Happy memories from CISTM18
Dear ISTM members,

This is the first of regular communications from me as your new President. Thank you for placing your trust in me. As a volunteer in full-time employment in Galway, Ireland, I am deeply grateful to my colleagues at University of Galway, and especially to University President, Ciarán Ó hOgartaigh, for their support and encouragement as I take up this challenging role. I am mindful of the excellent calibre of the ISTM presidents that have served you in the past. I will do my best to live up to the high standards of integrity and passion, and to help you to offer your skills and service to the Society.

We have just returned from Germany, and followed by productive directors’ meeting in Munzingen, Switzerland, which was preceded by a wonderful CISTM in Basel, Switzerland. Our outgoing Executive Board of the SPC so we hope that you will extend a very warm welcome to us, and we all enjoyed the opportunity during the conference to tour around their beautiful city, of which they are justly proud.

As your new President, my stated goals are to unite the Society, to nurture our travel medicine community, and to identify all opportunities to extend our reach and to broaden our appeal. Unity is strength. During our strategic breakout session at the recent Leadership Council, the theme of our discussions was ‘Shaping the Future of ISTM’. I was impressed by the energy, enthusiasm, and innovative perspectives of our leaders as they considered the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that face our Society. As we say in Gaelic, ‘Tús maith, leith na hoibre’ (a good start is half the work).

I look forward to listening to and supporting you during my presidential term. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas and proposals at my new email address President@istm.org. I will check in with you as frequently as possible to keep you all up to date on our collective progress. All roads lead to the vibrant city of New Orleans for CISTM19, where we will indeed let the good times roll! I look forward to meeting you as friends and colleagues at different points along the journey.

Prof. Gerard Flaherty, MD, PhD
ISTM President
It’s Still Not Too Late to Save the World

After I returned home from CISTM18, my friends asked how our trip to Switzerland was (before the meeting, gorgeous but most of the time the Alps were shy and hid their faces), and also about the meeting. I said repeatedly, “I am so grateful that there are still passionate intelligent people out there trying to save the world.” For the days of the conference, I allowed myself a refreshing respite from the negative news of the world and immersed myself in the moments of the meeting. And fine moments they were: from the excellent pre-conference workshops, to the drums and sweet pipes trilling at the opening ceremony, the terrific plenary and Pharma sponsored lunch talks (although the paper bag rustling was distracting to the speakers), talks (although the paper bag rustling was distracting to the speakers), and his performance talk on sun protection. I appreciated the direction from the scientific program committee to encourage speakers to create clever titles for their talks – great hooks for getting participants to attend a talk, but we all needed to know which talk was eligible for EBM and which for full Monty) with his performance talk on sun protection. I appreciated the direction from the scientific program committee to encourage speakers to create clever titles for their talks – great hooks for getting participants to attend a talk, but we all needed to know which talk was eligible for EBM and which for post-pantry airfare price hikes and travel itineraries involved multiple flights and were exhausting for some committee members. The optics were also clearly flawed, and such locations will be excluded in the future. David Hamer and his colleagues nevertheless produced a great CISTM18 Program in the cool, wet, and power-cut prone highlands of Santa Cruz Island, so the output was superb. In April Gerard Flaherty, Sheena Volmer and I visited New Orleans for a few days. It was sadly evident that hotel costs were too expensive to consider Barcelona for CISTM19 in 2023 but in NOLA the clear winning location was the Riverside Hilton. A memorable finale, arranged by the Convention Bureau in a river cruise with on board jazz band on the Creole Queen and we were all delighted. And then of course there was CISTM18 in Basel. The Secretariat, under staffed and mostly with no prior experience of organizing a F2F conference climbed a mountain, gaining valuable experience and worked their socks off to make this a success under the leadership of Whitney, Acting ED. It was a bumpy ride at times, both for them and others but they delivered a great conference, and we were all relieved that total.
Travel Medicine News

registrations reached 1200 of which about 1100 attended in person. The main conference, 21st to 25th May, was bracketed by the GeoSentinel Site Directors gathering at the Schloss Resnach Hotel near Freiburg and the Leadership Council/Executive Board meetings at the Les Violetttes Hotel in neighbouring Alsace. Since Peter Leggatt and I had taken a lead role selecting these locations in February 2022, we were hugely relieved that they proved more than adequate and were enjoyed by both groups. Most of us are worried about climate change and following acquisition of a battery electric vehicle (BEV) in December, Elizabeth and I cut our carbon emissions compared to air travel by about 80%, driving all the poorer etiquette by electric car drivers. Many Europeans used the excellent electric rail connections to travel to Basel. The conference offered many star quality presentations and one veteran commented that the Basel Convention Centre now stands out as the venue against which all future conference venues will be compared. It takes several months after a conference to reach a conclusion about net revenue, and I will report on that before the end of the year. I am hopeful for a moderate surplus. Christoph Hatz and his colleagues at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute delivered a wonderful cultural program for guests and delegates and Robert Steffen, the Liaison Committee Chair, organised a wonderful evening gathering for delegates from Africa for which the Finance Committee at ISTM allocated funds from the Liaison Committee budget.

Fulton and Kozak, our Auditors, published their Audit of 2021-22 accounts in March and copies of that audit are now available to members on request.

Warm greetings to all our members.

