Annual Report 2015

tropEd Secretariat
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Dear tropEd colleagues.

During the General Assembly meeting in Basel in early September 2015 we celebrated the 20\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of our network. Definitely a success, although we should also critically reflect that the enthusiasm of the early years might have decreased over time. What started two decades ago as a network aiming at fostering mobility of students and teachers, has become a network much more looking at quality of courses and programmes and taking the role of an ambassador for high quality teaching and education in the field of international and global health. And we can say, that for this we are well renowned – tropEd has become a label which attracts students but also institutions.

But it would be a big mistake to rest on our laurels – too many challenges are ahead! How can we show students that the “old” tropEd model of taking courses in different institutions might enhance the individual competences? How can we find a balance of sending and receiving students for the member institutions – as by now we have sending or receiving institutions? How can we deal better with possible employers of our students and with funding agencies, to convince them that capacity building especially in low and middle income countries is an investment into the future but needs financial support?

I would like to thank all the colleagues from all member institutions for their contributions throughout the last year, especially those from the Steering Committee. Let’s face the challenges and work on them.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Axel Hoffmann
The tropEd Network held two General Assemblies during 2015, respectively in:

- Institute for Global Health (ICH), University College London, UK
  25th to 27th February 2015
- Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland
  3rd to 6th September 2015

In these two meetings, a total of 50 representatives from full member institutions and collaborative institutions. Overall, around 69% of full members have participated in the General Assembly meetings along with around 38% of Collaborating members.

Six EC meetings were held before, during and after the two GA meetings in 2015. The EC phone conference through SKYPE lasts normally for about 60 minutes.

Six EC meetings:
- EC Skype conference 11th February
- EC SKYPE conference 23rd March
- EC SKYPE conference 27th April
- EC SKYPE conference 16th June
- EC SKYPE conference 08th October
- EC SKYPE conference 14th December

The members of tropEd Executive Committee in 2015:

**President:**
*Dr. Pauline Grys*

**President-Elect:**
*Dr. Rodney Reynolds*

**Past President:**
*Dr. Carina Kallestal*

**Executive Secretary:**
*Dr. Axel Hoffmann*

**Ex officio Member:**
*Dr. Curt Lofgren*
Course accreditation

46 courses were submitted to the GA during 2015. Of those 21 are for new courses, and 25 for re-accreditation.

33 courses received Category 1 or 2 in the first round, which is 72% of all courses. Through the whole year, there were 33 courses accredited in GA and EC meetings.

The accredited courses are:

- Antwerp  Electronic Short Course on Antiretroviral Therapy (eSCART)
- Amsterdam  Analysing health systems in fragile and conflict-affected environments
- Amsterdam  Health Policy, Governance and Finance in fragile and conflict-affected environments
- Amsterdam  Qualitative Methods in Health Systems Research
- Barcelona  Health Economics
- Barcelona  Responses to Humanitarian Crises from the Global Health Perspective
- Basel  Medical Priorities & Clinical Tropical Medicine in South East Asia
- Basel  Health in detention
- Bergen  The HIV pandemic: Research challenges to improve prevention, support and care
- Bergen  Qualitative Research Methods for International Public Health (6)
- Bergen  Qualitative Research Methods for International Public Health (4)
- Berlin  Clinical Management of Tropical Diseases (CMTD) with optional supplement: Occupational Medicine in International Health (OMIH)
- Berlin  Parasitology in International Health
- Brisbane  Mental Health Across the Globe: Challenges and Opportunities
- Edinburgh  Emerging Challenges in the Global Health Workforce
- Edinburgh  Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Edinburgh  Core course
- Edinburgh  Global Mental Health & Psychosocial Wellbeing
- Edinburgh  Strengthening Health and Health Systems in Fragile and Conflict-affected States
- Edinburgh  Gender, Health and Development (GHD)
- Heidelberg  Leadership and Change Management in International Health
- Heidelberg  Public Health and Disasters
- Jogyakarta  Data Analysis for Demographic Health Survey (DHS) using STATA: a
How many hours of SIT is formally one ECTS credit in institution?

Until Sep. 2013 in tropEd network we only allow to count 30 SIT hours per ECTS. However, for several institutions this is contradictory to the national regulation. According to the ECTS user guide, the GA agreed to allow counting 25-30 hours SIT equal to one ECTS credits. But in one week still 45 hours of SIT cannot be exceeded. However, member institution must make their calculation according to their national regulations. Follow this new regulation, some institute has changed the SIT hours/ECTS credits and some remain unchanged.

- Barcelona, Bordeaux, London IGH 25 hours
- Uppsala 27 hours
- Lisbon 28 hours
- 25-30 hours Antwerp
Advanced modules taken by tropEd students in 2015

Student and course data in 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>No. of applicants to the MIH programme</th>
<th>No. of newly registered tropEd students</th>
<th>No. of tropEd students completed</th>
<th>No. of accredited courses in total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSHTM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basel</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London UCL</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antwerp</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bordeaux</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brescia</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resource: Institutional annual report 2015
tropEd Membership

New Collaborating member:

Institute de la Francophonie pour la Médicine Tropicale (IFMT) in Vientiane, Lao PDR

New full member:

Centre for International Health (CIH), LMU, Munich

Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå University changed from collaborating member to full member.

