



ISID NEWS

An Official Publication of the International Society for Infectious Diseases

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ISID NEWS

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International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance

Vienna, Austria • February 13–16, 2009

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

■ Friday, February 13, 2009 ■

14:00 Welcome**14:30–16:00 PLENARY SYMPOSIUM****Implementing One World One Health**

- Tracking Disease in Wild Animals:
William Karesh (USA)
- OIE Activities for the Global Improvement of
Animal Health and their Benefits for Public Health:
Bernard Vallat (France)
- When Animal Diseases Strike Humans:
Pierre Formenty (Switzerland)

16:30–17:15 PLENARY LECTURE**Iliaria CAPUA:** Avian Influenza—A Unique
Opportunity for Public Health**17:30–19:00 Welcome Reception**

■ Saturday, February 14, 2009 ■

08:30–10:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS**Session 1:** Vector-Borne Viruses in the 21st Century

- Dengue Transmission and Control:
Mike Nathan (Switzerland)
- Chikungunya Outbreaks: Remi Charrel (France)
- Urbanization of Yellow Fever: Thomas Monath (USA)
- Zika Virus on Yap Island: Ned Hayes (Spain)

Session 2: ORAL PRESENTATIONS 1:

New Strategies in Emerging Disease Surveillance

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break**11:00–11:45 PLENARY LECTURE****Hans ROSLING:** Dynamic Trends in Global Health**11:45–12:45 POSTER PRESENTATIONS****12:45–14:30 Lunch Break (optional)****14:30–16:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS****Session 1:** Emerging Zoonoses

- Rift Valley Fever: Adriano Duse (South Africa)
- Rabies: Henry Wilde (Thailand)
- Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever in Turkey:
Onder Ergonul (Turkey)

■ Saturday, February 14, 2009 ■

14:30–16:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS *continued***Session 2:** New Food-Borne Threats

- Nipah Virus: Stephen Luby (Bangladesh)
- Hepatitis E: Chong-Gee Teo (USA)
- Orally-Acquired Chagas Disease. An Emerging
Urban Threat in the Americas: Jaime Torres
(Venezuela)

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break**16:30–18:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS****Session 1:** Antibiotic Resistance: The Future is Now

- Antibiotics as a Limited Natural Resources:
Ramanan Laxminarayan (USA)
- Balancing Human and Animal Health:
Paula Fedorka-Cray (USA)
- A Worst Case Scenario: XDR TB:
Eduardo Gotuzzo (Peru)

Session 2: ORAL PRESENTATIONS 2:

Hot Topics in Emerging Diseases

19:30–21:00 Mayor's Reception (City Hall)

■ Sunday, February 15, 2009 ■

08:30–10:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS**Session 1:** Surveillance Systems in Practice

- MECIDS: Cross Border Surveillance and Response
in the Middle East: Alex Leventhal (Israel)
- CaribVET: Animal Disease Surveillance in the
Caribbean: Thierry Lefrancois (Guadeloupe)
- Healthmap/ProMED: John Brownstein (USA)
- Epi South: Silvia Declich (Italy)

Session 2: ORAL PRESENTATIONS 3: Vector-
Borne Diseases in Humans and Other Animals**10:30–11:00 Coffee Break****11:00–11:45 PLENARY LECTURE****Howard MARKEL:** When Germs Travel:
Social, Economic, Political and Cultural Aspects
of Contagious Crises Across Time*continued on page 2*



■ **Sunday, February 15, 2009** ■

11:45–12:45 POSTER PRESENTATIONS

12:45–14:30 Lunch Break (*optional*)

14:30–16:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1: Feeling the Heat: Climate Change and Emerging Diseases

- Climate Change and Infectious Disease: Checking the Horse before Hitching the Cart: Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum (Switzerland)
- Climate as a Driver of Emerging Diseases: Paul Reiter (France)
- Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases: Climate, Landscape and Transmission: Uriel Kitron (USA)

Session 2: Global Movements of Humans, Animals and Diseases

- Travelers as Sentinels of Emerging Diseases: Elizabeth Barnett (USA)
- Diseases that Travel with Animals: Nina Marano (USA)
- Globalization and Human Migration: Martin Cetron (USA)

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break

16:30–18:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1: Avian/Pandemic Influenza

