

SEPTEMBER 2018 | NEWS

Welcome...

to our CORDS September 2018 newsletter. CORDS is a Non-Governmental Organisation comprised of six international networks, working to reduce and prevent the spread of diseases by exchanging information and best practice. Our vision is a world united against infectious diseases. Early detection of outbreaks helps keep disease transmission to its area of origin, which, in our increasingly mobile world, is vital to stopping life threatening diseases such as Zika, Ebola and Yellow Fever. The collective expertise of the CORDS networks and their close relationships with local communities facilitate timely detection and response to outbreaks. Visit our website here <http://www.cordsnetwork.org>



Lisa Danquah joins CORDS to lead on InterNetwork Project

Lisa Danquah joined CORDS in July 2018 to lead on the CORDS new InterNetwork Project: 'Digital event information and data collection at community-level in cross-border areas' Lisa is based in London and has extensive experience in international public health in low and middle-income countries. Lisa's education includes a BA in Human Geography, an MSc in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and an MSc and PhD in Social Statistics.

Lisa worked at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for six years working on field-based epidemiological and mixed methods research studies. This included research studies on Ebola, international eye health and disability and water, sanitation and hygiene research in South and Southeast

Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. Projects included studies in Bangladesh, Haiti, Kenya, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. Her most recent role was at the University of Oxford as the Impact and Methodology Research Manager for The Global Health Network, a digital platform, aimed at enabling research by sharing knowledge and methods.

In 2015, Lisa spent nine months in the Port Loko District of northern Sierra Leone as the Research Coordinator for the Ebola Contact Tracing Study. The aim of the study was to design and evaluate an electronic system for tracing contacts of Ebola cases in the District and to compare this with the existing paper-based system. The electronic system featured data capture using a smartphone application (app). The study demonstrated that it was possible to implement mobile health in that emergency setting and the app had the benefits of improved data completeness, storage and accuracy. Despite this, the challenges of using an app in the setting and epidemic context were still substantial.

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CORDS attends One Health Congress in Saskatoon

Prof. Amin Soebandrio, CORDS chair of the Board, from APEIR, and Christophe Longuet, CORDS Executive Director, attended the 5th International One Health Congress in Saskatoon, Canada from the 22nd to 25th of June 2018. Prof. Mark Rweyemamu, who was a member of the Organizing Executive Board, Prof. Eson Karimuribo from SACIDS and Dr. Willy Were, from EAIDSNet, also actively participated in the congress. Christophe Longuet gave a presentation entitled 'Empowering Communities for the Containment of Infectious Outbreaks through a Global Multidisciplinary Collaboration between Regional Networks'. The presentation explained how CORDS is a global platform to test and scale up surveillance innovations in human and animal health and how our Pathway for Change works.

The event was an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of CORDS member networks, including a seroepidemiological study to identify MERS-coV transmission in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian

Authority by the Middle Eastern Network, MECIDS, and the Leishmaniasis gap analysis project in Albania, Jordan and Pakistan, a joint initiative between MECIDS and SECID. Delegates were also able to hear about the work of the Asian Network, APEIR, on strengthening capacity of regional networks against antimicrobial resistance in Asia. SACIDS communicated on Afyadata, a One Health participatory surveillance project at a community level with mobile technology in Tanzania. For more information on the conference visit

www.onehealthplatform.com/international-one-health-congress



Pictured are Sabrina Salem and Lisa Danquath at the CORDS booth at the ICEID Conference

CORDS holds Board Meeting at ICEID Conference, Atlanta

The 20th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, ICEID, took place in Atlanta, USA, from the 26th to the 29th of August 2018. Organised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Task Force for Global Health Inc. The event covered surveillance and outbreak response, laboratory diagnostics and systems, factors affecting disease emergence and control, and public health preparedness amongst other topics. Prof. Amin Soebandrio, CORDS President of the Board, gave a presentation on CORDS and how we are striving to 'build a safer world for communities in undeserved regions.'

CORDS held its second Board meeting of 2018 on the 24th and 25th of August to coincide with the event. All six of CORDS member networks attended: APEIR, EAIDSNet, MBDS, MECIDS, SACIDS and SECID, as well as representatives from The Rockefeller Foundation, Ending Pandemics, the Merieux Foundation and NTI.

Prior to the Board meeting a workshop on the new InterNetwork Project “Digital event information and data collection at community-level in cross-border areas” gave the opportunity to the six CORDS member networks to share their implementation plan and to discuss the assessment tool and plan of analysis. For more information on the conference visit

www.iceid.org



Strategy meeting on the training and deployment of AfyaData with the Head of Surveillance Division in DRC Dr. Gisele Mbuyi

SACIDS’s experts help with Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo

On the 8th of May, 2018, the Ministry of Health of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Bikoro Health Zone, Equateur Province. To complement the global efforts, the Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS) based at the Sokoine University of Agriculture sent information and communication technology experts Eric Beda and Mr. Renfrid Ngolongolo to introduce AfyaData to enhance early detection, timely reporting and prompt response.

AfyaData is an open source digital disease surveillance tool developed by SACIDS. It is a set of two applications, a mobile android-based client and a web-based application acting as a server. The mobile client is used for collecting and submitting surveillance data, and receiving and/or tracking feedback from various levels. The server component caters for data storing/hosting and management.

The SACIDS team liaised with the National Institute of Biomedical Research to setup an AfyaData resource hub, the training of trainers and the digitization of various surveillance forms to be used in EVD monitoring and evaluation. Training centred on four main topics: digital surveillance, digitizing forms, data collection using the AfyaData mobile app and uploading forms and managing users and collected data.

AfyaData was also introduced to Chief Medical Officers from throughout DRC and the Ministry of Health surveillance team.

The feedback on AfyaData was positive; it was considered a useful application for enhancing early reporting of EVD as well as helping to reduce the workload associated with paper-based systems. SACIDS are now planning to deploy AfyaData at a community level in DRC to enhance event-based surveillance.

For more information on AfyaData contact Erica Beda eric.beda@sacids.org



New MECIDS Chair

The Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance, MECID, has appointed a new Chair, Prof. Daniel Cohen. Prof. Cohen is a Professor of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine at Tel Aviv University and former head of the School of Public Health of Tel Aviv University. He founded the Tiberio Swartz Forum on Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity, an active national and international stage for scientific communications and discussions in the field of infectious diseases and vaccines. Additionally, he is the co-founder and co-director of the Summer International Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Tel Aviv University School of Public Health. Prof. Cohen was a consultant for WHO on several occasions on topics related to vaccine development. He is the author of more than 200 original peer-reviewed articles. For more information on MECIDS visit

www.mecidsnetwork.org



Seventh International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance, Austria

The Seventh International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance (IMED), run by the International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID), will be held in Vienna, Austria, from the 9th to the 12th of November 2018. Topics include emerging infectious diseases in humans and animals, the 'One Health' concept, methods and models of disease surveillance and epidemic preparedness and response. For more information visit

<http://imed.isid.org/>



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