



Connecting Organisations for  
Regional Disease Surveillance

December 2019 | News

Welcome...

to our CORDS December 2019 newsletter. CORDS is a program of Ending Pandemics, comprised of six regional 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.

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### **APEIR hosts webinar on the challenge of Antimicrobial resistance**

CORDS member network, The Asia Partnership for Emerging Diseases Research (APEIR) held a webinar on 3 December 2019, examining strategies to address Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in partnership with Ending Pandemics and the University of San Francisco. The webinar, which focused on the major threat that AMR presents to global health, was attended by over 250 colleagues from 19 countries.

Prof. Wiku Adisasmito, APEIR Coordinator, acted as moderator and the opening and closing remarks were given by Prof. Amin Soebandrio, APEIR Chair and Dr. Marlo Libel of Ending Pandemics.

The expert panellists were:

- Dr. Regina Berba, Chair of the Philippines National Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
- Dr. Harry Parathon, Chair of the Indonesia National AMR Control Committee
- Dr. James McGrane, Team Leader of the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases in Indonesia
- Dr. Tikiri Wijayathilaka, AMR Technical Officer, OIE, Sub-Regional Representation for South East-Asia
- Dr. Adityo Susilo Cipto, Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Mangunkusumo Hospital
- Dr. Adela Maghear, Public Advice International Forum

During the session the panellists discussed current practices and the challenges of AMR National Action Plans in Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as opportunities for improving National Action Plans based on a One Health approach. Participants engaged in Q&A with the panellists at the end of the session. A link to the webinar will be available online shortly.

For more information on APEIR visit

[www.apeir.net](http://www.apeir.net)

For more information on the University of San Francisco/Public Health Faculty visit

<https://www.usfca.edu/nursing/programs/graduate/masters/public-health/faculty>



### Expanding Outbreak Timeliness Metrics to One Health Surveillance

Coinciding with the fourth annual One Health Day on November 3 2019, participants of Salzburg Global Seminar and Ending Pandemics' latest program have designed the first-ever set of One Health timeliness metrics and prototyped a framework for implementation. Specialists in environmental, livestock, wildlife and human health from across the globe spent several days at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria as active participants in the ['Finding Outbreaks Faster: Metrics for One Health Surveillance program'](#).

In [November 2018](#), Salzburg Global Seminar and [Ending Pandemics](#) produced a set of metrics for measuring progress in finding and responding to human health outbreaks faster. These metrics have now been adopted by the World Health Organization and other agencies. The participants in this year's program broke new ground in expanding the application of this approach to One Health.

A set of standardized outbreak milestones allow countries and organizations to define and calculate relevant outbreak timeliness metrics to address their own needs. A timeliness metric is measured as the time interval between two relevant outbreak milestones. Some countries may not have the capacity to measure all the outbreak milestones, and therefore may not measure every possible time interval. While timeliness metrics may be defined differently by countries and organizations, maintaining consistent definitions for these outbreak milestones over time will allow for valid comparisons to capture trends.

During this year's program, participants engaged with panel discussions, presentations and group work to design One Health metrics. Initial discussions centered on operationalizing One Health surveillance and identifying metrics for human, animal, and environmental health. The timeliness metrics will enable One Health stakeholders to measure their performance in finding outbreaks faster to save lives and protect livelihoods.

Examples of timeliness metrics developed through a highly interactive iterative process include time to detect an unusual or adverse health event, time to initiation of a multisectoral investigation and time to implementation of control measures. Ending Pandemics is continuing to refine the meeting outcomes with participants and will share the finalized One Health milestones in the coming weeks.

The use of timeliness metrics allows for the impact of investments to improve disease detection and

response to be measured through quantitative self-assessments. Their use may also capture performance improvements and help showcase progress in developing country-level surveillance capacity. These critical data points can be integrated into existing, routine disease surveillance systems, including outbreak reporting forms, event management systems and after-action reports. Ending Pandemics is committed to working in concert with key stakeholders to advance the use of these metrics in countries around the world.



The map above shows the location of EpiCore members worldwide

### **EpiCore, a virtual community for health professionals**

EpiCore is a virtual worldwide community of health professionals using innovative surveillance methods to verify outbreaks of infectious diseases. When evidence of an outbreak is found, local information is requested from EpiCore members who are able to quickly provide expertise, speeding up outbreak verification. EpiCore has around 2,600 members from 150 countries.

Recently EpiCore has had success in alerting authorities to an outbreak of yellow fever in Nigeria. On September 4 2019, EpiCore became aware through local media of 4 fatal cases and 12 hospitalizations among a group of students in Nigeria from Biu LGA (Borno State). They had returned from a field trip in Yankari Game Reserve (Bauchi) and presented with abdominal pain and hematemesis a week later. The event had caused concern in the local population as media quoted the information as "confirmed by authorities". EpiCore members were able to confirm the event, which was later verified by the Nigerian CDC as an outbreak of yellow fever.

EpiCore is always looking for members to improve its worldwide coverage. Please consider inviting qualified human and animal health colleagues from your professional networks to join us.

Visit and share our website here

<https://epicore.org/#/home>



**The International Conference on Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, Addis-Ababa, 2020.**

The International Conference on Re-emerging Infectious Diseases is taking place in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, from 18 to 20 March 2020 at the African Union Commission Conference Center. The event is being organised by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Virology Education.

The programme includes sessions on: strengthening financing health systems in Africa for disease outbreak responses, zoonotic emerging diseases, developing networks in preparation and response to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and the role of genomics in understanding disease outbreaks.

To find out more and register for the conference visit

<http://www.icreid.com/>

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**One Planet Fellowship, 2020**

The One Planet Fellowship seeks to build a vibrant, highly connected and inter-generational network of African and European scientist leaders equipped to use a gender lens to help Africa's smallholder farmers adapt to a changing climate. The One Planet Fellowship invests in high-potential early career researchers from Africa and Europe and accelerates their scientific careers so that they are better able to develop relevant and gender-responsive climate adaptation solutions.

Selected candidates will participate in an intensive, three-year non-residential, career acceleration process aimed at fostering leadership skills, strengthening scientific research skills including integrating gender into their research and catalyzing research partnerships and networks. Candidates who complete the three-year process will become One Planet Laureates.

Applications close on 31 March 2020. For further details including eligibility visit

<https://oneplanetfellowship.org/call-next-cohort-one-planet-fellowship-opens>

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