Mike Jones
Secretary-Treasurer

ISTM FOUNDATION

ISTM was established in 1991, building upon the success of the first Conference of International Travel Medicine in 1988, and has grown to become the largest organization of professionals dedicated to the advancement of the specialty of travel medicine. To further ISTM’s mission through private and philanthropic support, the ISTM Foundation, Inc was established in 2014 as a full charity under Internal Revenue Service regulation (501c3) to enable US charitable contributions to qualify for tax relief. After three years sustained work ISTM has now itself received 501c3 status and the Board of the ISTM Foundation has decided to dissolve and transfer its assets to the Development and Planning Committee of ISTM which now takes over the functions of the ISTM Foundation.

The Board of ISTM Foundation is grateful for your support over the years, funding research and educational projects, promoting and fostering healthy and safe travel, focused not only on travelers, but also on their destination and home communities. The need has never been greater, and the Foundation Board looks forward to your continued direct support of the ISTM now enhanced by the assets and focus of the dissolved Foundation.

Board of ISTM Foundation

ISTM18, ISTM’s first hybrid congress in Basel, Switzerland had more than 1100 in-person delegates from 67 countries representing Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America. On the first day of the conference, nearly 70 individuals sat for the CTH® Exam. Aside from Switzerland, the top 10 countries represented at CISTM18 were United States of America, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, France, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

The opening plenary session, Climate Change and Health – Our Future, was dedicated to the challenges that climate change poses to human health and health systems in the 21st century. This plenary helped set the tone for congress and cement the conference theme of Dawn of a New Era in Travel Medicine. This plenary was a thought-provoking discussion that explored the incidence of infectious diseases and the importance of different drivers for disease emergence, and learning how health systems can be made more resilient and sustainable in a changing climate. Other plenary themes included: COVID-19 and International Travelers, Travel Associated Mortality—A Dead End, and Antimicrobial Resistance—An Increasing Global Threat.

The entire CISTM18 scientific program was recorded and is available for 12 months to registered attendees— including those who attended in-person and virtually. Did you miss CISTM18? You can still register and have access to all of the rich content. Simply register as a virtual attendee here.

On behalf of the ISTM, many thanks are extended to the CISTM18 Scientific Program Committee, the Local Organizing Committee, ISTM Officers and Executive Board, the Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel Tourism and the Secretariat team for developing, planning and executing such a rich and invigorating conference experience. The 19th Conference of the ISTM will be in New Orleans, Louisiana! Please mark your calendars for 11-15 May 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

Whitney Alexander
ISTM Acting Executive Director
CISTM18 Scientific Program Committee Chair

18th Conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine

CISTM18 was held in the lovely, historic Basel, Switzerland from May 21st to 25th. The conference was attended by a total of 1,247 people including 1,140 who were there in-person, representing 63 different countries. The conference focus was “Dawn of a New Era in Travel Medicine”. Many of the talks at CISTM18 addressed this theme and, in addition, efforts were made to make this an ecofriendly, paperless conference with minimal plastic waste.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC), led by Christoph Hatz, did a stellar job organizing a fun and informative opening ceremony with local music and a provocative talk on climate change and the future of our planet. The LOC also coordinated several interesting Meet the History presentations and a special networking event on Tuesday May 23rd preceded by enlightening tours of Basel.

The quality of the scientific presentations at CISTM18 was outstanding with several excellent plenaries, which covered climate change and emerging diseases, COVID-19 treatment and prevention, accident-related mortality of travelers, and antimicrobial resistance. There were many excellent symposia on a broad range of topics including imported infections (malaria, leishmaniasis, dengue, and others), mass gatherings, migrant health, and wilderness medicine (altitude sickness and environmental exposures ranging from hyperthermia to envenomation and animal bites). There was a total of 220 abstracts submitted with 20 rejected by the Scientific Program Committee (SPC), and 13 withdrawn by the authors, leaving 187 oral and poster presentations. The quality of the oral abstracts presented in the four Free Communication sessions was excellent.

One of the best aspects of the conference was an opportunity to see and interact in-person with colleagues and friends from all over the world. After having been obliged by the COVID-19 pandemic to hold CISTM17 completely virtually, it was a great pleasure to be able to meet in-person in Basel. Special efforts were made to facilitate attendance of colleagues from low- and middle-income countries, which served to showcase the growing importance of travel medicine in resource-limited areas from Africa to Asia to Latin America. The full SPC, especially the leadership team (David Hamer, USA; Camilla Rothe, Germany; Eric Caumes, France; Colleen Lau, Australia; and Miguel Cabada, USA/Peru), deserve kudos for their hard work which ultimately resulted in a high quality CISTM18. Similarly, the ISTM and Congress Secretariat must be acknowledged for the incredibly hard work behind the scenes to make this conference a great success.

David Hamer
CISTM18 SPC Chair

CISTM18 Local Organizing Committee Chair

Basel at the center of travel medicine: The 18th Congress of the International Society of Travel Medicine (CISTM18)

From May 21-25, Basel was the global center of travel medicine. The 18th Congress of the International Society of Travel Medicine (CISTM18) attracted around 1140 participants from all over the world to Basel. In addition to high-level scientific presentations, the congress also promoted informal exchange and new research projects among researchers.

The atmosphere at the 18th Congress of the ISTM (CISTM18) was as focused as it was exuberant, the program packed with science and social activities. After a Covid-19-related gap of four years, the International Society was once again able to host a physical and high-profile congress. This time Basel was the venue and Cantonal Government Councilor Beat Jans could not hide his pleasure to warmly welcome the participants on behalf of the two Cantons of Basel-Stadt (Standortförderung) and Basel-Landschaft. In his opening speech, he described the way Basel wants to develop into a “Green City” through a sustainable energy policy and urban planning measures.