- Detecting Influenza Activity Search Engine Query Data: Jeremy Ginsberg (USA)
- Intervention Strategies for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks: Jua Lubroth (Italy)

16:30–18:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS *continued*

Session 1: Avian/Pandemic Influenza

- Human Flu Outbreak Management Strategies: TBD

Session 2: ORAL PRESENTATIONS 4:

Zoonoses and Animal Health

■ **Monday, February 16, 2009** ■

08:30–10:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 1: Communicating Disease Risks to the Public

- WHO's Outbreak Communication: Guidance for Communicating During Public Health Emergencies: Dick Thompson (Switzerland)
- Social Aspects of Risk Perception: The Case of Mad Cow: Michel Setbon (France)
- The Role of the Media: TBD
- Communicating via Social Networks: Philip Polgreen (USA)

Session 2: Vaccines and Reemerging Diseases

- The Pandemic Threat of Avian Influenza Viruses: Kanta Subbarao (USA)
- Vero Cell Derived Whole Virus H5N1 Vaccine: Safety, Prime-boost and Cross-neutralization Data: Alexandra Loew-Baselli (Austria)
- Bluetongue Vaccine: James MacLachlan (USA)
- Dengue Vaccine Development: Harold Margolis (South Korea)

11:00–11:45 PLENARY LECTURE

Ian LIPKIN: Microbe Hunting in the 21st Century

■ **PLENARY LECTURES** ■



Dr. Ilaria Capua • ITALY
Friday, February 13, 2009
16:30–17:15

Avian Influenza—A Unique Opportunity for Public Health

Dr. Capua is currently Head of the Virology Department at Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Padova, Italy and Director of the National, FAO and OIE Reference Laboratories for Avian Influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease (ND). She has been involved in managing several AI outbreaks on a global scale, and in particular her group has supported African and Middle Eastern countries affected by the H5N1 crisis. She is involved in 8 EU funded research initiatives and is currently the chairman of OFFLU the OIE/FAO veterinary network of expertise on Avian influenza. In 2006 she ignited an international debate on sharing genetic information and launched the Global Initiative on Sharing avian Influenza Data, endorsed by 70 medical and veterinary virologists and 6 Nobel laureates. In 2008 she was among the winners of the Scientific American 50 prize, for leadership in policy for promoting sharing of information at an international level. She has been included among the 5 “Revolutionary Minds” of Seed Magazine for 2009. She has over 300 publications including Chapters of books, editorials, review articles, peer reviewed publications and proceedings of conferences.



Dr. Hans Rosling • SWEDEN
Saturday, February 14, 2009
11:00–11:45

Dynamic Trends in Global Health

Hans Rosling is a professor of International Health at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. When working as a young doctor in Mozambique he discovered a formerly unrecognized paralytic disease that his research team named konzo. His 20 years of research on global health concerned the character of the links between economy and health in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He has been an adviser to WHO and UNICEF, co-founded Médecins sans Frontières in Sweden and started new courses and published a textbook on Global Health. He is member of the International Group of the Swedish Academy of Science and of the Global Agenda Network of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. He also co-founded Gapminder Foundation (www.gapminder.org) with his son and daughter-in-law. Gapminder promotes a fact based world view by converting the international statistics into moving, interactive, understandable and enjoyable graphics. This was first done by developing the Trendalyzer software that Google acquired in 2007. Hans Rosling will use animation software to display major time series of global health indicators and determinants.

■ PLENARY LECTURES ■



Dr. Howard Markel • USA
Sunday, February 15, 2009
11:00–11:45

When Germs Travel: Social, Economic, Political and Cultural Aspects of Contagious Crises Across Time

Howard Markel, M.D., Ph.D. is the George E. Wantz Distinguished Professor of the History of Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, Professor of History, Professor of Health Management and Policy, Professor of Psychiatry, and Director of the Center for the History of Medicine at the University of Michigan. From 2005 to 2006, Professor Markel served as a historical consultant on pandemic influenza preparedness planning for the United States Department of Defense. From 2006 to the present, he serves as the principal historical consultant on pandemic preparedness for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A prolific writer, Dr. Markel is the author, editor, co-editor or co-author of ten books including the award winning *Quarantine! East European Jewish Immigrants and the New York City Epidemics of 1892* and the critically acclaimed *When Germs Travel: Six Major Epidemics That Have Invaded America Since 1900 and the Fears They Have Unleashed*.

