



# Eurosurveillance

Europe's journal on infectious disease epidemiology, prevention and control



Editorial Board



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## Associate editors

Magnus Boman, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden

Magnus Boman is a professor in Intelligent Software Services and an expert in artificial intelligence, data science and statistical learning theory. He is currently building learning machines for analysing patient behaviour in a clinical flow of Internet-based psychiatry patients. Over the last dozen or so years, Boman worked as a computational epidemiologist in Sweden and the United Arab Emirates, chiefly with influenza-like illnesses. He spent 4 years as a foresighter for the European Commission, where he analysed the role of information technology cross-industry and over many areas, including active healthy ageing and precision medicine.



## Mike Catchpole, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

Mike Catchpole is a medical doctor who has worked in infectious disease epidemiology and response at national and international levels since 1991. He is Chief Scientist at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Prior to that, he was Director of Public Health England's national Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control, and was the UK member of the ECDC Advisory Forum from 2007 until 2014.



He has over 20 years' experience of management of communicable disease surveillance and response, including leadership of the national epidemiological response to the 2009 influenza A(H1N1) pandemic in England, leading the public health follow-up of those exposed to the terrorist bombings in London in 2005, and developing and managing the surveillance systems for the 2012 London Olympics, as well as the surveillance systems that were instrumental in driving the dramatic reductions in MRSA and *C.difficile* in England.

His primary research interests have included HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, the wider health effects of major incidents and public health information systems development. He has also been a member of the steering groups for a number of European projects, and chaired the Steering Committee of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) from 2001 to 2006.

He has academic appointments as a visiting professor at Imperial College London and City University London.

## Christian Drosten, Charité Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Christian Drosten (born 1972, Lingen, Germany) is a physician by training, board certified in virology, medical microbiology and infection epidemiology. He started his professional career at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, where he discovered the unknown virus causing severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and developed a diagnostic test that enabled public health authorities worldwide to stop a beginning pandemic.



In 2007, at age 34, he became the founding director of the Institute of Virology at University of Bonn Medical Centre, now one of the most well-known places for research on emerging viruses in Germany. His group has several active research projects in Africa and Latin America. In March 2017 he took over the Chair of Virology at Charité, Berlin, where he heads the Institute of Virology on Campus Mitte.

Drosten has co-authored more than 300 peer-reviewed papers and coordinated research consortia funded by the European Union, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the German Ministry of Research. He is a member of the internal advisory board of the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) and the speaker of the German National Research Network for Zoonotic Infections. He received the German Federal Cross of Merit for his work to counter the SARS epidemic. As a professor at one of the largest university medical centres in Europe, he is intensely engaged in collaborative clinical and basic research to limit the threat of emerging infections and pandemics.

## Karl Ekdahl, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

Karl Ekdahl is a medical doctor and a specialist in infectious diseases. He has a PhD in Infectious Diseases from Lund University, Sweden, a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from Prince Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, and a master's degree in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



In 1999 he became Associate Professor and in 2007 Adjunct Professor in Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. In his academic career he has authored some 100 scientific articles and one book, and has tutored 10 PhD students. Between 2007 and 2011 he was the Editor-in-Chief of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)-published scientific journal *Eurosurveillance*.

After some years as an infectious disease specialist, Professor Ekdahl entered the area of communicable disease prevention and control in 1995. Since then, he has worked at regional, national and international levels, and between 2001 and 2005 he held the position of Deputy State Epidemiologist for Sweden. He has participated in many international networks: an HIV surveillance project in China, and was responsible for Swedish cooperation with Russia and the Baltic Republics on communicable disease control from 1998 to 2000. In March 2005, Professor Ekdahl was the first expert to join ECDC.

Within ECDC, he has been Strategic Adviser to the Director (2005–07) and Head of the Health Communication Unit (2007–10). From February to April 2010, Professor Ekdahl was the Centre's Acting Director, from June 2010 he was the Head of the Communication and Country Cooperation Unit and since April 2011 he is the Head of the Public Health Capacity and Communication Unit.

## Johan Giesecke, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Johan Giesecke trained as an infectious disease clinician in the 1980s, and from working with AIDS patients became interested in the epidemiology of infectious diseases. He was State Epidemiologist for Sweden (1995–05) and the first Chief Scientist of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (2005–14). In 2000 he led the group working on the revision of the International Health Regulations at the World Health Organization in Geneva.



Professor Giesecke has written a textbook on infectious disease epidemiology, and now teaches on this subject as professor emeritus at the Karolinska Institute Medical University.