The Anthropocene

The climate, which has been altered by human activity, was also the topic of Thomas Stocker’s keynote lecture. The distinguished researcher from the University of Bern drew attention to the effects of global warming on the environment and health of the planet and its inhabitants. The influence of humans on climate has no precedent in history. Stocker recalls, hinting the famous notion of the Anthropocene by Paul Crutzen. According to Stocker, three topics especially need serious individual behavior change among which are consumption, energy use and mobility (mass tourism).
The Swiss travel and tropical medicine ladies

A tour group on Cathedral Square in Full swing

Science and culture city Basel

Science was undoubtedly at the center of the congress. But not only. CISTM18 also provided an opportunity for informal exchanges between travel medicine professionals and for soaking up Basel’s cultural atmosphere on Tuesday afternoon and evening. “My goal was to give conference participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and get to know Basel intensively,” says Christoph Hatz, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee. The concept of a networking event inside a scientific conference was highly appreciated. Participants could choose between 30 tours, numerous museum and city encounters, or visits to the Swiss TPH, Novartis Pavilion or the University of Basel. This immersion in the world of culture and science was highlighted by the participants as unique. A networking dinner brought together 843 participants from all academic positions and backgrounds after the tours and paved the way for new joint research between international and Swiss researchers. “This success of the social program and the quality of the informal exchange is due to the good cooperation between Basel Tourism, Messe Basel, the Congress Organizer (Congrex), the ISTM and the Local Organizing Committee,” says Christoph Hatz. The former head of department at Swiss TPH hopes that this example will set a precedent, given that there will be no deadly virus again which prohibits social interaction.

We were very excited for our second post-pandemic Network annual meeting which took place in Freiburg, Germany, just prior to CISTM18. Almost every site was represented. And of course, most of us were also able to attend CISTM and finally see so many of our colleagues we had only seen virtually for the past few years.

As we emerge from the pandemic, GeoSentinel has been picking up the pace with alacrity. Several projects had abstracts presented at CISTM18, including retrospective analyses on Chagas disease, dengue, malaria, and US site data. A poster was also presented on a machine learning project that is the fruit of a new collaboration with the medical artificial intelligence group in Eindhoven, Netherlands, and will likely revolutionize how we can use our surveillance data in near real time to identify outbreaks and sentinel events. Several manuscripts have recently been submitted or accepted for publication and we append a listing on the next page for your interest. Our first Delphi survey, which looks at controversial aspects of schistosomiasis is moving forward on schedule; this project will demonstrate how we can use our extensive collective expertise to establish a framework for future research in this area and is our first project which does not rely on our data collection platform. Our ongoing dengue retrospective project has spawned a new collaboration with the climatologic research group in Heidelberg, which will show how our surveillance in travellers aligns with climate events in different regions of the world. Finally, our major research projects looking at genomic surveillance of malaria, neurocognitive outcomes of malaria in native travellers, advanced diagnostics and pathogen discovery in febrile and severe imported illness, and viral kinetics of Mpox infection have either begun or will shortly commence enrollment. It is an exciting time for the Network. We encourage all ISTM members to stay in touch with the investigators at GeoSentinel sites near you if they want to help with recruitment for any of these studies. If you missed our abstract presentations, you can still watch the recorded sessions, and if you would like to share any ideas don’t be shy.

You can always contact us at geosentinel@geosentinel.org if you would like more information.

The Network continues to evolve with continued expansion. New sites are preparing to join or have already begun entering patient data, including sites in New Orleans (Tulane), Oklahoma City, Gainesville Florida, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, Brussels, and Vienna.

We also would like to thank the ISTM secretariat for providing us with much needed support in multiple areas: Jaclyn Simon now oversees our budget and contracts work, Dawn Keough for our website, Sheena Volmer for meeting planning, and LaVelle Johnson and Whitney Alexander for administrative support. We enjoyed meeting and talking with so many of you in Basel, and until next time!

Michael Libman,
for the GeoSentinel Office of the PI
GeoSentinel Publications

January-May 2023


ISTM Website TASK FORCE

Update from the Website Task Force-Steady Progress towards a New Website

The Website Task Force, appointed by the Executive Board (EB), began working on a fully revitalized and refreshed website in early 2022 collaborating with the Secretariat staff and a professional website design firm. An important part of this project has been the creation of the updated ISTM logo which has inspired exciting opportunities for the graphic design elements of the new website as well as updated branding for the Society. However, the primary goals of this project are to modernize and greatly improve the website experience for members with updated navigation, organization of resources and access to important information for the ISTM community. With the new 501c3 status for the Society approved, the website will also have a new Traveler Resource section which will be able to offer basic travel health information to the public. The Task Force anticipates completion of the website by late 2023…stay tuned…

Submitted by the Website Task Force: Rebecca Acosta (Chair), Sarah Kohl, Sarah McGuinness and Dipti Patel.
ISTM Membership TASK FORCE

The ISTM Membership Task Force (MTF) was established in October 2022 with the aim to advise on membership categories and develop strategies to retain and grow membership of the society. A major driver being the change in the society’s tax status to 501C3 which allows for new membership categories. The Covid pandemic had also resulted in a significant drop in membership. Both current and future membership categories. The MTF has suggested new membership categories including corporate members. The ISTM will continue to support travel health professionals through existing membership categories and existing member benefits including high quality education events and collegial support. The newly established Membership Committee will build on the work begun by the MTF over the coming months to further refine membership categories.

