

Minutes of tropEd General Assembly Meeting

20 to 22 February, 2020

National Public Health School

Rabat, Morocco

Participants:

1. Lisanne Gerstel, KIT Royal Tropical Institute (Amsterdam)
2. Govert van Heusden, Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp)
3. Charlotte Morantin, Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp)
4. Nuria Casamitjana, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (Barcelona)
5. Anna Roses, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (Barcelona)
6. Bernadette Peterhans, Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute (Basel)
7. Axel Hoffmann, Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute (Basel)
8. Hans-Friedemann Kinkel, Charité Universitätsmedizin (Berlin)
9. Beatrice Formenti, Clinica di Malattie Infettive e Tropicali (Brescia)
10. Giulia Gardini, Clinica di Malattie Infettive e Tropicali (Brescia)
11. Jani Puradiredja, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (Hamburg)
12. Anne-Kathrin Fabricius, Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (Heidelberg)
13. Miriam Müller, Heidelberg (Student Rep)
14. Lucy Irvine, Institute for Global Health, UCL (London)
15. Guenter Fröschl, Center for International Health, Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität (Munich)
16. Martina Manhart, Center for International Health, Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität (Munich)
17. Orisel Santiesteban, TropEd Secretariat (Munich)
18. Abdelmounim Belalia, L'Ecole Nationale de Santé Publique, ENSP (Rabat)
19. Raja Benkirane, L'Ecole Nationale de Santé Publique, ENSP (Rabat)
20. Marie Lindkvist, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University (Umeå)
21. Angelica Johansson, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University (Umeå)
22. Michael Galatsch, Witten/Herdecke University (Witten, Germany)
23. Rodney Reynolds, Individual Member (North Caroline)
24. Abdulsalam Alkaiyat, An-Najah University (Nablus, Palestine)

1. The GA in Rabat began with a round presentation; the idea was to put one face behind the name, and for the new members it was also important to know what the other members do in their respective institutions.
2. Welcome address of Professor A. Belalia, Director of the National School of Public Health, ENSP gave an overview of the Institute and indicated their enthusiasm to be part and active member of the tropEd network. He presented the strategic of public health of the ENSP and explained the main goals for the integration into tropEd, which are among others: increasing the level of quality of the training, accreditation, digitalization trough e-learning, diversification of their educational offer, creating scientific evidence, strengthening the role of the institution in the environmental health, etc.
3. Dr Raja Benkirane, tropEd representative the National School of Public Health, ENSP, presented the current education and research programmes of the institution. She also described the advantages of their teaching methods, especially learning by doing (the students visit the institution for one week and two weeks are directly on site (field) to gain practical experience). (See **Annex 1**)
4. The Minutes of the London GA were approved without changes. Recommendation: next time the minutes should be sent with more time ahead.
5. The meeting agenda was also approved without changes.
6. Guenter reported that Munich now runs all tropEd businesses and is still in the process of a learning exercise. Three TelCos have taken place since the last GA meeting in London. All pending courses were accredited. Some EC members (Govert, Maria, Carola) as well as Bruno and Orisel attended a meeting in Antwerp organized by Govert, where the strategic vision of tropEd was discussed and steps for the meeting in Rabat were defined, as well as a schedule for the following six upcoming GAs. There is only one question left: the financing, for which Guenter and Axel still must visit our lawyer in Berlin, which has to be planned in the coming months, so that this issue is finally resolved.
7. The institution annual report is missed for two years. The Secretariat will discuss the 2019 annual report with the EC and send it to the members of the network as soon as possible. Some questions may be added, others will have to be rewritten to obtain better and more specific results.
8. The courses for accreditation were allocated into two groups with at least two reviewers for each course. Guenter explained the accreditation and reaccreditation procedure and the system of good quality teaching to the new members. The latest version of the Handbook was sent to all members.
9. Three candidates were proposed for the **election of the president** on Friday. Nuria Casamitjana, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (Barcelona), Marie Lindkvist, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University (Umeå) and Hans-Friedemann Kinkel, Charité Universitätsmedizin (Berlin). Nuria and Friedemann could withdraw their candidacy, leaving Marie as the only candidate. Their decision will be communicated to the network next day. The procedure for the election of the president was explained.
10. A group of members: Carola, Govert, Nuria, Bernadette and Guenter carried out a surprising **laudation for Axel**. Carola, who was not personally present in Rabat, gave her presentation via Skype. Guenter gave Axel a present on behalf of the tropEd network and expressed our gratitude to Axel for his fabulous work during all these years of commitment and compromise. (See **Annex 2**)
11. A **WhatsApp tropEd group** was set up to stay in touch, especially during the GAs.
12. Two new individual memberships and the first ones in the history of the tropEd network, were submitted for approval (Rodney Reynolds and Nandita Rothermund). Guenter clarified the category of individual

