



Network for Education  
in International Health

## Minutes of tropEd General Assembly Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Charité Universitätsmedizin, Berlin

### Participants:

Magdalena Bjerneld, Uppsala  
Nuria Casamitjana, Barcelona  
Carola Eyber, Edinburgh  
Maaïke Flinkenflögel, Amsterdam  
Pauline Grys, Heidelberg  
Axel Hoffmann, Basel  
Sarah Hostettler, Basel  
Henry Xinguo Jiang, Shanghai  
James Kessler, Edinburgh (student representative)  
Hans Friedemann Kinkel, Berlin  
Hallgeir Kismul, Bergen  
Miriam Müller, Heidelberg (student representative)  
María Eugenia Ocampo, Cuernavaca  
Bernadette Peterhans, Basel  
Rodney Reynolds, UCL London  
Nandita Rothermund, Heidelberg  
Klas Göran Sahlén, Umeå  
Klas Göran Sahlén, Antwerp  
Guenter Froeschl, Munich

Guests: Jürgen May, Norbert Schwarz, BNITM Hamburg

*11 Full members, 2 collaborating institutes, 2 student representatives, 2 Guests*

1. Prof. Frank Mockenhaupt, acting director of ITMIH Berlin, warmly welcomed the GA to Berlin. He gave a short presentation about the institute and its embedding in Charité, followed by a short presentation of Hans-Friedemann Kinkel about the history and the current educational and research programmes of the institute.
2. **Agenda of Berlin GA** meeting is accepted. **Minutes of the Edinburgh GA** are approved without any changes.

### 3. Information from Secretariat

- **Courses accredited since last GA:**
  - Yogyakarta: Implementation research for public health Cat. 1 with clarification
- **New tropEd membership applicants:**
  - The Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg has applied for tropEd membership. Two representatives will present during this meeting
- **UCL bi-lateral agreements:**
  - Although it is open to each member to sign a bi-lateral agreement with UCL, the network wants to state officially the contradiction of such agreements to the idea of a network. Carola Eyber drafted a short statement which was circulated in the network. Will be further discussed during the meeting.
- **Advertisement material:**
  - The student representatives took up the task and made suggestions for roll-ups and flyers; the alternatives have been sent out for voting, results will be discussed during the meeting. The GA expressed it's big thank to the students!
- **Transition of tropEd Secretariat:**
  - After long discussions between Axel Hoffmann and other members it was decided in the EC to give some more time and discuss the processes during the Berlin meeting. Basel will stay in the position until successors for the position of the General Secretary and the hosting institution of the secretariat will be elected.

4. **Module accreditation:** A total of 24 modules had to be (re-)accredited. The GA split into two groups – the results are shown in annex 1.

5. **Results of alumni survey:** Pauline Grys reported on the results of the second alumni survey, which consisted of an quantitative survey of alumni and of qualitative interviews with coordinators from home institutions. In contrast to the first alumni survey this one focused not only on outputs, but much more on outcomes and impact. Some results (details in the pptx in annex):

- Questionnaire consisted of 35 questions; it was sent out to a total of 550 alumni of which 146 responded (response rate: 26.5%).
- In general the survey resulted in a great description of outcomes and the perceived impact of the study programs
- Four categories of mobility were constructed, as mobility has to be seen together with other factors (e.g. funding)
- Students reported on several effects on studying abroad
- A stratified analysis would be good, but the low number of respondents limit the possible statistical analyses
- The students sample varies at different levels (age, sex, experience, origin, etc.) at the various home institutions
- There seem to be a positive effect of mobility on outcomes and perceived impact
- Coordinators do not have criteria for impact

#### Questions and discussion points:

- Is virtual mobility also mobility?
- Financial aspects play a big role in mobility, also for the institutions
- Student representative: it's already a big challenge to come to one other institution, perhaps this limits more mobility
- network needs a new statement on mobility. Perhaps more on impact and outcomes, benefit for the institutions
- students see also the current website as a limiting factor for mobility

6. **UCL agreement:** Axel Hoffmann made a short summary of the history. Rodney Reynolds gave an update - UCL wants to have an assurance that students are protected. Faculty has instructed the institute for intake 2019/2020 no tropEd student will be allowed to go to an institution not signed the bi-lateral agreement. Alison and Rodney decided after discussions with university that the strategy first is to approach the institutions with which the institute has a regular students exchange. UCL would like to have agreements with all tropEd institutions. The agreement with tropEd two years ago was rejected. It's not only about liability, but also on the quality of offered courses.