MTF members: Jenny Visser (Chair), Francesca Norman (Co-Chair), Hilmir Asgeirsson, Rebecca Acosta and LaVelle Johnson

We hope to continue building our membership to maintain a successful community. To benefit all travellers. Current members can rest assured that the ISTM will continue to support travel health professionals through existing membership categories. The resurgence of travelers seeking travel health advice. Having undertaken last six months, there is an obvious enthusiasm and demand for all types of travel health experts. The recent pandemics have resulted in a surge of interest to ISTM, as well as those who have never been members, to let their membership lapse, to facilitate the targeting of specific groups of members experiencing a decreased during the pandemic for new membership categories including corporate members. The MTF has suggested new membership categories and/or Interest Groups!

Helping to Build Back Membership

CISTM18

CISTM18 in Basel Switzerland presented a wonderful opportunity for Nursing Professional Group (NPG) members to network and engage with colleagues from all corners of the globe. The NPG Steering Council hosted a pre-congress workshop, titled ‘Pre-Travel Health Consultation – the new normal’ which was well attended. The NPG networking event (reception) and dinner were also opportunities for nurses to meet and network.

During the NPG networking event Claire Wong was presented with The Distinguished Nurse Leadership Award. An exceptional nurse and colleague of the NPG. Well done Claire, well deserved!

We would also like to pass on our congratulations to Jane Chiodini and David Shlim for receiving the Jay Keystone Award for Education.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Caroline Nash, the outgoing Chair, for all her contributions and guidance over the last two years. The NPG are delighted that Caroline has agreed to remain on the Steering Council.

We would like to welcome Tara Lombardo to the position of Chair Elect and I especially look forward to working with Tara over the next two years.

Olanwijitwong, Danielle Peel, Alex Stillwell

Not present for photo: Caroline Nash, Autumnas Ola

NPG networking event (reception) and dinner were also opportunities for nurses to meet and network.

Left to Right: Lisa Scotland, Heather Conner, Khashia Bhawani, Catherine Neil, Tara Lombardo

Distinguished Nurse Award

Catherine Keil

NPG Chair

Professional Groups

NURSING

Rebecca Acosta

Hilmir Ásgeirsson

Jenny Visser, Chair

Francesca Norman, Co-chair

Jay Keystone Award

in May, the 2023 updated edition of the RCN Travel Health Nursing: Career and Competence Development, was released. This publication provides information on current guidelines and standards of care expected from nurses advising travellers working in the UK.

RCN Travel Health Nursing: career and competence development | Publications | Royal College of Nursing

To assist us moving forward, please can you provide comments or feedback about the NPG and our role in the future to catherine@travelhealthpractitioner.com.au.
The Pharmacist Professional Group (PPG) felt that there was a need not even be available. Which can be time consuming or may be out of date or difficult to interpret. The only other source is to identify requirements for a database which gathered together evidence. The International Narcotics of different types of documentary requirements at customs?”. The A.t the PPG’s webpage found here. Currently, the database is updated advising travelers. Exploring the potential issues in resources that should be used when preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous preparation for more adventurous 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PEDiATRIc

PEDIATRIC interest group post-CISTM 18 Update
6/23

Members of the Peds Interest Group who attended CISTM (Sheila Mackell, Leah Kern, Eyal Lesham, Mike Starr) had a lively lunch meeting at CISTM and reviewed activities of the last 2 years. Activities included speaking at conferences and workshops, ISTM webinar, Travel Med Review and Update Course.

We respectfully remembered Dr. Karl Neumann, Pediatric IG founder, who passed away from COVID in Feb 2021. He cared about traveling kids and families long before it was on anyone’s radar. Karl radiated an instant familiarity that lets you know you’re with a friend, regardless of how well he knew you. There was a beautiful optimism in his eyes and smile that made it clear why he was loved by so many. His warmth and passion for pediatrics and travel will always be remembered.

Dr. Leah Kern presented an abstract at CISTM entitled “Pre-Travel Health Preparation in the general pediatric clinic vs travel medicine clinic” at the poster presentation 5/22. Data on significant amount of pediatric travel medicine being done in the general pediatric clinic that underlines need for wider educational base. (abstract on CISTM18 app, Special populations, Mon 5/22 11:03am)

Mike Starr and Sheila Mackell offered a well-attended Pediatric travel Q&A in the pre-course time slot in Basel. Attendees from multiple continents provided excellent conversation on issues with providing travel care, both pre-and post to pediatric patients. Topics covered included appropriate dosing of antimicrobials for pediatric patients, use of mefloquine, intercontinental differences in recommendations, and how to harmonize those with your travelers, advising families with children going to altitude, pearls and pitfalls of rables prevention, pre-exposure prophylaxis in children and current practices in many countries.

Other group members have local programs of interest to share:

Mike Starr’s global health program in Australia

Natalie Prevatt’s group in UK: International Child Health Webinar series

Future planning includes:

1. Natalie Prevatt has agreed to lead Peds IG for the next 2 years and we warmly welcome her.
2. Frankie Silva facilitating contact to Global Health leaders at American Academy Pediatrics. Several of us are planning to meet with them to collaborate on a webinar and discuss the interest/possibility of a separate travel medicine group.
3. Anticipate future webinar participation for us in the coming 2 years - TBD
4. Pediatric bibliography will continue to be compiled by Dr. John Christensen (not at CISTM but in contact). We extend gratitude to him for this comprehensive and enduring resource, available on the website.