## David Heymann, Public Health England and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom

David Heymann is currently Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Head of the Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House, London. From 2012 to March 2017 he was chairman of Public Health England, United Kingdom (UK). Previously, he was Executive Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Communicable Diseases Cluster, during which he headed the global response to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and prior to that he was director for the WHO programme on Emerging and other Communicable Diseases.



Earlier experiences at WHO include as chief of research activities in the WHO global programme on AIDS. Before joining WHO he worked for 13 years as a medical epidemiologist in sub-Saharan Africa, on assignment from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he participated in the first and second outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever and supported ministries of health in research aimed at better control of malaria, measles, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Prior to joining the CDC, he worked in India for 2 years as a medical epidemiologist in the WHO smallpox eradication programme.

He is an elected fellow of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (United States) and the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK), and has been awarded several public health awards that have provided funding for the establishment of an ongoing mentorship programme at the International Association of Public Health Institutes (IANPHI). In 2009, he was appointed an honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for service to global public health.

## Irena Klavs, National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dr Irena Klavs is a medical epidemiologist working in the area of surveillance, research, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Currently she serves as a head of the HIV, STIs and hepatitis group and as a head of the Healthcare-associated infections group in the Communicable Disease Centre at the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia. She is a member of the National AIDS Committee, a member of the National Committee for Prevention and Control of Healthcare-Associated Infections at the Ministry of Health and a member of the HIV, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis Think Tank at the European Commission.



She has been a principal investigator for several Slovenian national surveys, including Sexual attitudes, behaviour and health survey (2000) and National healthcare-associated infections survey in acute care hospitals (2011). Since 2005, she has been a member of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Advisory forum for Slovenia. Since 2008, she has been coordinating the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) at the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia, one of the EPIET training sites. Currently she is Associated Professor at the Department of Public Health at the Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the University of London. Dr Klavs graduated from the Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, and has a MSc in Epidemiology and a PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London.



Karl Kristinsson, Landspítali University Hospital and University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland

Karl Kristinsson graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Iceland and received specialist training in Clinical Microbiology in the United Kingdom at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield and Northern General Hospital, Sheffield. Following the membership examination from the Royal College of Pathologists (MRCPath), he is now a fellow, FRCPath. He has a PhD from Sheffield University



on Coagulase Negative Staphylococci and Foreign Body Associated Infections. He was a Research Fellow at Cologne University, Hygiene Institut, in 1988; since this time, he has worked as a consultant at the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, Landspítali, University Hospital and since 1999 he has been head of the laboratory.

From 1988, Professor Kristinsson was an associate professor in clinical microbiology, University of Iceland, and has been a full professor since 2000. He has been a National Microbiology Focal Point and Antimicrobial Resistance Focal Point for Iceland at the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) since the Centre's founding. In addition, he is an Associate editor for *Eurosurveillance* and is on the editorial board of *Infectious Diseases* (formerly *Scandinavian Journal of Infectious Diseases*). Professor Kristinsson was also President of the Nordic Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (2010–12) and Vice chairman of the Communicable Disease Committee for Iceland.

His research has mainly focused on pneumococci, pneumococcal infections, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, streptococcal infections, *Staphylococcus aureus* and staphylococcal infections and meningococci, with an emphasis on antimicrobial resistance, molecular epidemiology and pathogenicity. Current studies include a longitudinal study on the effects of pneumococcal vaccination on the molecular epidemiology of pneumococci and epidemiology of pneumococcal infections. Also, a molecular study on macrolide resistance in *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

Nerija Kupreviciene, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania,  
Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

Dr Nerija Kupreviciene is an epidemiologist from Lithuania with broad experience and skills in the field of communicable disease epidemiology, which come from her previous and current positions at the Lithuanian Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the State Public Health Service under the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Health and Vilnius University. She has been co-author of the national immunisation programmes in Lithuania. She is a lecturer at Vilnius University and has the scientific interest of vaccination, VPD and behavioural models.



Dr Kupreviciene has more than 20 years of experience in the areas of surveillance and control of communicable diseases, in particular VPD (such as diphtheria, tetanus, etc.), invasive bacterial infections (meningococcal, pneumococcal infections), influenza, monitoring and investigation of adverse events after immunisation and the implementation of the national immunisation programme.