He has contributed over 200 articles to scholarly publications and popular periodicals, from *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and *The Lancet* to *The New York Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. In May 2007, Dr. Markel was appointed as a contributing writer and columnist for *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. He has also appeared on many major national radio and television broadcasts as well as served as an expert on documentaries about the history of medicine for PBS, BBC and the History Channel.

Professor Markel's contributions have been recognized by numerous honors and awards, most prominently by his 2008 election as a Member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science of the United States of America.

New Pathogen Discovery

W. Ian Lipkin is John Snow Professor of Epidemiology, Professor of Neurology and Pathology and Director of the Center for Infection and Immunity at Columbia University. He is also Director of the Northeast Biodefense Center and the WHO Collaborating Centre on Diagnostics, Surveillance and Immunotherapeutics for Emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases. Lipkin has a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, MD from Rush Medical College, and pursued postgraduate training at the Queen Square Institute of Neurology in London, UK; Internship in Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh; Residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington; Residency in Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco, and Fellowship at The Scripps Research Institute. He joined the faculty of the University of California in 1990 as an Assistant Professor in the departments of Neurology, Anatomy and Neurobiology, and Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, and advanced to full professor in 1996 before moving to Columbia in 2001.

Among Dr. Lipkin's contributions include the first description of autoimmune neurologic disease in HIV infection, first demonstration that viral infection can alter behavior without overt pathology, first use of purely molecular methods to identify an infectious agent, identification of West Nile virus as the cause of the encephalitis in North America, invention of MassTag PCR, discovery and implication of a novel, unculturable rhinovirus in pneumonia, establishment of the first comprehensive panmicrobial database and microarray, and first use of high throughput sequencing for pathogen discovery. Lipkin has discovered more than 75 viruses; assisted the US CDC, China CDC, USDA, US Dept of Defense and WHO in outbreaks of respiratory disease, hemorrhagic fever, meningoencephalitis and vaccine safety investigations; and served as an intermediary between the WHO and the Chinese government during the SARS outbreak of 2003, and co-directed SARS research efforts in China with now Minister of Health Chen Zhu. He has trained 13 graduate students, 27 postdoctoral fellows, and under the auspices of the WHO and the NIH trained more than 35 investigators from 18 countries in methods for pathogen surveillance and discovery. As director of the Northeast Biodefense Center he coordinates activities of 28 academic institutions and more than 300 investigators in basic and translational research efforts focused on emerging infectious diseases.



Dr. Ian Lipkin • USA
Monday, February 16, 2009
11:00–11:45

IMED 2009 Co-Sponsors

ProMED-mail, the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
The European Commission • Wildlife Conservation Society



Larry Madoff, MD
Editor, ProMED-mail



ProMED-mail 2008 End-of-Year INTERNET-A-THON

ProMED-mail was once again gratified by the response of our readers to our end-of-the-year Internet-a-thon. Despite the economic woes in the news, our readers generously contributed to support the operations of ProMED for 2009 and made clear from their comments how much they appreciate the service provided.

Some of our readers' comments:

Quick, easy, timely news about disease problems that may change my immediate future.

I appreciate the comments that review organisms and typical signs/symptoms of disease. Also the speculation as to how the disease being reported may have occurred at the time and place of the report.

If it is not in ProMED is not something to worry about.

No other source is as informative and timely. I enjoy and share its content with colleagues and lay friends. Every day something interesting is found in this virtual time source of information.

Very high "signal to noise" ratio... in fact, no noise at all. The moderators make all the difference. And what a difference! There's no comparison between ProMED-mail and the undifferentiated barrage found in the mainstream press. Thank you.

Those interested in making a donation to ProMED-mail in 2009 can do so at anytime by going to:

<http://www.isid.org/netathon2008a.shtml>

Google Foundation Support for ProMED-mail

ISID and ProMED-mail have been the fortunate recipients of a shared \$3 million grant from the Google Foundation, the charitable arm of Google. The 3 year grant is for a project to be carried out in conjunction with HealthMap, a mapping intelligence system developed by the Children's Hospital Informatics Program (CHIP) at the Harvard Medical School. HealthMap is a multi-stream and multilingual real-time surveillance platform that continually aggregates reports on new and ongoing infectious disease outbreaks. The system monitors, organizes, integrates, filters, visualizes and disseminates online information about emerging diseases, facilitating knowledge management and early detection.