membership category, which among other must pay a fee of 50€yearly and the candidate must be recommended by two full members. Basel and Antwerp ran out with the two proposals. Rodney, present in Rabat, told that he had left the UCL after 10 years as tropEd representative. He is starting a new challenge in his field anthropology at High Point University in North Carolina, where he will be responsible for the development of a new master in global health. He thinks that this can also be a great opportunity for the network because education and teaching are key issues at the university and will perhaps extend the network's influence to the United States and new organizations in the region, where we aren't yet so strong. He also dedicated nice words to Axel.

Rodney was elected as individual member with 13 votes in favour and 0 against, and no abstentions.

The candidature of Nandita was presented by Guenter since she wasn't present in Rabat. She will leave Heidelberg after many years and become in an Intercultural Trainer/Moderator.

Nandita was elected as individual member with 13 votes in favour and 0 against, and no abstentions.

We congratulate Rodney and Nandita and are very happy that we can continue to be part of the network with their support.

- 13.** Since Rodney is a member of the EC, elected last year as Ex-officio Member and he is no longer a representative of a tropEd institution, it was required to vote to agree whether he could possibly still be a member of the EC. Vote to **keep Rodney as EC member until 2022**: In favour 12, 0 against and 1 abstention.

14. Membership Issues:

- Axel reported that Bordeaux paid and is now out.
 - Bolivia is unfortunately no longer a member. The letter of termination was sent in December 2019.
 - No news from The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Axel will enquire again.
 - No news from Liverpool. Is they want to become a member, they will have to start the process all over again. As a new president was elected, Govert will contact them to see if they will proceed with a membership request. If yes, ask them to send a letter of intent.
 - James Cook any news. Last information from 2018. No payments in 2019; Axel will enquire and require the missing payment of 2019.
- 15.** Abdulsalam Alkaiyat, PhD, postdoctoral fellow and research associate at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, **introduced the An Najah National university to the GA**. This university was founded in 1918 as non- governmental and non-profit organization center. It is the largest Palestinian university with 103 undergraduates' programme, 60 masters and 6 PhDs programme. It has the first teaching hospital and is involved in many community and prevention programs. Among its motivation to join tropEd are knowledge transfer and exchange methods in teaching and research, student exchange and mobility and the improvement of health education. (See **Annex 3**)

From a total of 13 members present in Rabat, all agreed to invite the An-Nahaj National University to complete the self-report and to continue the membership application process.

- 16.** Miriam Mueller, **tropEd Representative** informed the network of the results of a six-question survey conducted among tropEd students and introduced the current tropEd students representatives. Since the financial support for attending GA meetings is limited, they have some difficulties in assisting to GA meetings. Some ideas were discussed to improve the problems pointed out by the students and to make them feel that they are an important key of the network. Then there was a debate that raised some

interesting questions for further discussion. Friedemann suggested to have a student as an EC member (at the Charité they do this and work quite well). Axel replied that this wasn't possible due to the statements of the current statutes. Orisel shared Carola's idea to invite some students from the hosting institution. Hamburg will try to make the best of it. Rodney also suggested inviting students to participate in European Gas, with funding in the form of scholarships from the network, which would allow students to participate and be more representative once they graduate. We may need to rethink the definition of tropEd students and see how we can improve contact among them. (See **Annex 4**)