## Daniel Lévy-Bruhl, Santé publique France, Paris, France

Daniel Lévy-Bruhl is a medical epidemiologist with a Master in Public Health. After working as a freelance consultant for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), mainly for the Expanded Program on Immunisation and the Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases Program, he joined the Communicable Diseases and Immunisation Unit of the International Children's Center in Paris in 1986. His main activities consisted of training activities in epidemiology applied to vaccination, conducting operational research and providing expertise regarding vaccination programs to the Ministries of Health of developing countries.



In 1997, he joined the French National Institute for Public Health Surveillance (now Santé publique France), where he is coordinating, within the Infectious Diseases Direction, the unit in charge of surveillance activities and expertise regarding vaccine-preventable diseases. The main function of this unit is to monitor the epidemiological impact of the vaccination activities carried out through the National Immunisation Program. The analysis of surveillance and coverage data serves to make recommendations to the Ministry of Health, within the Technical Advisory Board on Immunisation, regarding needed changes in the schedule or in its level of implementation. When a new vaccine is granted a licence, ad hoc analysis is carried out (disease burden studies, mathematical modelling and economic evaluation) to assess the relevancy of its integration in the schedule. The unit is also actively contributing its expertise to the Ministry of Health regarding large-scale health threat control measures (e.g. smallpox, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), pandemic influenza). Recently, the scope of the unit has been extended to cover surveillance and expertise activities related to non-vaccine-preventable respiratory infections.

Jacob Moran-Gilad, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel

Jacob Moran-Gilad is a board-certified consultant clinical microbiologist and public health / medical epidemiologist. He is the principal investigator of the MAGICAL group (Microbiology, Advanced Genomics and Infection Control Application Laboratory) at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University (BGU). His current research involves the development and validation of laboratory methods for rapid diagnosis of infectious diseases, the study of the molecular epidemiology of various pathogens of public health interest and the integration and application of new methods in health protection, using advanced genomics and metagenomics. He is also involved in research on public health microbiology policy and planning, and in exploring contemporary approaches for linking up medical epidemiology and cutting-edge microbiology to inform public health strategy.



As a senior consultant to Israeli Ministry of Health, he has been focusing on national strategy and policy-making in public health microbiology. In this capacity, he is the Chair of the National Advisory Committee for Microbiology and involved in several national infectious disease programmes, and in emergency preparedness and response. Professor Moran-Gilad is also the lead Clinical Microbiologist at Soroka University Medical Center, a 1,200-bed tertiary-care regional medical centre in Southern Israel and Scientific Director of the institutional bio-bank. At international level, Professor Moran-Gilad is the immediate-past Chairperson of the ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), member of the board of the ESCMID Study Group for Legionella Infections (ESGLI) responsible for microbiology and genomics and Chair of the International Working Group for whole genome sequencing of Legionella. Recently, he was appointed as the Deputy Programme Director and the designate Programme Director of ECCMID, the world's leading conference on microbiology and infection.

Jacob has published significantly in his areas of expertise and is a principal- or co-investigator in many funded research projects nationally and internationally, including the

European Union Horizon 2020 and the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR), and the Swiss National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) framework.

Chantal Reusken, Centre for Infectious Disease Control of the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven, the Netherlands

Chantal Reusken works as Expert Virology at the Centre for Infectious Disease Control of the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in Bilthoven. She has an academic appointment at the Viroscience department at Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam. Dr Reusken has worked in the field of virology since 1992, with a focus on the Public Health perspective since 2005. She holds a PhD from Leiden University.



Dr Reusken worked for 5 years as a group leader at Public Health Virology in Rotterdam and before that for 9 years at the Netherlands Centre for Infectious Disease Control, the last 3 years of which she was head of the unit for rare and emerging viral diseases and laboratory response at the RIVM. She is coordinator of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)-funded European expert laboratory network for emerging viral diseases (EVD-LabNet). Furthermore, Dr Reusken regularly serves as an expert on international committees and consultant groups of organizations such as ECDC, United Nations Children's Fund, Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and the World Health Organization.

Her activities focus on emerging viral disease laboratory preparedness and response; as such, she works at the research-diagnostics interphase. She is passionate about and actively involved in global laboratory capacity and capability building as a key activity for successful Public Health and clinical preparedness and response to emerging viruses. Her research has a focus on pathogens moving at the animal-human interphase like arboviruses, rodent-borne viruses, hemorrhagic fever viruses and MERS-CoV. She has been involved in numerous European projects as partner and/or task leader. She has more than 130 international peer-reviewed publications, including some hallmark papers on the epidemiology of MERS-CoV,



the zoonotic potential of Schmallenberg virus and laboratory preparedness and response research.