During the past 2 years, HealthMap and ProMED have worked together to produce a mapping system for ProMED-mail reports, automatically parsing reports, recognizing disease names and geographic locations, and placing them on an online interactive world map. The map may be customized by individual disease, time range and language of report.

The Google grant supports three main goals:

Identify hot spots: Knowing where to look is critical to disease surveillance. These programs will assess current emerging disease reporting systems and develop a global baseline of emerging infectious diseases.

Detect diseases earlier: The gift will help improve HealthMap and ProMED-Mails' efforts to identify the earliest signs of disease outbreaks through monitoring of news sources, mailing lists, chat rooms, blogs and more.

Respond quickly: With rising international travel and trade, outbreaks can go global within hours. Once diseases are detected, health officials must respond quickly, and across borders, to save lives. They plan expand regional public health networks in Africa and Southeast Asia to improve disease reporting and intervention efforts.

"Linking two successful disease early warning systems, HealthMap and ProMED-mail, will bring the power of digital technology to ProMED-mail and human curation to HealthMap. We believe together they'll make big strides towards the goal of more rapidly reporting every outbreak," said Frank Rijsberman, Program Director, Google.org.

We are very excited about the work that we will accomplish over the next few years with HealthMap and Google and look forward to reporting to ISID members on our progress. ❖

ISID Announces new Project Manager for ProMED-mail: Alison Bodenheimer, MPH

Alison obtained her MPH in Forced Migration and Health from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in May 2008. For the practicum requirement of this MPH program, Alison researched the possibility of a behavioral component to seasonal disease trends among children in rural Mali. Prior to joining ISID, Alison interned in the Bureau of Communicable Disease at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where she worked in acute hepatitis B surveillance. Alison has experience providing programmatic support to health programs in Africa and Asia from working at Pathfinder International in Watertown, MA and Family Care International in New York, NY. Alison also works as a Consultant for UNICEF's Operational Research Unit, analyzing data collected in several francophone African countries about communities' acceptance of a new strategy to prevent malaria in infants. Alison is fluent in French and will be working closely with ProMED-mail's Editor, Larry Madoff, in building ProMED's regional networks to increase ProMED's global reach and to further the goals of the recently received grant from Google.org. ❖



Alison Bodenheimer, MPH

ISID Programs: Application Deadlines Approaching



ISID Scientific Exchange Fellowship

Applications are due March 1, 2009.

The ISID Scientific Exchange Fellowship Program was established in 1992 to promote collaboration among researchers in different countries by enabling infectious disease researchers in the formative stage of their career to extend their research experience in institutions outside of their region. These awards are not restricted to physicians and are intended to support young scientists from developing countries in updating their knowledge of new, relevant laboratory techniques or in learning specific skills and techniques. Funding will be provided for up to 3 months and up to US \$7,500. Up to two fellowships will be awarded each year.

ISID Small Grants Program

Applications are due April 1, 2009.

The Small Grants Program is designed to fund pilot research projects by young investigators in developing countries. The goal is to support and foster the professional development of young individuals in the field of infectious diseases research by helping them to acquire additional skills and data to apply for other grants. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to investigations of the epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis or treatment of infectious diseases, the epidemiology and control of hospital-acquired infections, and modeling of cost effective interventions. Up to five grants of up to US \$6,000 each will be awarded annually.



SSI/ISID Fellowship (Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases/ ISID Joint Infectious Diseases Research Fellowship)

Applications are due April 1, 2009.

The SSI/ISID Fellowship is sponsored jointly with the Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases to support infectious disease physicians and scientists from developing and middle income countries through multidisciplinary clinical and laboratory training at select biomedical institutions in Switzerland. Opportunities for training and research in a variety of areas ranging from basic studies of the mechanism of disease to studies in public health, epidemiology, diagnostics, therapeutics or vaccine development are available through this program. The term of the Fellowship is for one year with a financial stipend of up to 36,000 SF per year (approximately US \$21,000) given to Fellows to cover travel costs and living expenses. The program intends to award two fellowships every year. Language skills of French or German are necessary.