5. All acknowledged the need to increase membership outside of the US. Brainstorming session – Eyal Lesham brought a new member - Dr. Glid Sherman from Israel, several pediatricians from US and Thailand were at CISTM and engaged in joining.

6. Council members will be looking at ISTM regional conferences and other educational activities in the coming years.

We encourage all interested ISTM members to join the Pediatric Interest Group online, the listserv, contact any of the council members and engage us for any pediatric issues.

Looking forward to seeing you all in New Orleans in 2025!

Sheila Mackell, MD, FISTM

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We are an enthusiastic group of like-minded health care professionals who care about our precious planet and all living plants and creatures that inhabit it.

The aims of our group are to:

• Educate members to think about how to travel more responsibly and to implement this.
• Educate our travelers so that they are more aware of what they can do to make a difference.
• Promote ethics in tourism.
• Work in collaboration with other special interest groups.
• Encourage more ISTM members to be involved.
• Aim to help increase membership of ISTM.
• Promote education for example by creating webinars and information sheets for members to use.
• Climate change and its impact. This is a huge topic and the responsibility of all of us.

Sheila Mackell, MD, FISTM

STUDENT TRAVEL ABROAD

Our Student Travel Abroad (STA) Interest Group managed to finish our collaborative study on student travelers with ISTM and the Centers for Disease Control despite COVID-19. It is currently under review by a reputable journal. The corresponding poster is available now on the CISTM18 Platform.

Travel Health-related Preparation Practices of Institutes of Higher Education and the Occurrence of Health-related Events among Undergraduate Students Studying Abroad, 2018–2021

Kristina M. Angelo, DO, MPH&T&M,1 Kailynn Ciampaglio, MPH,1 Julie Richards, DNP,2 Anjali Silva, MD,3 Catherine Ebelke, PA,4 Gerard T. Flaherty, MD, PhD,5 Gary Brunette, MD,1 Sarah Kohl, MD6

1. Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, GA, USA
2. Vaden Health Center, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA
3. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA
4. Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, USA
5. College of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences, National University of Ireland Galway, Galway, Ireland
6. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Catherine and I will send out a notification for a meeting of the STA Group very soon. During this session, Dr. Kristina Angelo of the CDC, will prevent our significant findings so stay tuned.

STA members Julie Richards and Gail Rosselot contributed to two additional posters at CISTM18 that are relevant for those of you providing services to student travelers, one addressing vaccine uptake and the other focusing on the implementation of the new scope and standards of practice for travel health nurses published by the American Nurses Association and the American Travel Health Nurses Association.

Implementing Effective Care in a University Population Based on National Routine and Travel Vaccination Recommendations

J. Richards, K. Brunacini, N. Stall, R. Tepper

Both of those are still available on the CISTM18 Platform as well.

We send our thanks to all who contributed to our successful meeting in Basel, and we look forward to catching up with everyone in New Orleans.

Julie Richards and Catherine Ebelke, Co-Chairs

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COMMITTEES

EXAM COMMITTEE

The third online exam has just taken place end of March with 96 candidates and a new exam form, and the results are pending the standard setting process which is taking place in May. The committee since January has been reviewing unused questions in the bank and the new form, and each member has been assigned a list of new questions to write before summer.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Continuing Professional Development Committee is responsible for the overall management of the CTH renewal program. As ISTM members may be aware, individuals who successfully sat for the CTH exam since 2011 are required to renew the credential every ten years. They may do so either by reporting at least 200 points of qualifying professional development activities or retaking the CTH exam.

This year individuals who sat for the CTH exam in 2013 are required to submit their renewal applications to the Secretariat by August 1. After auditing by the CPD Committee, decisions about renewals will be reported out by December 31, 2023. Full details about the renewal process, including required forms and required documentation, are available on the ISTM website.

On May 24, members of the CPD Committee met in Basel to review the CTH renewal policies and procedures and to recommend changes to the current CTH renewal program. Committee volunteers Karl Hess, Richard Dawood, Tara Lombardo, and Ken Dardick joined Chair Gail Rosselot to share their ideas for improving the CTH renewal application and audit process. In addition, CPD members who could not attend CISTM18 added their suggestions. Sincere thanks to Jeff Goad, Nelson Agudelo, Masatoki Adachi, and Androula Pavli for their contributions.

These recommendations were then shared at the ISTM Leadership Council meeting held immediately following CISTM18. In a message from the ISTM President, the Executive Board of Directors, at its meeting on 27th May, approved the following proposals of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) committee, as follows:

1. Formally propose a 5-year CTH renewal scheme
2. Explore web-based programs for collecting CTH holder professional documentation
3. Initiate the development of a survey of non-renewals and renewals
4. With the help of the Secretariat, try to recreate a list of CTH holders since 2011
5. Initiate collaboration with the PEC to create a CPD webinar explaining CPD policies and procedures
6. Ask the Secretariat to send out in June 2023 a general announcement that individuals who earned the CTH credential in 2013 must submit their professional development tracker by August 1, 2023

CPD Members have already started to act on these various proposals since returning from CISTM18. In the coming months, we will keep the ISTM membership apprised of our progress as we work to help CTH holders since 2011 maintain this valuable credential that speaks to quality patient care and a professional commitment to the specialty of travel medicine.

