

EUROPEAN SCIENCE AND TRAINING FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

NETWORKING THE NETWORKS



ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM
24-27 NOVEMBER 2004



INSTITUTE OF
TROPICAL MEDICINE
ANTWERP

Co-sponsored by:

- DGDC, the Belgian Development Cooperation
- EDCTP, European and Developing Countries Clinical Trial Platform



Co-organised by:

- COST B22, Drug for Parasitic Diseases
- TropMedEurop, Association of European institutes and Schools of tropical Medicine and International Health
 - tropEd, European Network for Education in International Health
 - TropNetEurop, European network on imported infectious diseases surveillance
- WHO, World Health Organisation



BACKGROUND

Ill-health has ever been a major burden on daily life and general development in developing countries. Over the past decade, the spread of AIDS and old scourges such as malaria and TB, the emergence of new morbidity and failing public services, and the vicious cycle between poor health and poverty has brought entire countries and regions to the brink of disaster. A quick and decisive response should be an overriding priority for the affected countries as well as the international community. Apart from the humanitarian obligation, the impact on global prosperity and stability could otherwise be devastating.

While still being minute in comparison to military investments, political awareness in South and North have led to a number of global health initiatives and the commitment of substantial resources. The coherence and efficiency of the programmes is not yet optimal, and funds as well as absorption capacity are still far from sufficient. Yet, if the current efforts can be further strengthened, improved and sustained, hope for better access to health and health care is around the corner for millions of people.

Obviously, the affected countries must lead the programmes at the national and international level, and have (or must develop) the necessary capacity to that end. Yet, the challenges are so enormous and complex that the developed countries must not only provide money, but also whatever expertise they can deliver. However, they should avoid renewing the North-South dominance of the past, which has contributed all too often to the failure of meeting the true needs of the populations.

Social equity and accessible quality health care are main fundamentals of most European nations and the European Union. In spite of persisting injustices, the European Union and its members are, on aggregate, the main partners of many developing countries. Both in terms of expertise and resources, Europe can thus contribute significantly to better health care for their populations. This much-needed impact does not yet reach its full potential, however, due to the fragmentation of many European efforts.

The co-ordination of development aid is mainly a matter of political will, and progress is being made. Scientists across Europe, of various disciplines contributing to international health development, have over the past decades taken several initiatives of their own to coordinate scientific research, advanced training, expert support and policy development in the field of international health. By the very nature of Europe, this is a matter of networking rather than centralisation. Formal and informal networks are now active in education, research and service delivery. Many have overlapping objectives and constituencies; most consist of a variety of (often the same) institutes, departments or individuals from Europe and, in most cases, also from the South. Yet, there has been no structured exchange or co-ordination between the networks far.

New European initiatives, such as those expressed in the Declaration of Lisbon (strengthening and bundling scientific research) and the Declaration of Bologna (establishing a European Higher Education Area) provide new momentum and perspectives for these networks. The European Union and individual member countries also provide instruments and resources to foster scientific cooperation, both within Europe and with the developing countries.

One of the earliest programmes is COST (European Co-ordination in the field of Scientific and Technical Research), for the co-ordination of nationally funded research. The COST-action B22 on "Drug development for parasitic diseases" is an example of such long-standing networks; while most of the work is laboratory-based, it is directly related to health in developing countries and it involves a good number of partners from the South. Previous EU Research Framework Programmes (FP) have created many small and temporary, project-based networks under the STD and INCO schemes, which among themselves were loosely connected in thematic "contract holder groups" (e.g. on malaria, schistosomiasis, health systems research...). While not being structural, the dynamics of these have often been perpetuated in long-standing north-north and north-south collaborative links. Under the FP5 and FP6 programmes, several "Concerted Actions" and "Accompanying measures" supported the co-ordination (but not the research as such) of larger groups. The Sixth Framework Programme takes the dynamics one step further by creating large "Networks of Excellence" and "Integrated

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Projects” which bring together most if not all important players in the EU and their international partners in a given field, supporting not only co-ordination but also joint projects. Finally, the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership (EDCTP) for the first time joins “national programmes” , and this in a separate and autonomous legal structure. Each of these models can be seen as a step further towards European integration, but in practice also show the many political, operational and managerial difficulties that have to be faced.