Member excluded: Karolinska Institute Stockholm

Membership applicants:

- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- Geneva Centre for education and research in humanitarian action
- Middlesex University Dr Carmen Aceijas, PhD, Senior Lecturer Applied Public Health,
- Facultad de Salud Publica, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia Magaly Blas, MD, PhD, Profesora e investigadora,

New potential partner institutions from members:

Antwerp: ITM and the University of Pretoria (Dept. of Veterinary Tropical Diseases), will jointly propose a One Health module (Under ITM responsibility)

Mexico: Universidad Federal Do Rio Grande Do Brasil, Universitat Du Montreal au Quebec, Universidad Los Llanos and Universidad El Bosque (Colombia), University of Washington, University of Texas San Antonio.

Barcelona: ISGlobal just merged with the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology

Barcelona II: Western University of Canada and American University of Beirut

Changes in member institutions during 2015

New tropEd representativas:

- Lisbon: Maria do Rosário O. Martins
- Brescia: Cancelled: Silvia Odolini and Alberto Matteelli
- Brisbane: Dr Jo Durham

New address:

- Berlin: Augustenburger Platz 1, Südring 3b, D-13353 Berlin

Information from Members to be shared with the network:

- Berlin: After moving to the new location, the maximum number of students that can be enrolled per year increased from 32 to 42.
- **London UCL** UCL requires us to develop Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with each of our tropEd partners. For practical reasons we will prioritise drafting MOAs with the partners who send their students to IGHs advanced/optional courses as well as those institutions that our home students go to for external advanced/optional courses.

- **Munich** Existing well-running modules are prepared for accreditation by tropEd as advanced modules.

### Changes from Member institutions foreseen for the next year

- **Antwerp** Stepping-up the promotion of the MIH (at ITM called MPH-IH), two new advanced modules in the pipeline: prevention of antibiotic resistance in LICs; systematic reviews and local translation of evidence.

- **Uppsala** We will change the present program for which the last intake will be autumn 2016, thus the accredited courses we give will run last time 2017. There will probably be a year of intermission before we will be back with new courses for accreditation.

- **Berlin** Re-accreditation of MSciH.

- **London UCL** In 2015-16 academic year UCL has changed number of ECTS associated with all of its MSc programmes from 72 ECTS to 90 ECTS in line with the HE sector in the UK. We have negotiated with UCL to run a parallel credit system whereby for our home UCL registered MSc tropEd students their MSc will have 90 ECTS, but for visiting tropEd students on IGH tropEd accredited courses these will continue to have 6 ECTS per course.

- **Munich** TropEd students participating for the first time in tropEd accredited courses at CIHLMU in 2016, additional at least 1 advanced module handed in for accreditation in 2016 (planned to run as a tropEd course in 2017 for the first time)

- **Barcelona** Our Master of Global Health will be 100% in English and all courses offered as independent advanced modules will also be in English

- **Barcelona II** To introduce case based learning
National accreditation of master’s programme

Seven institutions have their master’s programme accredited by the national accreditation agenda or University and namely:

**Basel:** accredited by University of Basel, Swiss TPH External Review 2014

**Antwerp:** accredited by NVAO (Netherlands Flemish Accreditation Organ, Re-accreditation is in process (expected before 30 Sept. 2016)

**Barcelona:** accredited by University of Barcelona

**Uppsala:** Accredited by Swedish Higher Education Authority, evaluated 2013 and valid for 5 years


**Heidelberg:** Heidelberg University is accredited by ACQUIN since September 2014; the master program is covered through this accreditation.

**Brescia:** The Core Course in Tropical Medicine and International Health receives annual re-accreditation by the University of Brescia. However, the tropEd Master programme cannot be recognised in Italy due to current national regulations that do not allow five-year duration.
Erasmus + grands:

Three partners: 1. Queen Margaret University, Institute for International Health and Development (IIHD) 2. Royal Tropical Institute – KIT, Amsterdam and 3. University of Bergen, Centre for International Health writes up an application to the Erasmus+ programme with the title: “Development of innovative e-learning and teaching through strategic partnerships in Global Health Education” and received the grants for three years. The objective of this programme is to:

- Promotion of eLearning and teaching in the field of postgraduate global health education
- Increasing access to global health education for disadvantaged learners within and outside of the EU via blended learning and virtual mobility
- Widening and enhancing the shared accreditation process within the tropEd
- Strengthening existing European networks (tropEd)

The first year consortium will focus on developing of online courses, the second year will try to deliver the nine online courses and the last year will do the evaluation on students’ experience. Several courses were selected to build up three tracks:

- Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in disease control programmes (KIT)
- The HIV pandemic: Research challenges to improve prevention, support and care (UiB)
- Project Design and Management (QMU)
- Human Resources for Health (KIT)
- Emerging Challenges in the Global Health Workforce (QMU)
- Applied economic evaluation in Health Care (UiB)
- Policy and Practice in Complex Emergencies (QMU)
- Communicable disease control in emergencies (KIT)
- Qualitative Methods for International Public Health (UiB)

Financial report 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current acc.</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance end of 2014:</td>
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<td>28805.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership fee</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income:</td>
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<td>25510.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel costs</td>
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<td>Bank charges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure:</td>
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<td>-48575.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance end of 2015:</td>
<td></td>
<td>5739.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
tropEd PARTICIPATION at 9th ECTMIH (2015) The 9th European Conference on Tropical Medicine and International Health was held from 6th to 10th September 2016 in Basel (Switzerland) organised by the Swiss Tropical and public Health Institute.

The conference gathered near 2000 researchers, academics and professionals from all over the world. Many representatives from tropEd member institutions participated in this conference. tropEd was present in the Swiss TPH booth.

tropEd organised a session on *Medical and public health education in Africa* coordinated and chaired by Axel Hoffmann from SwissTPH. See details on speakers and themes presented in the following figure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accelerating excellence and leadership in African health research</td>
<td>Fred Binka, Accra, GH</td>
<td>Kairo 1</td>
<td>13:30 - 13:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Collaboration: An essential element for public health and medical education in Africa</td>
<td>Kevin Marsh, Oxford, UK</td>
<td></td>
<td>13:45 - 14:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the mutual benefits for universities participating in teaching networks?</td>
<td>Bernadette Peterhans, Basel, CH</td>
<td></td>
<td>14:00 - 14:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APARET (African Programme for Advanced Research Epidemiology Training)</td>
<td>Norbert C. Schwarz, Hamburg, DE</td>
<td></td>
<td>14:15 - 14:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A public health laboratory for global capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>Marco Albonico, Milan, IT</td>
<td></td>
<td>14:30 - 14:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

tropEd was also involved in the session organised by the European Academic Global Health Alliance (EAGHA) on *The tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea is a Global Health Issue*, coordinated and chaired by Thomas Junghanss from the University of Heidelberg and Núria Casamitjana from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health – University of Barcelona. See details on speakers and themes presented in the next figure:
Networking

Internal Exchanges within the network: 33 % tropEd member institutions have internal exchanges activities with other members within the network.
Scholarship offered in 2015

- **Basel**: 4 full scholarships for core course
- **Berlin**: 3 scholarships from DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) • 1 scholarships from Erasmus Mundus / tropEd
- **Antwerp**: 5 full scholarships offered (Belgian Development Cooperation Agency)
- **Heidelberg**: DAAD scholarships
- **Brescia**: UNESCO chair "Training and empowering human resources for health development in resource limited countries" offered one scholarship for candidates coming from developing countries including tuition fees, travel and accommodation cost
- **UCL**: A number of £2000 bursaries are available to our home EU students each year towards the MSc tuition fee.
Alumni Activities

Most of institutions are working hard on the alumni issues. In February 2015 there was an Alumni session in the General Assembly meeting in London. All members can exchange their experiences and problems regarding alumni activities. In September 2015, tropEd organized the first Alumni Meeting in connection with the 20 years anniversary of tropEd and the ECTMIH congress. The following picture shows you what was done on related to alumni in different institutions in 2015:

Ten graduates have fulfilled the requirements of the tropEd recognition and were awarded the tropEd recognition certificates.
Alumni meeting 6th September 2015

This is the first tropEd organized alumni/student meeting. After a detailed round introduction from all participating institutions, from the network, and all alumni/students, the whole group was divided into three groups and discuss on several alumni related topics. The Topics of the discussion are as follows:

- **Group 1:** Is e-learning/ e-classroom the future of education? How e-learning will influence the future of the masters training in international health? How can we better connect to each other? Pro and cons of using social media?
- **Group 2:** What are the biggest challenges I am facing after I finished my degree? Is there any competencies missing in the curriculum of my masters study? When is the time that we can play the teaching role in the education in international health? How should we make us qualified for this role?
- **Group 3:** How can the job opportunities better circulated in the network? How can we benefit from this and contribute to it? Working internationally as development helper in LMC and family life, is there any conflict?

In summary, we will try to strengthen the connection between student/alumni and the institute in order to get more information reached the one who need it. Some existing channels for example student representatives or home institution channel should be better used as well. The missing competences are valuable for the network to design the new curriculum. Alumni/student is a very important part of the network. We are confidence to reach a better level before the network turns to 30.
Next tropEd General Assembly meetings:

- 11-13 February  Yogyakarta
- 16-18 June      Heidelberg
- October 2016    Amsterdam
- February 2017   Barcelona
- May/June 2017   Munich