As chair, I want to sincerely thank all CPD members for their contributions to the CTH renewal program throughout 2021-2022. I also want to thank everyone responsible for the successful meeting in Basel. It was great to be together in the same room again with friends and colleagues from around the world.

Gail Rosselot
Continuing Professional Development Committee Chair

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Welcome to our new leaders, Yen Bui will be taking over as chair of the Professional Educational Committee and D. Scott Smith will assist her as co-Chair. Both have extensive experience in travel medicine and professional education. They welcome your ideas and suggestions in the coming years.

The educational program of the ISTM is in full swing. Dengue remains a hot topic for travelers. To assist you in preparing your travelers, two free webinars are being offered this year. The first presented on April 12 reviewed the emergence of Dengue infections in traditionally non-endemic areas. Experts from the CDC, CDC, Santé Publique France and Monash University (Australia) shared their data and experiences with Dengue in their communities. It is available to you as a recording via Learning@ISTM.org. The second is planned for June 28th, 2023 and will address prevention via vector control measures and vaccination. We thank Takeda for providing an unrestricted grant which allows us to share these webinars without charge to you and your colleagues.

We are completing a thorough update of the teaching slides. They should be ready for use late summer 2023. A special thanks to D. Scott Smith, Mary Louise Scully and Yen Bui for their dedication and attention to detail in updating the slides.

A third iteration of the online Travel Medicine Review and Update Course was offered in February 2023. We are grateful to Elizabeth Talbot, Course Director for the last 3 years, and Lin Chen for their invaluable help. If you were unable to attend live you may enroll via Learning@ISTM.org to view the recorded lectures and panel discussions. To recommend changes to the course or have any comments, please reach out to Sarah (sarah@ISTM.org) or Fiona (Fiona.Genasi@gmail.com) or Sarah

Sarah Kohl, Professional Education Committee, Immediate Past Chair

For the first time since 2018 the Committee will be meeting in person in September in Atlanta, to review the newly written questions and also the questions flagged in the last three exams. Recently one member has stepped down after many years working with us and two new members have been accepted on the Committee, who need to learn the ropes and which we are looking forward meeting in person, hopefully in September.

Dr Pierre Landry
Chair of ISTM Exam Committee
PUBLICATIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The POC has a wide remit within the Society and as we approached CISTM18, the Publications Oversight Committee (POC) was busy on several fronts.

Thanks to the leadership of Rebecca Acosta, the website task force continues to make good progress. This is a major undertaking and ongoing work with the POC contributing to the process with constructive suggestions when invited.

The Journal of Travel Medicine (JTM) Editor-in-Chief, Anneles Wilder-Smith, together with her editors and editorial board, continue to forge ahead in reviewing and selecting excellent manuscripts for publication, as continually demonstrated by the JTM impact factor. Following the success of the “Members’ Choice Article Awards” for CISTM17 the suggestion to repeat it for CISTM18 was accepted by the POC.

Thank you to the publishers at Oxford University Press (OUP) who collated the (long) list of nominations to be considered for the JTM awards 2023. The POC worked tirelessly to select articles and shortlist their choices in each of the four categories: Original articles, Perspective, Review and Clinical Pearls. This was a major undertaking and my thanks to everyone on the committee for their diligence in completing this task. The shortlist was based on rigorous quality criteria, with the diversity of the publications often challenging agreement, depending on geographical location, areas of interest and areas of practice. A good reason for using evidence-based peer-reviewed resources to support everyday practice wherever we are. The Secretariat invited the membership to select their top choice in each category and hopefully everyone enjoyed reading these articles and voted in the ‘Members’ Choice Article Awards’ by selecting their top choices. The winners were declared at the CISTM18 Membership Assembly in Basel. Look out for the JTM Awards at CISTM19 and consider voting for your top choices to support and recognise the authors.

The Travel Medicine News (TMN) Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Pietroski and Assistant Editor Luis Furuya Kanamori, continue to keep the membership informed through the magazine notices. We are encouraged to see increasing use and engagement on the TravelMed Listserv which is ably managed and monitored by Nancy. Many of the discussions and varied topics have been both excellent and educational.

Grateful thanks to all my POC colleagues and welcome to Caroline Nash from Australia who recently joined us. The knowledge and expertise within the POC remain a valuable asset to the Society so if you are interested in this work, please reach out and consider joining us.

Finally on behalf of all of us on the POC, thank you to the Secretariat for their support. We also thank the outgoing JTM Executive Board for their support and wish the incoming President Gerard Fisherty, our erstwhile POC chair, and his new EB all best wishes for their term of office.

Sandra Grieve,
Chair, Publications Oversight Committee

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS COMMITTEE

Special Recognitions Committee

Congratulations to 2022-2023 ISTM Fellows!

ISTM Fellows are recognized leaders in the field of travel medicine and ISTM. As such, ISTM Fellows must have maintained membership in the ISTM for a minimum of 5 years and have participated in service positions in the Society and meet subsequent criteria to be considered.

Masatoki Adachi
Kristina M Angelo
Hilimir Asgeirsson
Yen-Giang Bui
Ponnthep Chanithavanich
Johnathan Cohen
Karl Hess
Anu Kantele
Aisha Khatib
Mikio Kimura
Sarah Kohl
Regina LaRoque
Sheila M. Mackell
Francesca F. Norman
Nancy Piper Jens
Watcharapong Piyanaphane
Cornelli Petru Popescu
Harunor Rashid
Mauro Saio
Carsten Schade Larsen

Jenny Visser

Annelies Wilder Smith | 2022-2023 Distinguished Fellow Award Recipient

The Distinguished Fellow Membership is awarded to a Fellow of the ISTM for achievements far exceeding those necessary to become a Fellow, who demonstrates sustained excellence in the field as well as sustained service to ISTM. Annelies Wilder Smith joins Jay Keystone, and the founders of ISTM Herbert L. DuPont, Phyllis Kozarsky and Robert Steffen in receiving this singular honor.