Other networks are more generic or demand-driven by nature. TropMedEurop (TME) is an association of institutes and schools of tropical medicine, which so far has concentrated on information exchange, joint advocacy and offshoots, but is seeking to play a more active role in European and international fora. tropEd (European Network for Education in International Health) is a network of TME members and other academia that organise jointly a modular advanced Masters in International Health. TropNetEurop (European Network on Imported Infectious Disease Surveillance) monitors main tropical import diseases in Europe. ENIVD (European Network for Diagnostics of Imported Viral Diseases) has been set up with support of the EU to monitor the possible introduction of haemorrhagic and other viral fevers in Europe. Several other networks and initiatives have a less pronounced but yet distinct European dimension, and/or are less explicitly aimed at but yet relevant for developing countries.

As the pressing needs in the field demand optimal coordination and efficiency, and in view of the new perspectives and instruments for European integration, it would obviously be useful for the existing networks working on international health development to exchange information and experiences, on their work as well as on their organisation model.

The Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp (ITM) organises each year a colloquium on a topic of current relevance in tropical medicine and international health development, with support from the Belgian Ministry of Development Cooperation and other authorities and organisations. The specific aim is to bring together experts from different disciplines and backgrounds, and to ensure a balanced participation from South and North.

The ITM, active in many European and international networks, offers its 2004 colloquium as a forum for the various European networks active in international health development to exchange information and experiences, analyse opportunities for interaction and synergism, and possibly to structure future exchanges. This exercise will be done in dialogue with partners and actors from the South and with input from other international networks and initiatives. The meeting hopes to contribute to the bottom-up dynamics needed to structure a European "space" for scientific research, education and expertise for the improvement of health in developing countries. The venue will be Antwerp, 24-26 November 2004. Before and after the meeting the ITM is offering facilities for networks that wish to combine the colloquium with an internal (or joint) meeting.

The EDCTP, as a front runner and challenging experiment of European integration in the field of poverty-related diseases, will be a main co-sponsor of the event. Besides co-ordinating the national programmes for EDCTP-specific activities, it intends to link up also to relevant networks for training, capacity strengthening, pre- and postclinical research. These networks may learn from, and be inspired by the EDCTP experiences – and vice versa. In the long term, a successful EDCTP may become the catalyst for further co-ordination and integration of the European efforts to improve health care and the fight against poverty-related diseases in developing countries. Therefore, the EDCTP-model will be in focus in most sessions.

The participants and target audience of the colloquium will be:

- Networks with a European dimension, active in scientific research, education or expertise in the field of tropical and poverty-related diseases and health care organisation in developing countries.
- South-partners of these networks and other representatives of developing countries active in those fields
- Representatives of other interested networks, organisations or international initiatives
- National and international authorities

European networks that have so far confirmed their commitment include:

- EDCTP - European and Developing Countries Clinical Trial Platform (EDCTP): a network of National Programs for clinical trials and capacity strengthening for AIDS, TB and Malaria from 15 European countries and their African partners, co-funded by the EU
- COST B22 - Drugs for Parasitic Diseases: a EU-supported network of research for anti-parasitic drug development
- TropMedEurop, the Association of European Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine and International Health
- tropEd, European Network for Education in International Health, organising a modular Masters of Science programme with 28 partner institutions from 13 countries.
- TropNetEurop, the European network on imported infectious diseases surveillance
- Several EU/FP6 Networks of Excellence (NoE), Integrated Projects (IP) or concerted actions (CA)

The ITM will invite and support a substantial number of experts from developing countries, among others directors or representatives from key partner institutes in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Also COST, EDCTP and possibly other participating EU-networks will bring in a number of partners from the South.

Other relevant networks and organisations with a European component or support may be interested to join the initiative. While this meeting seeks mainly to encourage the bottom-up dynamics of networking, obviously it is hoped that also the concerned authorities and officials from the EU and from national governments will be interested to participate in the debates.