Ines Badano, PhD Student



Ms. Badano has a degree in Genetics (Licenciatura en Genetica) and is currently finishing her PhD program at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her research focuses on the detection and characterization of Human Papilloma virus infection (the etiological agent of cervical cancer) in aboriginal and non-aboriginal women inhabiting Misiones. Along with epidemiology she is interested in the relationship between human genetic markers and viral infection, in particular the genetic history of human populations and viral co-evolution. Her work is performed in the Laboratorio de Biología Molecular Aplicada, National University of Misiones.

ISID Scientific Exchange Fellowship Program ~ Final Report

Ines Badano, PhD Student, Universidad de Buenos Aires • Argentina

Laboratorio de Biología Molecular Aplicada • Universidad Nacional de Misiones

Javier Liotta, PhD • Laboratorio de Biología Molecular Aplicada • Universidad Nacional de Misiones

Theodore Schurr, PhD • Department of Anthropology • University of Pennsylvania.

Analysis of Ethnic Differences in the Distribution of TNF-SNPs and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Infection

Overview of Fellowship Project:

Infection with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is known to play a central role in the development of cervical cancer [1,2]. Polymorphisms in the promoter region of the TNF- gene have been associated with high (SNPs -307) and low (SNPs -237) cytokine production, and these functional differences may modulate the magnitude of immunological response following HPV infection but results are contradictory [3-11]. The province of Misiones (Argentina) is considered a region with a high prevalence of cervical carcinoma (12/100,000) compared to the urban areas of the country (Buenos Aires 3/100,000) [12-14]. Within Misiones, different ethnic groups inhabit specific regions of the province. The Guarani Indian populations are concentrated in small communities in the rain forest, while the white populations (with a wide range of parental genetic contributions from Europe) live in the urban and rural areas [15-17].

The goal of this project was to analyze genetic variation in the TNF- promoter (SNPs -237, -243, -307, -375) and examine its potential association with HPV infection and cervical cancer among different ethnic groups from Misiones. To this end, we have analyzed a sample of 123 urban and rural women (admixed populations of European descent) and compared the data with previous work involving American Indians from the region [18]. This approach has allowed us to undertake risk analysis in different ethnic groups. Polymorphisms in this gene were determined through PCR amplification and direct sequencing [18]. Our results showed no association between the presence of the -307 and -237 SNPs and HPV infection. However, the SNP distribution was statistically significantly different between study populations. In particular, we observed low genetic diversity in Amerindians that may be a result of small population size and random genetic drift associated with their particular history, cultural and geographical isolation. This study of human genetic variation in the TNF- γ ve η as π ro ω ide δ new information about the genetic differences among Misiones populations. These differences may help us to better understand the role of genetic factors in the development of disease.

All work completed during the Fellowship period is being prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Work Currently in Progress

During the Fellowship, we have had an opportunity to discuss new projects and implement pilot studies that have provided initial data from which to expand the collaboration in the future.

Perspectives on HLA-Linkage disequilibrium analysis: Variation in human major histocompatibility genes may influence the risk of cervical cancer development by altering the efficiency of the T-cell-mediated immune response to HPV antigens [19, 20]. The human TNF-a gene is located on chromosome 6 between the class I HLA-B and the class II HLA-DR loci. Multiple TNF- SNPs have been shown to be in non-random association with neighboring HLA genes. In particular, the presence of the -856 SNP has been associated with an Amerindian haplotype defined by HLA-Cw*0102, -B*1522, -DR*0407. [21]

In order to explore linkage disequilibrium with HLA alleles in Guarani and Admixed population from Misiones, we have developed a Real Time PCR assay for the identification of the SNP-856. The rationale behind this approach was the possibility of directing HLA extended analysis to only specific subset of individual who are carrying this SNP (as previously described by Baena et al., 2002). During the Fellowship, we successfully screened 90% of our samples for the -856 SNP. In contrast with previously targeted polymorphisms, the high frequency of the -856 SNP (30% of the population were carriers) has revealed it to be a more appropriate marker for linkage analysis.

Perspectives on cases and controls study design: The frequencies of the -307 SNP found in Admixed population (13% of women were carriers of the A allele) led us to explore its presence in a Case Group of women diagnosed with cervical cancer from Misiones. This work is currently being carried out at Misiones University.