In Munich a student coming for a course is never enrolled in the university – therefore we Munich cannot sign such an agreement. The same applies in Heidelberg.

In Berlin, Heidelberg and Basel the issue is still pending at the legal department.

The MoU will be sent again to all institutions and then to UCL.

7. **Membership of École Nationale de Santé Publique, Rabbat:** Axel Informed that Prof. Belali apologized not being able to join the meeting, due to substantial changes at the ministry level. As the process is already more than one year the following was decided: Nuria Casamitjana will be in Rabat in the following weeks and gets in contact with Prof. Belali. If they want to join the network, they should come to the next meeting in Lisbon and have to give an update.

8. **Membership of University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako:** Site visit by Govert Van Heusden not done, but planned for end of the year.

9. **Application of Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM), Hamburg, Germany of becoming member:** Prof. Jürgen May and PD Norbert Schwarz presented the institute and expressed their wish to join the network. One crucial point will be, that for upcoming courses certificates will have to be signed by the University of Hamburg (the institute is independent, but associated). This will be clarified in the next weeks.

After short discussion the assembly voted unanimously that BNITM is eligible to join the network and will be invited to do the self-evaluation report.

10. **Cuernavaca:** María Eugenia Ocampo from the National Institute of Public Health, Cuernavaca, Mexico, gave an update on the changes during the last three years. After some restructuring the institute will now try to re-activate it's commitment in the network.

11. **Secretariat transition:** Axel Hoffmann gave an update on the reasons and the foreseen timetable of the transition, as well on the procedure to elect a new host for the secretariat and a new General Secretary. As the time was too short to make a smooth transition within 2018, Basel will host the secretariat and he will stay in the position as a General secretary, until successors were found. Govert Van Heusden expressed his opinion, that we should see both (GS and Secretariat) not only as administrative work, but as a leadership function. The network faces some challenges and needs strong leadership.

**The following decisions on the process to find good candidates were decided (13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 1 abstention):**

- The host of the secretariat does not need to be the employer of the General Secretary – a split is possible.
- Candidates have to announce their willingness until mid-January 2019 in written form to the secretariat.
- They will present themselves/their institutions in the next GA in Lisbon.
- In the GA in Lisbon the new General Secretary and the hosting institution will be elected according the statutes.

12. **Course (re-)accreditation:** see annex

13. **Virtual mobility:** as Maaïke Flinkenflögel had to leave the GA, the topic is postponed.

14. **Erasmus+ application:** Carola Eyber: 3-year-funding just ended for KIT/Bergen/QMU. New follow-on application on "Digital Competencies" by KIT/Bergen/QMU/Barcelona/Lisbon/Antwerp was submitted via Lisbon because of political situation in UK (QMU) and Catalunya (Barcelona) => got rejected. Nuria Casmitjana gave an overview on the feedback given by EU: lack of coherence, budget too high, too many meetings/ too much mobility, mismatch between funding and expected impact, all institutes had different understanding of core concept, disconnection between previous project and current one, no clear roles for new institutions joining the proposal. Discussing possible ways of re-submitting were discussed:

- Re-submit under different Key Action/Strategic Partnership?
- Barcelona/Antwerp and QMU would be interested
- Bergen would have to discuss first internally
- KIT/ Lisbon not present
- Decision and agreement on core concept crucial
- All participating institutions should reflect
- Next meeting for proposal scheduled for Dec 2018 in Amsterdam
- Evaluation by which country to submit under which conditions
- UCL possibly interested (Rodney will feed back)

**15. Student issues:** Still not representatives from each home institution identified. Funding of student GA participation: Usually one student is funded by tropEd for GAs in Europe. Students would prefer to have 2 to ensure continuity; Bernadette will check with Axel what is possible and how to regulate within tropEd budget.

