

Minutes of the TropNet meeting in Negrar 2016

Friday, 29-04-2016

Christoph Hatz: report on the current status of the network; addressing this year's replacement of Joaquim Gascon in the steering committee and Zeno Bisoffi in the scientific committee, according to the new rotation schedule decided during the TropNet meeting in St. Albans in 2015: newly elected steering committee member: Jose Muñoz, Barcelona, newly elected research committee member: Andrea Angheben, Negrar

Overview on the current TropNet platforms.

Highlighting the current "COST open call" with regards to travel medicine recommendations / policy development. Swiss founded "Expert committee in travel medicine" (EKRM) as a possible nucleus for a TropNet-based expert panel for the development / compilation of joint European recommendations. Pointing out the possibility of policy development under the umbrella of the ECDC. Far goal: harmonization of the various European recommendations. COST funding could provide setting up the logistic backbone to establish a "European Network for Travel Information and Risk Epidemiology" to provide evidence-based data in travel medicine which can feed evidence-based recommendations -> An application of TropNet for COST is currently on the way to submission; the result will be communicated in September 2016.

ERNs: European Commission call for European Reference Networks (ERN) for "rare diseases" as a chance for TropNet? -> ask ECDC / European Commission to evaluate the feasibility and to specify the possible form.

Hot topic: current Horizon2020 application on Zika by Annelies Wilder-Smith including a travel medicine WP to be contributed by TropNet: bundle of post- and pre-/during travel studies. The application was submitted in April 2016 and was just granted in June 2016!

Next TropNet meeting: 15-16 October 2017 Antwerp before 10th ECTMIH (hosted by Jan Clerinx and Emmanuel Bottieau)

Teaching & Training: consideration of planning a pre-conference course for the upcoming ECTMIH 2016 in Antwerp as done at the ECTMIH 2015 in Basel

The invited guest Denis Coulombier from the ECDC, Stockholm is unfortunately/sadly not attending the meeting as his trip to Negrar was interrupted when his wallet and ID card was stolen on the way.

Report on on-going studies and activities within the network (Andreas Neumayr):

- Artesunate for severe malaria manuscript published in CID in November 2015,
- Closure of DengueTools project, paper currently submitted to Eurosurveillance,
- Ongoing *Giardia* studies on first and second-line treatment (Andreas Neumayr),
- Ongoing StaphTrav study (Philipp Zanger),
- Ongoing artemisinin safety studies: HAEMO-ART, SMPS & TOX-ART (Florian Kurth and Thomas Zoller, Berlin) -> there is post-treatment delayed hemolysis (PTDH) in patients with uncomplicated malaria orally treated with artemisinin!
- LeishMan working group expand their recruitment to visceral leishmaniasis (currently 268 cases of CL and ML included in the databank),

- Ongoing Eurartesim-*P.vivax* study sponsored by SigmaTau, recruitment very slow, thus recruitment period extended to December 2016
- Ongoing safety surveillance: Eurartesim pregnancy registry: so far 0 cases
- Ongoing study on *P. ovale walkleri* / *P. ovale curtisi* malaria (Gerardo Rojo Marcos), recruitment will be closed by November 30, 2016
- Successful conduction of the 1st TropNet course on Travel Medicine as pre-conference course at the ECTMID 2015 in Basel

Scientific programme / presentations

Friday, 29-04-2016

- The story of mefloquine and the media, Ron Behrens, London
- Zika virus screening of pregnant women, Lorenzo Zammarchi, Florence
- Study proposal: Zika virus persistence in semen after acute infection, Jan Clerinx, Antwerp -> part of the ZikaPLAN Horizon2020 project led by Annelies Wilder-Smith
- Spanish Network for Zika surveillance in children and pregnant women, Diana Pou Ciruelo, Barcelona: www.pedzikared.com
- Schistosomiasis: towards a common protocol for the treatment of imported schistosomiasis: a delphi study to harmonize treatment of chronic and acute schistosomiasis in Europe, Andrea Angeben, Negrar -> "TRAP-schisto" running on May/June 2016
- Study proposal: retrospective study on loiasis treatment with ivermectine and albendazole, Federico Gobbi, Negrar -> to be set up
- Study proposal: does diabetes mellitus change the features of *P. falciparum* malaria? Gerardo Rojo Marcos, Madrid; inclusion: *P. falciparum* AND diabetes mellitus type 1 or 2 AND semi-immunity/*P. falciparum* with diabetes mellitus; 34 DM/125 matched cases; Recruitment until October 2016
- Urological findings and praziquantel efficacy in immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to Europe with *S. haematobium* infection (Lorenzo Zammarchi, Florence): Bladder masses on ultrasound (27%) disappear after PZQ treatment, total resolution in 3/7 at 2mo and 3/4 at 6mo (3d PZQ); Study proposal to collect the clinical data from different centers; Inclusion: immigrant from SSA to Europe AND positive serology AND positive *S. haematobium* eggs OR typical ultrasonography findings

Saturday, 30-04-2016

Scientific programme / presentations:

- Presentation of the recent retrospective analysis of TropNet data on schistosomiasis 1997–2010, Tilman Lingscheid, Berlin; manuscript completed and on the way to be submitted.
- Presentation of preliminary results/1-year interim analysis of the TropNet HaemoART study, Florian Kurth, Berlin: patients treated with oral ACT/AP. Follow-up assessment for hemolysis at day 7 and 14: 40% signs of hemolysis. Two groups: different reticulocyte response with uncompensated (EU) and compensated hemolysis (AF). Hemolysis can go on for two months. Requirement for patient to present at d14 to rule out hemolysis.
- Falciparum malaria and HIV in Maputo, Mozambique: clinical presentation and immune response, Åse Berg, Stavanger.
- *P. vivax* in Switzerland: data 2005-2015 and the possible re-emergence in some parts of the world, Gilles Eperon, Geneva

- LAMP for malaria diagnosis and research, Juan Cuadros González, Madrid:
- Single visit multi dose rabies pre-exposure vaccination, Leo Visser, Leiden
- The parasites on our doorstep: problematic parasites indigenous to Europe, Peter Chiodini, London; Echinococcosis & Fascioliasis
- Chronic schistosomiasis and lung nodules, Federico Gobbi, Negrar
- Short and long term immunogenicity of Yellow Fever vaccination in HIV-infected patients, Olivia Veit, Zurich
- Tourist tracking, Andrea Farnham, Zurich
- Ongoing meningococcal meningitis outbreak in Tuscany, Francesca Rinaldi, Florence
- Proposal to establish a "TropNet Clinical Forum" (TNCF), a clinically oriented platform for experts in tropical diseases within TropNet, Jose Muñoz, Barcelona & Andrea Angheben, Negrar -> First meeting as an add-on to the next TropNet meeting
- Imported MDR & XDR tuberculosis in Paris, Marie Jaspard, Paris
- The Travel Medicine Hub, Faculty of Travel Medicine, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Jane Chiodini, London
- Focus on travel-acquired multidrug resistant intestinal microbes - loperamide, antibiotics or their combination for travellers' diarrhea? Anu Kantele, Helsinki
- Stool pathogens in asymptomatic vs. symptomatic returning travellers, Anu Kantele, Helsinki
- Multiresistant Enterobacteriaceae in Travellers: ESBLs, Carbapenemases and beyond, Esther Kuenzli, Basel -> Proposal for a TropNet study to map worldwide resistance of bacterial enteropathogens causing travelers' diarrhea (questionnaire study), currently under development