Transfer of Technology

All methods and technologies employed during this study (Real Time PCR, Sequencing and Human Population Genetics analysis) are being transferred to the Lab. Biología Molecular Aplicada, Universidad Nacional de Misiones (Argentina).

Beyond Lab Duties

My training experience in the laboratory of Dr. Theodore Schurr has been enjoyable and challenging. The University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)

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Analysis of Ethnic Differences in the Distribution of TNF-SNPs and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Infection

ranks among the top 10 universities in the USA and, with more than 150 research centers and institutes on campus, offers a great opportunity for interdisciplinary study. During my fellowship, I had the opportunity to attend several seminars, workshops and lab meetings, as well as informal brainstorming sessions with members of the laboratory. Moreover, since the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics was held in Philadelphia this year, I had the unique opportunity to attend to this important event. Besides the academic opportunities, the beautiful urban campus of UPenn, rich in green open spaces, museums, public art and architecture, made my stay a pleasant experience. I was privileged to meet the lab staff of Dr. Schurr, and, with their help, developed the skills to perform the experiments and enhance my understanding of human population genetics analysis. It was, indeed a very productive experience. The Fellowship has enriched me in several ways, and I would like to thank the ISID for supporting this project. ❖

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Drs. Schurr and Liotta for supporting this collaboration, Silvina Stietz (at Misiones University) and the lab staff at UPenn for guidance and technical assistance, especially Matt Dulik and Lenore Pipes. Additional thanks go to Anita Hall for grant management at UPenn. This work was supported by a Fellowship of the International Society for Infectious Diseases. This work is being conducted in memory of Sergio Tonon.

References:

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2009 HIV/AIDS Training Program Announcement:

Unfortunately, due to unexpected circumstances both financial and logistical, ISID has had to cancel the Spring 2009 HIV/AIDS Training Program that was to be held in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Unfortunately the Training Program will not be rescheduled, however the ISID remains committed to working with physicians who are serving HIV/AIDS patients in under-resourced areas throughout the world.

Any new programs in this area will be announced on our website at <http://www.isid.org>.



Elkin Vladimir Lemos Luengas, MD



Dr. Lemos is an Infectious Diseases Specialist and a PhD Candidate of Public Health from National University of Colombia, Bogotá Colombia.

His research interests include Health Economics, Outcome Research and Decision Tree Models applied to Nosocomial Infections, Tropical Diseases and HIV/AIDS.

ISID Scientific Exchange Fellowship Program ~ Final Report

Elkin Vladimir Lemos Luengas • Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy • University of Toronto • Ontario, Canada
National University of Colombia • Bogotá, Colombia

Tomas R. Einarson • Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy • University of Toronto • Ontario, Canada
C. Castañeda • National University of Colombia • Bogotá, Colombia

Economic Impact of Introducing HIV/AIDS Guidelines into the Colombian National Drug Formulary

Background: Colombia has >165000 people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In 2008, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated only 40% had antiretroviral therapy coverage. Colombia's AIDS treatments Guidelines became available in 2006 and are currently being used by physicians in their daily practice. However, these guidelines have not yet been evaluated with respect to their relative costs and effectiveness.

Objective: To project the life expectancy, cost, and cost-effectiveness associated with eleven antiretroviral strategies used in Colombia, to inform treatment programs.

Methods: A Markov model was developed using TreeAge® Pro-2008 and clinical experts. Success probabilities were derived from published randomized controlled trials. Drug costs were obtained from the 2008 Drug Price Guideline from Bogotá and the ISS 2008 Manual. Hospitalization costs were obtained from the West Kennedy Hospital, Bogotá 2006/2007 database, adjusted to 2008. One-way and two-way sensitivity analyses were performed to test the model's robustness by varying clinical success rates and costs of antiretrovirals. Probabilistic sensitivity analyses were also performed using Monte Carlo simulations.

Results: Based on our Markov model, AZT-3TC-efavirenz had the lowest cost of treatment (USD \$12.09 per day) and the highest rate of success (69%). It was the primary cost-effective HAART for HIV/AIDS in Colombia. AZT-3TC-efavirenz dominated all other HAART treatments. Results were generally robust within ranges tested.