The objectives and agenda of the meeting are:

- To exchange and disseminate information on the objectives, structure and activities of the various networks
- To analyse their contribution to a "European Scientific Space" for research, education and training, expertise and policy development in international health;
- To analyse their contribution to the improvement of health and relevant capacity building in developing countries
- To identify and structure potential areas of collaboration, co-ordination, synergy as well as current overlaps between different networks, areas (e.g. training and research), disciplines (e.g. shortening the development pipeline of new products) and thematic fields (e.g. different diseases).
- To exchange experiences and problems related to the structure, mechanisms, management and funding of the networks
- To jointly reflect on further needs and possible steps for strengthening European and international co-ordination and positioning in the scientific fields related to international health development
- To provide an early feed-back on the outcomes of the Global Forum for Health Research summit (Mexico, 16-20 November 2004)

Agenda

The objectives of the meeting will be pursued through presentations and discussions on concrete issues, by highlighting and discussing the role of networking in different aspects of research, education, capacity building and international cooperation. All sessions will be in plenary. The agenda can be found on the next pages. At this stage, suggestions are still welcome.

NETWORKING THE NETWORKS PROGRAMME

(minor modifications are still possible)

MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER - WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 12 am

- Opportunities and facilities for internal or joint meetings of the networks
- Poster session: presentation of other participating networks (throughout whole meeting)

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER - Afternoon

14.00 – 18.00 Session 1: introducing the networks

- 14.00 – 14.20 Welcome address
Objectives of the colloquium
Organisers
- 14.20 - 14.40 Views and needs from the South
Dicky Akanmori, Developing Countries Coordination Committee, EDCTP
- 14.40 – 15.10 Feedback from the Health Research Summit
Yogan Pillay, INCO – Health Systems Expert Group
- 15.10 – 15.40 Coffee break
- 15.40 – 17.00 Presentation of the co-organising European networks
- Tropmedeurop
 - TropEd
 - TropNetEurop
 - EDCTP
 - COST - drugs
- Network representatives: Rainer Sauerborn*, Carsten Mantel, Tomas Jelinek, Piero Olliaro, Fred Opperdoes*
- 17.00 – 17.30 Models, management and quality of networking
Barbara Simaey, South Research
- 17.30 – 18.00 Discussion

19.30-21.30 Academic and official session (2)

- 19.30 – 19.50 Official addresses
National and European authorities
- 19.50 – 20.10 Keynote lecture: Global health challenges and development
Pascoal Mocumbi, Haut Representative, EDCTP
- 20.10 - 20.30 Rolling out antiretroviral therapy: the case of South-Africa
Fatima Hassan, TAC
- 20.30 – 21.30 Reception and snacks

* to be confirmed

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER

9.00 – 13.00	Session 3: Networking in Research - from molecule to patient
9.00 – 10.30	Discovery and development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbicides research, <i>Guido Vanham, EMPRO</i> • Vaccine research: malaria, <i>Sodiomon Sirima, AMANET</i> • Diagnostics: Tuberculosis, <i>Juan-Carlos Palomino, ITM</i> • Diagnostics: HIV, <i>Souleymane Mboup, CHU-Dakar</i> • Drugs for neglected diseases, <i>Simon Croft, COST and DNDi</i>
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intra-EU programmes and their implication for Developing Countries, <i>Tomas Jelinek, TropNetEurop</i> • EDCTP: the first year, <i>Piero Olliaro, EDCTP</i> Operational research : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness and intervention trials, <i>Fred Binka, Partnership Board, EDCTP*</i> • Bottlenecks for new interventions in health care systems, <i>Francine Matthys, ITM</i>
12.30 - 13.00	Panel discussion: how can networking shorten and improve the development pipeline?
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.30	Session 4: Networking in health policy and research
14.00 - 15.45	Getting research into policies and practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health system research in INCO-DEV: lessons from the past for the future, <i>Goran Tomson, EU/INCO Health Systems Expert Team</i> • Health ministries and research, <i>Chhi Yun Mean, MOH-Cambodia</i> • Development agencies and research, <i>NN, DFID</i> • Research agencies and development, <i>Coenraad Krijger, NWO, The Hague</i> • European academia and international health policies, <i>Don de Savigny, STI-Basel</i> • NGO's and international health policies: the case of TRIPS, <i>Ellen 't Hoen, MSF*</i>
15.45 - 16.15	Coffee break
16.15 - 17.00	Case study: networking for monitoring of drug resistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaria , <i>T.K. Mutabingwa, EANMAT, Tanzania</i> • Tuberculosis, <i>Armand Van Deun, ITM/WHO collaborating centre</i>
17.00 – 17.30	Panel discussion: how can networking strengthen policies and practices of health care and disease control?
19.00	Visit to town hall, reception and conference dinner

