



Network for Education
in International Health

Minutes of tropEd General Assembly Meeting
13 to 15 June, 2019
Department of Epidemiology and Global Health
Umeå University

Participants:

Bernadette Peterhans, Basel
Axel Hoffmann, Basel
Nandita Rothermund, Heidelberg
Dickson Lwetoijera, Dar es Salaam
Maria Rosário Oliveira Martins, Lisbon
Alberto Matteelli, Brescia
Giulia Gardini, Brescia
Carola Eyber, Edinburgh
Govert Van Heusden, Antwerp
Günter Fröschl, Munich
Joan Tallada, Barcelona
Henry Lynn, Shanghai
Angelica Johansson, Umeå
Marie Lindkvist, Umeå
Klas Göran Sahlen, Umeå
Seydou Doumbia, Bamako
Ralf Weigel, Witten-Herdecke
Martina Manhart, Munich
Rodney Reynolds, London (UCL)
Miriam Müller, Heidelberg (student representative)

1. Welcome address of Klas Göran Sahlen. He gave an overview on the Center of Global Health Research, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, at Umeå University. One of the important innovations was the introduction of Academic Dialogue Spaces (topic specific, interdisciplinary research groups).

2. Marie Lindkvist presented the educational activities at the department. Umeå University at the moment has a total of 34'000 students. The Department of Epidemiology and Global Health offers three Master programmes in Public Health (a one year and a two year programme) and Health Economics. Students have a variety of background and origin. Details can be seen in the presentation of Marie in annex.
3. The meeting agenda in general was approved; some changes had to be done due to the fact that Govert Van Heusden will arrive only in the evening of Thursday, so the election of president was shifted to Friday morning.
4. The survey for the annual report is delayed, but will be sent out by Basel in the coming weeks. The results will be presented in the London meeting.
5. Financial Report: Axel gave overview on income and spendings in 2018. At the end of 2018 the network showed a total of EUR 13950.23 on its account. Nandita and Martina will review the accounts and all supporting documents and will report to the GA on Saturday.
6. The transition of the secretariat from Basel to Munich is on the way. Günter will hire an assistant from 1 September onwards.
7. To elaborate more on possible funding opportunities a Task Force was established, Members: Rodney, Carola, Martina.
8. Modules for accreditation were allocated into two groups; reviewers have been assigned.
9. Carola presented her site visit report on Witten-Herdecke and recommended to accept the University of Witten-Herdecke as a member of the tropEd network. All eligible nine members present voted with a yes – the University of Witten-Herdecke is therefore now member of the network.
10. The site visit to BNITM Hamburg was just done the week before the GA by Nuria Casamitjana. She will present her report in the next GA in London.
11. James Cook University: a letter was sent to Axel stating that they have to postpone again the self-evaluation report due to intra-university problems. The GA stated that a representative of JCU should come to one of the next two GAs and that they

should indicate a clear timetable of the ongoing application process – otherwise they should withdraw and apply again.

12. Membership Issue LSHTM. Discrepancy between tropEd and own accreditation cycles. Were not attending the past 5 GAs. Rodney reports that LSHTM was not taking up offers from UCL to collaborate with regard to tropEd. LSHTM had asked for mechanism of institutional accreditation, which is not possible as this would have to be granted to all members and hence would dismantle the accreditation system at tropEd. Now they have received invoice for tropEd 2019 membership fee for full member. They responded by saying that this is inappropriate because they don't have accredited courses, and have allegedly not received feedback from tropEd concerning institutional accreditation option. Conclusion: Axel will write a letter to LSHTM, (again) indicating that institutional accreditation is not possible. The membership fee is and remains due for 2019 as the year has started already, however, a change in status to collaborative member may be considered. [NB: this option may soon be rendered futile due to change in fee structure]
13. Student Issues. Advertising Material: tropEd secretariat has received the new designs as pdf, but the printer had formatting issues. Kate has a crashed computer, source files not available. Axel will check to retrieve source file.
14. Change in student representatives: Kata, Flora and Carmen are out, there are new candidates of which 1 from Nigeria. Miriam remains which is good for continuity.
15. Student representative participation at GA: Decision by GA: for each GA a max of €700.- is available to the student reps for participation, which they can use for any number of reps, and for travel, accommodation, visa and meals. The student reps will have to produce one summary invoice accompanied by payment proofs, to be sent to tropEd secretariat for refunding.
16. Website: working group around Bruno was formed, and feedback was sent to Bruno. Discussion on needs concerning content update and technical improvements. The group is asked to produce a cost calculation for technical improvement. Henry will ask in China website developers for an offer. Bernadette will ask Sarah to update contents.
17. Lower Membership Fee for Members from LMICs (Guenter). Discussion on dormant members (pro exclusion: they don't contribute; con exclusion: they may reactivate and they contribute fees). Discussion on re-accreditation of members after some time (pro: re-check whether institutions still meet requirements and to update info on them; con: problematic for association bylaws, tedious and could mean damaging collegial partnerships). Suggestion to rather do regular surveys on specific topics across all institutions. Proposal to change membership and fee structure to having