Conclusions: In Colombia, antiretroviral therapy will lead to major survival benefits and is cost-effective by World Health Organization criteria. The availability of second-line regimens will further increase survival, but their cost-effectiveness depends on their relative cost compared with first-line regimens. ❖

I am grateful for receiving the ISID Scientific Exchange Fellowship Program award. It enabled me to work at the University of Toronto in Pharmacoeconomics. I had a very positive experience there because, I was able to interchange knowledge with other researchers. My Supervisor Dr. Tomas Einarson guided me about health economics and outcomes research. Because of his expertise, I could advance quickly with my project. I also want to say thank you for the opportunity to learn about Canada, and about Pharmacoeconomic approach. It not just important to me, it is important for the development of my country, Colombia. E-mail: elkin799@yahoo.com

New Members of the ISID International Council

The Society is pleased to announce new additions to the ISID International Council. The following individuals will serve six-year terms. Vacancies for positions on the Council are noted.

If you are interested in a position on the ISID Council please send your CV and a statement of interest to info@isid.org.

All suggestions will be reviewed by the ISID Nominations Committee.

Africa:
(4 vacancies)

Americas:
P. Cahn, Argentina
S. Wey, Brazil
MC Roy, Canada
C. Marino, Columbia
(1 vacancy)

Eastern Mediterranean:
(3 vacancies)

Europe:
B. Gordts, Belgium
C. Wendt, German
J. Ena, Spain
(1 vacancy)

Southeast Asia:
Rk Ratho, India
H-S Leu, Taiwan
Y. Suputtamongkol, Thailand
(1 vacancy)

Western Pacific:
B. Gilbert, Australia
A. Kamarulzaman, Malaysia
S. Roberts, New Zealand
R. Salvino, N. Philippines
(3 vacancies)

2009

February 13–16, 2009

International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance (IMED 2009)

Location: Vienna, Austria

Venue: Hilton Hotel

ProMED-mail, the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases, is pleased to invite you to the International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance 2009. Along with our cosponsors, the European Centers for Disease Control, the World Organization for Animal Health, the European Commission, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, we are developing a conference that will bring together the public health community, scientists, health care workers, and other leaders in the field of emerging infectious diseases. The meeting will embrace the 'One Medicine, One Health' concept recognizing that, just as diseases reach across national boundaries, so do they transcend species barriers. We therefore welcome the full participation of both the human and animal health communities. IMED 2009 will be organized by the International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID).

Contact:

Larry Madoff, MD

Chair, Scientific Organizing Committee

Editor, ProMED-mail

Email: info@isid.org

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

March 9–10, 2009

2009 International Conference on Biocontainment Facilities

Location: Las Vegas, Nevada USA

Venue: The Renaissance Hotel

Biocontainment facilities are going to be a big issue worldwide in 2009–2010. Increased activity in animal and human health research and vaccine development for new varieties of highly infectious pathogens will require more BSL facility capacity. There will also be more vigorous regulatory oversight for safe and secure biocontainment protocols and operations. And finally, as the high costs of operating biocontainment facilities become clear, institutions will be reexamining facility operating assumptions and aggressively looking for cost-reduction opportunities.

At this conference you'll learn how organizations are achieving the new objectives and standards for capacity, safety, security, and cost-control.

Website: <http://www.TradelineInc.com/BIO2009>

March 11–14, 2009

Staphylococcus Symposium 2009

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Venue: Hilton Hawaiian Village

The Staphylococcus Symposium has been designed to bring together physicians, microbiologists, pharmacists, nurses, and other stakeholders involved with the evolving scourge of Staphylococcal infections. It is organized for the teams of professionals who must deal with this evolving pathogen and provide insight, education, and perspective on a national as well as global basis.

Sponsor:

Staphylococcus Institute

550 S. Beretania St, Suite #400

Honolulu, HI 96813

Voice: +1 (808) 373-3488 or (800) 577-2820

Fax: +1 (808) 585-0206

Website: <http://www.staph2009.com/intro.html>

March 20–24, 2009

13th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease (ISVHLD)

Location: Washington, DC, USA

Venue: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

The 13th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease (ISVHLD) will bring together the entire community involved in viral hepatitis research, to promote better understanding of the viruses that cause hepatitis in humans, as well as the pathogenesis, natural history, complications, treatment, and prevention of the diseases they cause. The virology, immunology, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of each hepatitis virus will be covered, along with a cross-cutting series on hepatocellular cancer, cirrhosis, HIV co-infection, and liver transplantation.