* to be confirmed

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER

9.00 – 13.00 Session 5: Networking for education, training and capacity building

- 9.00 - 11.00 Individual capacity strengthening
- The European Higher Education Area: new opportunities for joint training programmes in international health, *Carsten Mantel, tropEd, Berlin*
 - Joint North-South training programmes, *NN, STI, Basel*
 - Doctoral and post-doctoral training, *Stuart Anderson, LSHTM, London*
 - Career structures for developing countries scientists, *NN, CAMES, Abidjan*
 - Institutional partnerships for training, *Sylvia Sax, University of Heidelberg*
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 12.30 Institutional capacity strengthening
- North-South and South-South partnerships, *Hannah Akuffo, SIDA*
 - Models and case studies: how can developing countries take the lead? *Eduardo Gotuzzo, UP-Cayetano Heredia Lima, Ho Dinh Tring, NIMPE-Vi tnam*
- 12.30 - 13.00 Panel discussion:
The role of networks in capacity strengthening and innovative training initiatives
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 16.00 Session 6: Conclusion

- Summary of the meeting, *Rapporteurs*
- Panel and plenary discussions: *EU-officials, representatives from networks*
Europe and international health
Relation between EU networks and developing countries
Outcome of the meeting: networking the networks
- Conclusion and closure , *Organisers*

FRIDAY 16.00 – 19.00 and SATURDAY 9.00 - 18.00:

Opportunities and facilities for internal or joint network meetings

* to be confirmed

ORGANISATION

Organisation	Contact	ITM Liaison
EDCTP	Piero Olliaro Katelijne van Diest	Bruno Gryseels Jan Coenen
COST - B22	Fred Opperdoes Simon Croft (now DNDi)	Stanny Geerts Marleen Boelaert
TropMedEurop	Bruno Gryseels	Bruno Gryseels Dirk Van der Roost
TropEd	Axel Hoffman Carsten Mantel	Govert van Heusden
TropNetEurop	Thomas Jelinek	Jan Clerinx Jef Van den Ende
Over-all coordination		Bruno Gryseels Dirk Van der Roost
Secretariat		Danielle van Melle Kristien Wynants Jef van Lint Lieve Schueremans

PRACTICALITIES

VENUE AND LANGUAGE

Registration will take place on Wednesday 24 November 2004 at Fortis Bank, Wapper, Antwerp, between 12.00 and 14.00.

All the sessions will take place in the auditorium of the Fortis Bank. The colloquium language is English.

The Academic Session on 24 November will take place at Elzenveld, Lange Gasthuisstraat 45, Antwerp.

The walking dinner on 25 November will take place at the City Hall of Antwerp.

ABSTRACTS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Oral presenters: in order to ensure a smooth running of the event, it would be help-ful if you could also let us have a copy of your final presentation in Powerpoint by 15 November 2004. If you intend to use another medium for your presentation, please inform the scientific secretariat in good time.

Poster presenters: presentation panels will be at your disposal for presenting your network. The size of the panels is H 200 cm x W 95 cm.

Flyers: tables will be placed at the entrance of the auditorium where you can put flyers or other documents presenting your network.

FACILITIES FOR NETWORKING

Before and after the meeting (22-24 and 26-27 November) the ITM is offering facilities for networks that wish to combine the colloquium with an internal (or joint) meet-ing.

If you need a meeting room, please contact Mrs. Danielle Van Melle at dvmelle@itg.be, mentioning the name of your network, the meeting time, the ex-pected number of participants, coffee breaks.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Please return the registration form with a certified cheque (or a copy of the bank transfer). After payment, participants will receive a confirmation.
The deadline for registration is 22 October 2004.