Panayotis T. Tassios, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens,  
Athens, Greece

Panayotis T. Tassios was born in 1967 in Athens, Greece. He studied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the United Kingdom, Education in Greece and currently works as Associate Professor in Molecular Microbiology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His research focuses on the molecular typing of bacterial strains and their resistance mechanisms to antimicrobial drugs, in order to assist infection surveillance, management and control.



Since 1990, he has co-authored over 75 original articles in peer-reviewed journals. Since 1997, he has been active in more than 10 international research projects and networks, their subjects covering both community-acquired and healthcare-associated infections; served as Chairperson and/or Secretary in two study groups (Epidemiological Markers and Food- and Water-borne Infections) of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID); and sat on the Scientific and Organising Committees of several international scientific conferences (e.g. European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) from 2007 to 2016 and International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM) in 2009 and 2010).

His interest in the collaborative nature of scientific research and the public health aspect of infectious diseases, together with his love of education and group work, have nurtured his continuing practice in teaching—at undergraduate, postgraduate and lifelong levels—both in Greece and at international workshops, seminars and conferences relating to both molecular microbiology and scientific writing. He has been an Associate editor of *Eurosurveillance* since 2007, has held a similar position at *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* since 2003 and has been reviewing manuscripts for over 10 journals since 2000.

## Hélène Therre, Santé publique France, Paris, France

Hélène Therre holds a PhD in Biology (Option Reproduction) obtained in 1988 from the University Paris VI, France and has studied as a science journalist at University Paris VI. After a few years working as an independent science journalist for various French and European scientific journals and agencies, she joined the team of *Biofutur*, a French European biotechnology magazine, in 1993.



In 1998, she joined the European Center for AIDS Surveillance and then the French National Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS) as editor-in-chief of *Eurosurveillance* monthly. She participated in the process leading to the listing of *Eurosurveillance* in MedLine.

At the time of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's creation and *Eurosurveillance*'s migration to ECDC in 2007, she became Associate editor of the journal, while being in charge of the scientific promotion within the Scientific Department of InVS. Since the creation of Santé publique France (merger of InVS and the French National Institute for Prevention and Health Education (Inpes)), she has been responsible for the scientific promotion unit within the Communications Division. Dr Therre worked on guidelines related to scientific publication and participated in working groups on Open Access, social inequalities in health and prospective studies by 2030. She is also a member of the editorial team of the French Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin (BEH) and *Santé en Action*, a French journal of prevention and health promotion.

## Henriette de Valk, Santé publique France, Paris, France

Dr Henriette de Valk is a medical epidemiologist at the French National Public Health Agency (Santé Publique France). As the head of the Foodborne, Vectorborne and Zoonotic Infections Unit she is in charge of surveillance, outbreak investigations and applied research. Dr de Valk is actively involved in European networking activities for surveillance of infectious diseases, as a national representative in supranational surveillance networks, as a member of the coordination group of the Vectorborne and Emerging Diseases network of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and as supervisor in the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training. She recently worked on guidelines for surveillance of emerging arboviruses, on the disease burden of foodborne intestinal infectious diseases and on whole genome sequencing for surveillance. She is serving on the national committee nominating the National Reference Centres (laboratories) for infectious agents in France and in Belgium.



Dr de Valk graduated from the University of Leyden in the Netherlands, the London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom and the Institut for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium and is an alumnus of The European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training. Prior to coming to the Santé Publique France she worked for the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) in emergency relief programmes in Sudan, Uganda and Mali, for the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Cameroon and for the World Health Organization in Indonesia at the control programmes for diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections.

## Sylvie van der Werf, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Sylvie van der Werf is a Professor at the University Paris Diderot, where she is responsible for a master's program in Immunology, microbiology, virology and infectious diseases. She is the Head of the Molecular Genetics of RNA Viruses Unit at the Institut Pasteur, as well as the Director of the coordinating centre of the National Reference Centre for Respiratory Viruses, the World Health Organization (WHO) National Influenza Centre (Northern-France) and the WHO H5 Reference Laboratory. Furthermore, she is the Director of the department of Infectiology-Microbiology of the Doctoral School Bio-Sorbonne Paris Cité.