Jane Chioudi and David Shlim | 2022-2023 Jay Keystone Award for Education

This award is bestowed to ISTM Members in good standing of ISTM, who is a Fellow or Distinguished Fellow and who demonstrates exceptional qualities as an educator in the field of travel medicine. Award Qualifications include documented educational exceptionalism in several educational areas, with more importance placed on impact in practice.

Charles Ericsson, Chair, Special Recognitions Committee

RESEARCH AWARDS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Research and Awards Committee, we would like to thank the continued support from GeoSentinel Foundation for providing funds for the 2022–2023 Research Awards. As announced during the Membership Assembly at CISTM, this year we received high quality proposals, ranging from human model studies to clinical trials, all with potential to change travel medicine practice. The following six proposals were funded:

1. The Protective Efficacy of Atovaquone/Proguanil Malaria Chemoprophylaxis Discontinued Ad-Hoc Post-Exposure in a Controlled Human Malaria Infection Model - A Double-Blinded Randomised Controlled Trial

   Martin P. Grobusch, Netherlands, Principal Investigator

2. Prochloperazine versus Placebo for the Prophylaxis of Acute Mountain Sickness

   Elan Small, United States of America, Principal Investigator

3. Yellow Fever human infection model

   Anna Roukens, Netherlands, Principal Investigator

4. Inflammatory and immunological responses in asymptomatic Sub-Saharan African migrants with imported Plasmodium falciparum infection.

   Begoña Monge Maillo, Spain, Principal Investigator

5. ISTM Professional or Interest Group Research Award

   Burden of schistosomiasis and strongyloides in Sub-Saharan African participants in the Swiss HIV Cohort Study

   Cornelia Staehelin, Switzerland, Principal Investigator

Original Articles #1


Review Articles #1

Wylar, B. A.*, Young H. M., Hartmann, S.W. and Cahill J.D. Risk of deaths due to injuries in travellers: a systematic review. Journal of Travel Medicine, 29 (5), July 2022, taac074. https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/taac074

Perspective Articles #1


Clinical Pearls #1


JOURNAL OF TRAVEL MEDICINE AWARDS 2023

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Perspective Articles #1


Clinical Pearls #1

Committee

Continued from previous page

6. Low- and middle-income country (LMIC) Research Award
   - Intestinal Parasite Infections and Related Risk Factors in Expatriate and Local Primary School Children in Bali, Indonesia
   - Richard Christian Suteja, Indonesia, Principal Investigator

Many thanks to the committee members listed below for their tireless work and engagement throughout the review process.

Chair, Luis Furuya Kanamori, Australia
Co-Chair, Stefan Hagmann, United States of America
Jose Flores, Mexico
Katherine Gibney, Australia
Susan Hills, United States of America
Eyal Leshem, Israel
Sarah McGuinness, Australia
Francesca Norman, Spain
Kyle Petersen, United States of America
Harunor Rashid, Australia
Larry Selkow, United States of America
Dawd Siraj, United States of America
Haibo Wang, China
Mary Wilson, United States of America

Luis Furuya Kanamori
Research Awards Committee Chair

Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
Travel Health Nursing: career and competence development.

The 4th edition of the clinical professional resource for nurses in travel health practice was published in May 2023. Building on previous editions, this ground-breaking updated guidance reflects on the ever-changing complexity of delivering advice and care to travelers from the UK. Written by four travel health specialist nurses (listed alphabetically), the document is aimed at nurses but is applicable to all disciplines practicing in the field.

The guidance has been updated and expanded, emphasizing the importance of education and training in travel health, and working within the parameters of one’s own competence level. This document has inspired nurses from other countries to adopt the guidance and adapt it to practice for their own needs. The authors are particularly proud of this achievement and hope that others will consider producing a similar document for their practitioners. Being aware of the research and evidence in travel medicine is valuable as it transfers that knowledge and applying it to everyday practice.

At CISTM18 in Basel, the document was presented as a Poster and described in Workshop 4: Nurses travel health practice, skills and training and competency frameworks and accreditation.

As technology moves on, this edition is only available online. It is accessible and can be downloaded through the RCN website. Non-members may need to register (free) to access the document.

The Travel Medicine Community sends Greetings of the Season and best wishes for 2023. I will keep my hopes high for 2023. Thank you for your support and optimum advice and care to travelers from the UK.

P.O.C Meeting

Details can be found on the P.O.C. website. Your attendance and participation are highly valued. I would like to start the report by thanking the committee members who have graciously agreed to replace them. I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Camilla and Nancy.

The travel medicine community sends Greetings of the Season and best wishes for 2023. I will keep my hopes high for 2023. Thank you for your support and optimum advice and care to travelers from the UK.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In the January 2022 edition of Travel Medicine News, we congratulated two of ISTM’s August Fellows, Dr Dipti Patel and nurse Jane Chiodini. Dipti and Jane were honored in the UK New Year’s Honours list of 2022.

Dr Dipti Patel, Chief Medical Officer, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Government officials and their families and to British nationals overseas. Dipti is also Director of the UK National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC).