The registration fee is 120 Euro

The registration fee covers:

- Reception and walking dinner on 25 November at the City Hall, Antwerp
- Abstract book and programme
- Admission to all sessions
- Coffee breaks and lunches

Cheques should be issued in Euro and made payable to the "Institute of Tropical Medicine – Colloquium 2004". All bank expenses are to be paid by the participant. Payment by bankers draft should be credited to

PRACTICALITIES

account N° 604-4495281-33 (IBAN BE 79-604-4495281-33, Swift Code BLGO BE BB) at Bank Belgolaise, Kan-tersteen 1, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Cancellations received in writing before 10th November 2003 are subject to an 80% reimbursement of the registration fee. No refunds can be made thereafter.

MISCELLANEOUS

Participants are advised to check the validity of their passport and the requirements for a visa. A letter of invitation can be obtained from the colloquium secretariat upon request but is not a commitment for the payment of any expenses.

The Colloquium organisers are not responsible for any loss, accident or injury that may occur during the meeting. Participants are advised to obtain appropriate travel and health insurance. Participants with an acute health problem can rely on the dispensary of ITM for medical assistance.

In November, the average temperature in Belgium can be as low as 0°C and it may be rainy. The congress venue is located in the middle of Antwerp's main shopping area and near the historical centre.

ACCOMODATION AND TRANSPORT

Participants have to arrange their own accommodation. Hotel rooms can be booked by sending the enclosed accommodation form directly to the hotel of your choice.

TRANSPORT AND APPROXIMATE FEES:

Arrival at Brussels	
Airport Taxi to Antwerp	60 €
Sabena shuttle to Antwerp Central Station	8 €
Arrival at Antwerp Airport	
Taxi to hotel	20 €
Taxi Antwerp Central Station to hotel	12 €

HOW TO REACH THE FORTIS BANK (congress venue)

From Brussels National Airport (Zaventem):
 Sabena shuttle to Antwerp Central Station
 Brussels – Antwerp : every hour
 First bus at 7 a.m.
 Last bus at 11 p.m.
 Price : 8 €

(Sabena shuttle Antwerp – Brussels : every hour)
 First bus at 5.30 a.m. Last bus at 10 p.m.)
 From Antwerp Central Station:

PRACTICALITIES

Walking distance to congress venue: 10 minutes
 Alternative: Subway n° 2 or 15, direction
 "Linkeroever" – stop "Meir"

From Antwerp Airport
 Bus N° 16 – Stop Antwerp Central Station
 At central Station, subway N° 2 or 15, direction "Linkeroever" – stop "Meir"

HOTELS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CONGRESS VENUE

Please fax the annexed "hotel registration form" to the hotel of your choice.
 For the Hilton hotel, please use the "Hilton" hotel registration form.
 60 rooms have been reserved at IBIS hotel for the participants.

HOTEL IBIS (150 rooms) (please use the hotel registration form)

Meistraat 39 - 2000 Antwerp
 Phone: 32-3-231.88.30 - Fax : 32-3-234.29.21
 Walking distance from congress venue: 5 minutes
 Room charge (breakfast included):
 single 77 €
 double 90 €

ALFA THEATER HOTEL (127 rooms) (please use the hotel registration form)

Arenbergstraat 30 - 2000 Antwerp
 Phone: 32-3-231.17.20 - Fax : 32-3-233.88.58
 Walking distance from congress venue : 5 minutes
 Room charge (breakfast included):
 single 165 €
 double 185 €

HOTEL CAMMERPOORTE (24 rooms) (please use the hotel registration form)

Nationalestraat 38 – 40
 2000 Antwerpen
 Phone: 32-3-231.97.36 - Fax : 32-3- 226.29.68
 Walking distance from congress venue: 15 minutes
 Room charge (breakfast included)
 single 75 €
 double 90 €

HOTEL RUBENSHOF (24 rooms) (please use the hotel registration form)

Amerikalei 115-2000 Antwerp
 Phone: 32-3-237.07.89 - Fax : 32-3-248.25.94
 Walking distance from congress venue: 30 minutes
 Room charge (breakfast included)
 single 50 €
 double 63 €

ANTWERP HILTON (211 rooms) (please use the "Hilton" hotel registration form)

Groenplaats - 2000 Antwerp
 Phone: 32-3-204.12.12 - Fax : 32-3-204.12.13
 Walking distance from congress venue : 10 minutes
 Room charge (excl. breakfast) single/double 230 €
 Parking place is available (paying)