Professor van der Werf is a member of several professional bodies and societies: American Society of Microbiology, Society for General Microbiology, European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Viruses and the European Scientific Working Group on Influenza. She is regularly requested to serve as an expert on various committees of international organizations, such as the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Professor van der Werf's research interests have been focused on respiratory viruses since 1996, particularly dealing with molecular epidemiology and molecular genetics, aimed at the identification of determinants of influenza virus evolution, species specificity and sensitivity to antivirals. She is the author of over 160 scientific papers. She was awarded the Georges Zermatti prize in 2006 and was nominated 'Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques' in 2009.

## Editorial Advisors

Albania: Alban Ylli, Department of Epidemiology and Health Systems, Institute of Public Health, Tirana

Dr Alban Ylli is a health professional with experience in research methods and health prevention strategies. He has studied medicine in Tirana, has achieved a Master in Epidemiology of Health Services by Tor Vergata University in Rome and has studied prevention of diseases in Geneva and Oxford Universities for 2 years. He has a PhD and an Associate Professor title from Tirana Medical University.



Dr Ylli was deputy director of the National Institute of Public Health of Albania for 4 years, later serving as the executive director for 3 years. He has been directly involved in the investigation and management of large country epidemics such as cholera (1993), polio (1996) and the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Dr Alban Ylli has worked as part of national expert bodies in the fields of vaccination, surveillance of infectious diseases and cancer control. He now teaches health policies and epidemiology in the Faculty of Medicine in Tirana, and heads the sector of health policy research in the department of epidemiology and health systems. Dr Ylli is National Focal Point for Non-communicable Diseases in Albania and member of the board of the *Albanian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences*. His research experience encompasses fields such as surveillance and health information systems, ageing, cancer screening and drug abuse, health determinants and inequalities, and public health training.



## Austria: Maria Paulke-Korinek, Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs, Vienna

Maria Paulke-Korinek graduated from the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, in 2005 and afterwards was a resident physician at the Department of Specific Prophylaxis & Tropical Medicine, Medical University Vienna, in the working group 'Epidemiology and Travel Medicine'. Her focus was on the epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases, the evaluation of vaccination recommendations and the effects of vaccination programs. She was also working in numerous clinical trials investigating vaccines, as well as seroprevalence studies evaluating protection after vaccinations, e.g. with hexavalent paediatric vaccines, tick-borne encephalitis vaccines, pandemic vaccines and vaccines against Japanese Encephalitis.



After her diploma in tropical medicine from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany in 2010, she became a specialist for specific prophylaxis and tropical medicine accredited by the Austrian Medical Association. Maria finished her PhD studies at the Medical University Vienna in 2011, with her doctoral thesis on 'Vaccination recommendations and epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases in Austria'. She habilitated in 2014, investigating the effects of the rotavirus national immunization program in Austria. Since April 2015, she has been the head of the Department for Vaccines at the Austrian Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs. She has published 25 articles in peer-reviewed journals, contributed to eight reviews and book chapters and has reviewed articles for 10 scientific journals.

## Belgium: Tinne Lernout, Scientific Institute of Public Health, Brussels

Tinne Lernout is a medical doctor with a specialization in tropical medicine and a master's degree in Public Health. She started her career as a general practitioner in Belgium. Between 1997 and 2000, she worked for NGOs (Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders and Concern Worldwide) in public health development projects in Rwanda. Since 2002, she has been working as an epidemiologist in different institutions, namely the Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP) in Belgium, the French Institute of Public Health (InVS/Santé publique France) in Mayotte, a French overseas department, and the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccinations at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.



She has experience in surveillance, field epidemiological investigations and outbreak control in the area of infectious diseases, mainly in vaccine-preventable, vector-borne and zoonotic diseases. She has also been involved in the planning, implementation and scientific validation of several studies, including vaccination coverage surveys and seroprevalence studies. She is currently employed as an epidemiologist at the WIV-ISP, where she is in charge of the coordination of the Environmental related infectious diseases unit, with a special focus on tick-borne diseases.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina: Nina Rodić Vukmir, Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska, Banja Luka

Dr Nina Rodić Vukmir is a specialist in epidemiology working in the Public Health Institute in the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a Senior Teaching Assistant at the Department of Epidemiology, Medical Faculty Banja Luka, University of Banja Luka. She graduated from the Medical Faculty, University of Banja Luka, in 2003. She has received her master's degree in 2013 in the area of tuberculosis and her PhD degree in 2017 with the thesis entitled 'Incidence of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections and Influenza-like Illnesses in Republic of Srpska'. She has been coordinator in the CDC Project Avian and Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Control and Coordinator Epidemiologist in the Project Strengthening of DOTS Strategy and Improving National Tuberculosis Programme, Including Multidrug Resistant and Infection Control in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, she was a member of the WHO Working Group on measuring qualitative indicators of influenza. She has received WHO scholarship for special influenza programme in the Sienna University in 2016.