- Website: Contents not updated (courses, dates, links, info on institutions, course calendar)
- Usability limited due to missing search options and complicated structure
- Further development of website also dependent currently on future of tropEd secretariat
- Discussion on investing in new website: current one was developed by Cuenavaca
- Henry: programming in China would be considerably cheaper, he will check and feed back
- All should check whether there are IT options to use for creation of new website and what costs are, this info will be forwarded to secretariat. Bernadette will discuss with Axel to do a survey on website needs and expectations with tropEd institutions. Students will do a corresponding student survey. One session at Lisbon GA (minimum 1 hour) will be allocated.
- Sarah Hostettler will update and correct links and embedded course calendar

**16. Course accreditation:** During coffee break, EC as represented by NC, CE, GF and Axel via GF meets and discusses courses 21 and 23 from Umea (conditional cat 1) and academic teacher training course from LMU Munich (cat 2 at last EC telco): all pass as unconditional cat 1.

**17. Advertisement materials:** Katie is not here, unfortunately Mariam and James were not fully briefed on procedure. Flyer options 1-5 are shown with comments; Nr 1 and 4 are excluded right away. Katie has prepared a synthesis option: all agree to use this as basis. Student group will modify (unify font type without serifs, create one version with and one without white frame). Roll-ups options 1 to 4 are shown with comments, and synthesis option by Katie: all agree to use that as basis. Student group will modify (move white tropEd box, website and "Partnerships around the Globe" up to the top). Will be sent to secretariat, which will forward to EC for final decision at next telco.

18. **tropEd recognition:** 5 applicants, 4 were complete, all accepted. Certificates handed to Bernadette for signature by Axel.
19. **ECTMIH 16 to 20 September 2019 in Liverpool:** Potential topics: education, digital competencies (as preparatory element for Erasmus + proposal?), results from alumni survey? All should reflect on topics, to be discussed at Lisbon GA. Adjacent meeting could be at UCL –London (Rodney will feed back).
20. **PhD Trans Global Health:** PhDs are all defending now or have defended, current proposal running out. Future proposal will have to show more narrowly defined topics; open to others to participate. TGH meeting on 05 November 2018 on preparation of proposal.
21. **World Health Summit 14 to 16 Oct 2018:** NC will represent tropEd in networks meeting World Federation of Academic Institutions for Global health (WFAIGH)
22. **Initiative by League of European Research Universities (LERU) on placing GH and LMICs into new Horizon Europe funding period (NC and GF):**
  - LERU Working Group on GH has met in Brussels in July 2018, many tropEd institutions were represented
  - Creation of a European GH Research Institutions Network (EGHRIN) to further cater for GH activities
  - Creation of document to place GH and LMICs on agenda towards legal framework of Horizon Europe
  - Creation of document to place GH and LMICs on agenda towards next Strategic Framework of Horizon Europe with concrete action plan
  - Creation of document to support continuation of EDCTP
  - Documents will be shared by NC via secretariat
23. **Next GA meetings:**

Next GA Lisbon: 24.-26.01.2019 or 31.01.-02.02.2019: voting 8 vs. 8 => Sarah will do a doodle for final voting

2nd GA in summer: no feedback from Brescia. Umea agrees to host. Proposed dates: 13-15 or 17-19 June 2019. Also here doodle will be prepared by secretariat.

Fall GA: Rodney will feed back on UCL – London availability
24. **Feedback on social event Berlin Postcolonial (Friedemann Kinkel):** all were very happy with the choice. At the end a bit lengthy, at times depressing, but GA received info on a neglected topic of German history.