Dipti received her award from His Majesty King Charles III at an Investiture Ceremony in Windsor Castle in January 2023.

Jane Chiodini was awarded the honour of Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for Services to Training and Development in Travel Medicine.

Jane received her award from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at an Investiture Ceremony in Windsor Castle in December 2022.

The travel medicine community sends many congratulations to Dipti, Jane, Camilla and Nancy.

Wilderness Medical Society Dian Simpkins Ice Axe Award

The Wilderness Medical Society (wms.org) announced in June that Nancy Pietroski, PharmD, NR-EMT, FAWM CTH will receive the WMS Dian Simpkins Ice Axe Award, given in recognition of outstanding service to the field of wilderness medicine and/or the Wilderness Medical Society. Nancy’s years of work for Wilderness Medicine Magazine was unanimously determined by the Awards/Nominations Committee to be significant and deserving of this recognition. Nancy and other WMS Peer Recognition Recognition Award recipients will receive their awards on July 19 during the Awards Banquet of the WMS Summer Conference in Spokane, Washington. Nancy has been writing for Wilderness Medicine Magazine since 2007, and was recently promoted to Executive Editor after serving as Senior Editor since 2014. She writes a quarterly column for the magazine on wilderness medicine pharmacology topics called BaseCamp Rx.

Jane Chiodini was awarded the honour of Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for Services to Training and Development in Travel Medicine.

Jane received her award from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at an Investiture Ceremony in Windsor Castle in December 2022.

The travel medicine community sends many congratulations to Dipti, Jane, Camilla and Nancy.
Contributions from TRAVELMED

Top Three TRAVELMED Tips
By Nancy Pietroko, TravelMed Monitor

1. Ask a Question

- If you are a frequent user of the ListServ (thank you!), then you are very familiar with the Charter, Rules, and Etiquette of TravelMed. If you are new (welcome!), you can refer to https://www.istm.org/content.asp?contentid=37.

- Things to particularly emphasize:
  - When starting a new thread (question, comment, etc.), in the “Discussion subject” of Post New Message, be as descriptive as possible. Typing “Uganda” as your question begs the question - what is it the inquirer is asking? Something about malaria prophylaxis and a drug interaction? Finding a local provider? What to do if someone is bitten by a hippo? You will receive much more timely and robust answers if you clue the ISTM community to what it is you’re asking.

2. Search previous discussion threads before you post your question.

- TravelMed has been on fire recently with extremely informative and thorough Q&A, including references to medical literature and country guidelines. But sometimes people just type their question without checking to see if it has been recently answered. Very commonly posted questions are about rabies PEP and PEP, what drugs to use for altitude prophylaxis, YF vac and older persons, YF boosters, vaccines and immunocompromising conditions/treatments. You can use the Search screen near the top of the TravelMed page and type in your term - then a screen will appear on the left side and you can limit it to Discussion Threads, or you can just do a word search on the most current page of discussions. This is very important! You may find after searching a previous discussion that it doesn’t quite answer your question, so it would be helpful when posting your question to note that you saw the discussion and you still have a question or need a clarification. See screen shots below.

3. Replying to a Post – hitting Reply All or Reply Privately depends on whether you everyone to see your response in the question thread or if you want to contact just the individual poster.

Choose Wisely!

The cost of the posts on TravelMed are related to vaccines, thus in this issue, Dr. Sarah McGuinness presents an innovative way to think about the risk-benefit of different vaccines by considering the level and duration of protection they provide. Sarah is an academic infectious diseases physician who currently holds dual positions at the Alfred Hospital (Travel Medicine Clinic) and School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. Her research focuses on improving strategies to combat preventable infections in people living in and travelling to endemic areas.

- Discussion of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) is an important component of a pre-travel consultation with any traveller. To inform this discussion, clinicians typically conduct an individual risk-benefit assessment, which considers VPD epidemiology at the travellers’ destination, risk factors for and tolerance to vaccines. If an individual risk-benefit assessment can be conducted for a single trip, or can additionally account for future prophylaxis, YF vax and older persons, YF boosters, vaccines and immunocompromising conditions/treatments. You can use the Search screen near the top of the TravelMed page and type in your term - then a screen will appear on the left side and you can limit it to Discussion Threads, or you can just do a word search on the most current page of discussions. This is very important! You may find after searching a previous discussion that it doesn’t quite answer your question, so it would be helpful when posting your question to note that you saw the discussion and you still have a question or need a clarification. See screen shots below.

- What are their expected activities?

- Where are they going? Rabies is not a problem in Western Europe, whereas hospitalisation and death). For some countries, the risk of rabies in animals may also be an important public health impacts to consider (such as the risk of spreading the disease on return, e.g. with measles or hepatitis A). Clinicians may be familiar with another figure from a paper by Steffen and Connor that charts VPD severity against incidence, but they might not be aware that some VPDs with low incidence have potential for high impact (such as Japanese encephalitis and rabies).

- What is the likely lifetime travel risk?

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FIGURE 1. Vaccine level of protection* vs. duration of protection in healthy adults

- Rabies (2-dose)
- Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine
- Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine: Inactivated Japanese encephalitis vaccine; Typhim Vi: inactivated typhoid vaccine; Vivotif, oral typhoid vaccine
- Influenza
- Meningococcal ACWY
- Yellow fever
- Hepatitis A

*Point estimates of efficacy/effectiveness representing the middle of ranges described in data sources (7,8).

References