

JANUARY 2019 | NEWS

Welcome...

to our CORDS January 2019 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>





WAHO-CORDS Workshop, Burkina Faso

From the 30th of November to the 1st of December 2018, CORDS and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) held a joint workshop in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, to finalize the Regional Plan for Strengthening the National Coordinating Institutions (NCIs).’ The meeting supported by a grant from The Rockefeller Foundation to build the West African Network of Infectious Disease Surveillance (WANIDS) followed the evaluation by CORDS of the National Coordinating Institutions in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, The Gambia and Togo.

The workshop focused on a common regional NCI strengthening plan in five of these countries: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali, Niger and The Gambia. Dr. Carlos Brito, Director of WAHO’s Disease and Epidemic Control Department opened the meeting that was chaired by Dr Mwinoné Hervé Hien, Director of the National Institute of Public Health of Burkina Faso. During the meeting a regional capacity building plan on preparedness, response, training and networking, particularly at a community level to respond to health emergencies within the One Health Framework was agreed on. It was also agreed that support would be given to further develop WANIDS.



WHO Meeting on Early Warning, Alert and Response, Egypt

From the 11th to the 13th of December 2018, CORDS Executive Director, Christophe Longuet, was invited to attend a consultation meeting on Early Warning, Alert and Response (EWAR). The meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, was organised by the WHO Health Emergencies Programme.

The objectives of the meeting were to review the updated EWAR guidelines, consider EWAR experiences at country level and the results of new field evaluations, share the experiences and best practices of countries as well as gaps and needs, present the 2018-2020 WHO EWAR strategy and roadmap and identify further working groups and key deliverables in 2019.



InterNetwork Project meeting, Tanzania

On the 17th and 18th of December 2018, CORDS held an InterNetwork Project (INP) workshop in Arusha, Tanzania on **'Digital Health Event Information and Data Collection at the Community-level in cross-border areas.'** The overall objective of the INP is to enable the real-time detection of, and respond to, One Health priorities, in order to strengthen health and security amongst local communities in cross-border areas. The project involves the six CORDS member networks and covers 14 countries, including 53 cross-border sites. During the workshop 19 participants from the six CORDS networks presented on how the project has been implemented in their region, their data collection process, key results, conclusions and recommendations.

On the afternoon of the 17th the South African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS) presented on their AfyaData project on Community One Health participatory surveillance with an open source digital disease surveillance tool.



Inter-Network Project Field Visits In Tanzania

During the InterNetwork Project (INP) visit to Tanzania, the six CORDS member networks and members of the Secretariat including Lisa Danquah the Project Manager, undertook a field visit to see the implementation of Afyadata. In particular, the objective of this field visit was to understand community engagement, appreciation of the One Health need and the event based surveillance (EBS) within a cross-border area and the opportunities and challenges related to it.

On the 18th of December they visited the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and met with Sarah, a local community health reporter from the Maasai community, who discussed her experience of using AfyaData within the area. The team also visited the local community radio station (Korongoro FM) due to be launched soon. Colleagues and locals discussed the challenges and opportunities involved in EBS surveillance in the One Health domain. The next visit was to Loliondo on the 19th of December, to the

Ngorongoro District Headquarters where they met with District Officials before moving on to Ololosokwan where they met with the local councillor. They group then visited the main cross-border Tanzania-Kenya site of Njoroi village – Ololosokwan Ward, where they discussed border activities and opportunities to strengthen local EBS surveillance.



A tribute to Dr. Dionisio Jose Herrera Guibert

CORDS wishes to express its sadness at the loss of Dr. Dionisio Jose Herrera Guibert on the 4th of December 2018. As the director of the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) from March 2009 to December 2018, Dr. Herrera oversaw a global network of 71 field epidemiology training programmes with a presence in more than 100 countries that work to improve the capacity of developing countries to detect changes in disease and injury patterns and respond appropriately. We have lost a visionary leader and friend.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to Dr. Herrera's family, please visit www.taskforce.org/donate and select 'Dr. Dionisio Herrera's Family Fund'.



New MBDS Chair, Dr. Dong, Xiao-Ping

The Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Consortium (MBDS) has appointed a new Chair, Dr. Dong, Xiao-Ping, MD, PHD and Professor of Virology. Dr. Dong is currently the Director of The Center for Global Public Health, China CDC, the Deputy Director of the State Key Laboratory for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control and the Director of the Department of Prion Disease at the National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing.

Dr. Dong is a Bachelor of Medicine from Xi'an Medical University and a Doctor of Medicine from Erlangen-Nuremberg University, Germany. He has worked as a research scientist at the Institute of Virology at the University of Cologne, Germany, and is a member of the 13th National Committee of People Political Consultative Conference. He is the syndic of the Chinese Society of Microbiology and the Head of the Group of Medical Virology and the syndic of the Chinese Society of Preventive Medicine. Dr. Dong is a scientific member of more than ten special committees including the National Ministries of Health, Agriculture and the Chinese Society of Science.

Dr. Dong's major research interests cover prion, the human papillomavirus, emerging viral infectious diseases and vaccine research and development. As of March 2018 he has published more than 300 scientific papers.



International Conference on Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The International Conference on Re-emerging Infectious Diseases is taking place in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia from the 13th to the 15th of March 2019, at the African Union Commission Conference Center. The event is being organised by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Virology Education who hope it will provide a platform from which new data will be translated into treatment and intervention guidelines.

For more information on the conference visit www.icreid.com



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