only full members, and to set up a fee of € 1500.- for HIC members and of € 500.- for LMIC members. Has to be sent to all members at least 4 weeks prior to GA in order to be able to change bylaws. Decision: Guenter will write a 1-pager with a proposal => to EC => then to GA => then discussed at GA London. Decision then to be taken at consecutive GA.

18. Educational Session: Axel: Transformation in Age of Digitalization (see annex power point file). Discussion: students benefit from online courses as they can set their pace and have extended option to ask for feedback. Online means more tedious exposure of lecturers and higher effort to produce materials.

19. Govert presented on his site visit to Université des sciences des Techniques et des Technologies de Bamako (USTTB), Département d'enseignement et de recherche en santé publique (FMOS-DERSP). He proposed a collaborative membership with some recommendations:

- tropEd should support institutional QA development
- Sending the right persons to the GAs
- Translation of local credits to ECTS
- Strategic choice of modules
- Awareness of security issues

After discussion, the eligible ten members voted with a yes – USTTB is now a collaborative member of tropEd.

20. Election of new president: Two candidates: Nuria Casmitjany (Barcelona) and Govert Van Heusden (Antwerp). Ten full members present and eligible for the secret voting. The results:

Nuria Casamitjana – 4 votes
Govert Van Heusden – 6 votes

Govert Van Heusden is the new President Elect.

21. Election of the other member of the Executive Committee, two candidates: Nuria Casamitjana (Barcelona) and Rodney Reynolds (UCL London). 13 members present and eligible for the secret voting. The results:

Nuria Casamitjana – 5 votes
Rodney Reynolds – 8 votes

Rodney Reynolds is the new other member of the EC.

22. Module accreditation: see file in annex

23. tropEd recognition (Govert). KIT student will not receive recognition (> 5 years, not all courses accredited, not enough experience in LMICs). Revision of troped recognition criteria (see power point by Govert). Discussion: historical course database is still maintained and important for recognition. Different needs and regulations at member institutions. Decision: working group is formed (Bernadette, Marie, Govert, Carola, KIT tbd, Barcelona tbd), they will produce and circulate a proposal by 31 August 2019, to then collect feedback from all members. 2 slots at London GA shall be allocated to present proposal and feedback and discuss, then breakout groups, then conclusion.
24. One application for recognition (Julia Brandenberger). Documents were sent in as piecemeal. Govert will ask candidate to send documents in one piece as required.
25. Financial report (Nandita): all was in order, request relief of EC: Voting all members: 7 for relief, 0 against, 1 abstention.
26. Feedback (Axel): Brescia is now not only offering a core course but a full master. This will be announced on the website, Brescia is hereby a troped home institution.
27. Feedback (Axel from Nuria): ECTMIH in September 2019 in Liverpool, only few members attend, no more possibility to place a tropEd event there as deadline expired. Conference of Universities in Global Health (CUGH) 07 to 10 March 2019, Nuria was there and presented on tropEd ("from competencies to curriculum"). Next CUGH 17 to 20 April 2020 in Washington DC. EGHRIN European GH Research Institutes Network: next meeting in London 04 July 2019. ASPHER: they would favour to see tropEd as an applicant for ASPHER prize. World Federation of PH Associations: Meeting 13 to 17 October 2020 in Rome.
28. Next Dates for GA:
 - London 13 to 15 Sept 2019, date fixed as convenient for UCL.
 - Jan/Feb GA 2020: overseas GA: ENSP Morocco indicated willingness to host. Guenter will inquire.
 - Brescia proposes to be host for GA in Oct 2020 (close to WFPHA meeting in Rome)
29. Minutes of GA Lisbon: Changes will be executed by Axel on typos in names of Bruno and Martina; second look on tropEd recognition was done by Hans-Friedemann instead of Guenter. Vote to accept the minutes with the mentioned changes: 7 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.