Contact:

Jay H. Hoofnagle, MD and David L. Thomas, MD

Website: <http://www.isvhld2009.org>

Call for Abstracts Deadline: October 14, 2008

April 4–9, 2009

Europe-Africa Frontier Research Conference Series: Infectious Diseases: From Basic to Translational Research

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Venue: NH The Lord Charles Hotel

The first conference in this series will focus on various topics around infectious diseases, paying particular attention to tuberculosis, malaria and more neglected diseases such as Buruli ulcer, leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis and filariasis, along with emerging viral diseases.

The conference will concentrate on basic sciences in order to promote research and cooperation in an area that is generally regarded as of minor importance and therefore does not attract adequate funding in developing countries.

This meeting will focus on the basic mechanisms underlying infectious diseases and explore how they may be applied to drug development and other intervention strategies.

An 'open forum format' of plenary discussions and lively interactions both inside and outside the conference room will highlight excellence in European and African research.

ESF Contact:

Ms. Anne Blondeel-Oman, Conference Officer

Tel: + 32 (0)2 533 2024 Fax: + 32 (0)2 538 8486

Please quote 09-277 in any correspondence.

Website: <http://www.esf.org/conferences/09277>

May 4–9, 2009

ESF-FWF-LFUI Conference on 'The impact of the environment on innate immunity: The threat of diseases'

Location: Obergurgl (Tyrol), Austria

Venue: Universitätszentrum Obergurgl

This conference is the second in a series of two conferences: The first, held in 2007, concentrated on basic knowledge of the immune system. This second 2009 conference will have a more applied angle, with discussions on:

- vectors of disease
- innate defense molecules for use as antibiotics
- environmental stressors and global change
- emerging disease and innate immunity
- how our knowledge can be used to develop strategies against the spread of new diseases.

Closing date for applications: February 8, 2009

More information (including programme and application forms): <http://www.esf.org/conferences/09223>

Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events

May 12–15, 2009

XIII Latin American Congress of Paediatric Infectología

Location: Guayaquil, Ecuador

Venue: Centro de Convenciones de Guayaquil "Simón Bolívar"

Sponsored by the Latin American Society of Paediatric Infectología, participants will have a very special opportunity to share their experiences and to exchange ideas in a warm atmosphere among friends. Main topic: Preventing Paediatric HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean, Towards its Better Care. The Congress will discuss several aspects of epidemiology, microbiology, prevention, diagnosis, clinical presentations and advances in the processing of the infectious diseases.

Website: <http://www.slipe2009.org/index.jsf>

June 9–12, 2009

27th Annual European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases—ESPID 2009

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Venue: Brussels Exhibition Centre (Brussels Expo)

The main theme of the 27th Annual European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases—ESPID 2009, will be "Serious Bacterial Infections." The high quality Scientific Program currently evolving through collaboration between local and international experts will open new insights and discussions into epidemiology, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and clinical presentation of important paediatric diseases.

Contact: Natalie Shabi

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CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 908 0488 Fax: + 41 22 732 2850

E-mail: espid@kenes.com

Website: <http://www.kenes.com/espid>

June 18–21, 2009

26th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection

Location: Toronto, Canada

Venue: Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

The 26th ICC will be a cutting edge international scientific and clinical congress about microbiology, epidemiology, diagnosis and therapy of infectious diseases as well as antimicrobial chemotherapy. Original presentations on our rapidly changing understanding of infectious disease and chemotherapy will be complemented by overviews from world authorities. Toronto is an exciting, cosmopolitan place to visit. Canada welcomes you to a premier scientific meeting about infectious disease.

Contact: Congress Canada

555 Richmond Street West

Suite 1004, P.O. Box 202

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 3B1

Tel: + 1 416-504-4500

Fax: + 1 416-504-4505

E-mail: icc09@congresscan.com

Website: <http://www.icc-09.com/>

2010

March 9–12, 2010

14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

Location: Miami, Florida, USA

Venue: Miami Convention Center

Contact: International Society for Infectious Diseases

Email: info@isid.org

Website: <http://www.isid.org>



14th ICD • Miami



14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

MIAMI, FLORIDA • USA • MARCH 9~12, 2010

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