She is a chairperson of the Commission on Measles and CRV Elimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina, TESSy Focal Point for Republic of Srpska, Focal Point for communicable diseases surveillance in the SEEHN. She is a member on behalf of Republic of Srpska in the MediPIET (Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training). During the Ebola epidemic Dr Rodic Vukmir was the scientific coordinator of the national preparedness and response.

Her area of expertise includes: surveillance, emerging diseases, respiratory diseases, vector-borne diseases and control of communicable diseases.

## Bulgaria: Iva Christova, National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia

Dr Iva Christova is Professor of Microbiology at the National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases in Sofia. She is a specialist in vector-borne disease epidemiology, laboratory diagnosis and clinical manifestations. For many years she worked on Lyme borreliosis, human granulocytic anaplasmosis, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, West Nile fever and emerging vector-borne infections, as well as leptospirosis and listeriosis. The main goals were optimizing diagnostics and elucidation of ecology, epidemiology and immunology. As a visiting researcher, she has done scientific work in Germany, The Netherlands and the United States.



At present, she is the Bulgarian National Microbiology Focal Point.

## Croatia: Sanja Kurečić Filipović, Croatian National Institute of Public Health, Zagreb

Sanja Kurečić Filipović, MD, PhD graduated from the Medical School, University of Zagreb in 1995. From 1996 to 1998 she worked as an intern. From 1998 to 2007 Sanja worked in the pharmaceutical industry, holding different positions within the medical department, ending as a Medical and Regulatory Manager responsible for medical activities in Croatia and neighbouring countries. She joined the Croatian Institute of Public Health (CIPH) in 2007 as an epidemiologist.



Currently Sanja holds a position as Head of the Department for Communicable Disease Surveillance at CIPH. She has received a master's degree in Natural Sciences, Biomedicine and in 2016 she received a PhD degree in epidemiology at the Medical School, University of Zagreb. Sanja has been working on several projects, from those involving mainly vaccination to those related to the surveillance of communicable diseases. She is a member of the Croatian Medical Chamber, a member of the Croatian National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) and a member of the Advisory Forum of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Sanja attended several international training courses related to clinical trials, epidemiology, and vaccination. In 2019 she finished the Advanced Course of Vaccinology.

## Cyprus: Maria Koliou, Directorate of Medical and Public Health Services, Nicosia

Dr Maria Koliou has worked in Cyprus at the Government Health Services since 1991, as a Consultant in Paediatrics and Infectious Diseases.

Since 2011, she has also worked at the Unit for Surveillance and Control of Communicable diseases of the Medical and Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health, where she is the National coordinator and also the National Focal Point (NFP) for Vaccine-preventable diseases, Preparedness and Response, Influenza, Public Health Training, Vector-borne diseases and Food- and waterborne diseases, as well as alternate to the NFP for Threat detection and Zoonoses.



During the Ebola epidemic, Dr Koliou was the scientific coordinator of the National committee coordinating Cyprus' preparedness and response to the epidemic.

For the last 4 years she has been awarded the title of Associate Professor at St George's, University of London Medical Program in Cyprus. She has published more than 30 articles in international scientific journals.

Dr Koliou's research interests include zoonoses, mainly those endemic in the Mediterranean basin; the immunology, pathogenesis and resistance of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*; the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance in general and the management and prevention of hospital-acquired infections.



## Czech Republic: Jan Kynčl, National Institute of Public Health, Prague

Jan Kynčl has been based at the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, National Institute of Public Health in Prague since 1998, and currently serves as its Head. He received his Diploma MD and PhD degree in preventive medicine from the Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague and postgraduate diploma in public health and epidemiology from the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education in Prague.



He is a member of the European Influenza Surveillance Network (EISN, formerly EISS) and alternate member of the European Commission Health Security Committee, where he represents the Czech Republic. He is also a member of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Advisory Forum.

In the Czech Republic, he holds a number of positions in public health and epidemiology. He is a member of the Central Epidemiological Committee and a member of the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory Committee for Epidemiology. Within the Czech Medical Society of J.E. Purkyne, he is a member of the executive board of the Czech Vaccinological Society, as well as a member of the executive board of the Society for Epidemiology and Microbiology. Since 2007, he has been a part-time senior lecturer at the Department of Epidemiology, