme FETP d'Arabie Saoudite a nommé Dr. Robert Bernstein en tant que son nouveau conseiller résident.*

**Dr. Bernstein apporte une vaste expérience dans le domaine de la santé dans le secteur privé et public, avec plus de 30 ans d'expérience aux Etats Unis et dans plus de 20 pays en développement.*

Egypt FETPs

As one group of Egypt FETP residents prepared for graduation, preparations were underway for a new group of FETP residents to begin. On May 26th, Dr. Tippavan Nagachinta from CDC Atlanta, and Dr. Eman **Abd Elkreem Hassen**, Dr. Naser Said, Dr. Amr Kandeel and Dr. Genedy from the Egypt Ministry of Health were in attendance to congratulate the thirteen graduates on a job well done. Dr. Eman was also presented with a plaque from the CDC in appreciation for her years of dedicated hard work as the FETP Coordinator.

Just the week before, Dr. Reinhard Kaiser, the FETP Regional Advisor for the Middle East and Dr. Richard Dicker, CDC Team Lead for the MENA Region, along with Dr. Eman, conducted the Screening Course to select ten residents for the new two year Egypt FETP scheduled to begin on June 26th. Upon completion of the Screening Course, ten candidates were selected to be the residents for this new full time Egypt FETP. The first course, the Introductory Course, for this new Egypt FETP will be held June 26th through July 28th.

**10 candidats ont été sélectionnés pour être des résidents à temps plein pour le FETP-Egypte.*

**Le premier cours introductif pour le nouveau FETP-Egypte sera réalisé du 26 Juin au 28 Juillet.*