- 17.** Orisel presented the tropEd **promotional materials**, created by Kate (student) and approved by the GA a long time ago, but which we could not use because of the low quality (pdfs files). Ask KIT if there is a way to grant us the rights to the image to be used. If not, reduce the size of the credits. The documents will be made available to all members in a common section on the homepage "Advertisement Material".
- 18.** Govert presented a demo for the **website**, which was shared by Francisco, our website manager in Cuernavaca, Mexico (<https://demo.troped.org/>). All 13 members presented in Rabat agreed to proceed with the relaunch of the new website. The working group homepage will work close to Francisco to ensure that the website has the functionality and design that we are willing to provide.
- 19. tropEd strategic vision 1:** Govert introduced this section with a presentation about the history of tropED and shared some ideas about the future of the network. It is not yet clear what tropEd currently wants to achieve and in which area it wants to take a certain leadership role. We may need to analyse what the currents trends are and perhaps venture into new programs and define new goals and areas of interesting: migration and digitalization. There is a need of reflecting and summarises de new challenges. The tropEd brand is not widely known. (See **Annex 5**).
- 20. tropEd strategic vision 2:** Rodney opened the World Café and explained how the exercise will proceed, working in 4 categories to describe tropEd underlines values. 4 groups were formed to work in this exercise. Each group will have 12 minutes- discussion at each table. The idea was to create a a target for the swot analysis. Framework, start by examining the capacities of the network. Facilitators: Marie (strengths), Govert (opportunities), Rodney (threats) and Bernadette (weakness). The results will be presented at the next GA meeting.
- 21. Election of the new president elect.** Carola will step out of the EC Members. Maria has now become Past president and Govert president. Govert clarifies the procedure for the election of the president. Nuria and Friedemann drop their candidacy and leave Marie as the only running candidate. It was questioned how the vote should be done (secretly or openly by raising hands); the last option was agreed. From a total of 10 full members presented in Rabat, Marie Lindkvist was unanimously elected as the new tropEd president elected.
- 22. Course accreditation.** Miriam (blue group) and Guenter (yellow group) reported the results of the (re-) accreditation sessions respectively to the GA. Some remarks were made, since during the accreditation process it became clear to both groups that some changes were necessary. The EC will work on it and send a modified "Handbook for course accreditation" to all members in the coming months. Recommendations: Take out the fees in euro; make the application deadline clear; discussion about credit points; draft template that can be used and filled in online; how to choose the keywords, make clear the application deadlines, etc. (See **Annex 6**).
- 23. Erasmus+ KA2 Capacity building in the field of Higher Education.** Govert presented some ideas summarized by Bruno, who wasn't present in Rabat, about different opportunities to work on join projects among tropEd members in the field of higher education. Some partners were interesting in collaborating on some of the proposed ideas. Govert will collect the initiative of members to participate and see, if possible, if we can apply for these grants. (See **Annex 7**).

- 24.** Rodney presented research grants on education opportunities but especially all those related to the Spencer Foundation. This foundation offers grants for participation in International conferences, which can be used by tropEd students, who can run for it with the support of the respective member institution and the network. (See **Annex 8**).
- 25.** Guenter reported of the **negative of DAAD Germany** about an application submitted by the CIH-LMU Munich, with the support of the tropEd network and signed by Maria Rosario.
- 26.** Nuria gave an overview of organizations and upcoming events. She introduced the Consortium of Universities for Global Health to the GA, which could be interesting as a partner for the development of joint activities and which we might join. Bernadette reported on the 11th ECTMIH, which took place in Liverpool from 16 to 20 September 2019. The next one will take place in October 2021 in Bergen. (See **Annex 9**).
- 27. TropEd recognition.** A petition for the tropEd recognition was submitted. The student Claudia Robbiati, successfully completed her Master in International Health at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) - University of Barcelona (UB). She attended to advance modules at different Universities (University of Brescia, UCL London, University of Bergen, Queen Margaret Edinburgh). Marie was named as second reviewer. The tropEd recognition was granted to Claudia Robbiati with the agreement of all 13 members presented in Rabat (See **Annex 10**).
- 28.** Guenter announced the dates and locations for the next two **upcoming GA meetings in 2020**: Hamburg (June 11-13) and Brescia (October 8-10). **Volunteer hosts for 2021** were asked to be able to plan ahead. For 2021 Basel offered to host in February 2021, coinciding with the 25th anniversary celebration of tropEd. Bernadette and Axel will enquire if Tanzania could host the summer GA, perhaps in June. We should try to have an overseas partner at least every second year. Since the ECTMIH is happening in Bergen in October 2021, Guenter will ask our partners in Bergen, if they could volunteer to host the fall GA, e.g. 23 to 25 September 2021.
- 29. The official closure** was made by Prof Belalia, who thanked the tropEd members for coming to Rabat to attend to the GA, which he qualified as successful. He also thanked the network for the help in improving the quality and accreditation of our process and hopes that there will be more joint activities in the near future. We thank our colleagues in Rabat for their special attention.
- 30. Extended EC Meeting** (Participants: Nuria, Günter, Govert, Jani, Anne, Miriam, Orisel, Raja, Lisanne, Michael, Angelica, Charlotte, Marie, Giulia, Rodney). As result a to do list was agreed. (See **Annex 11**).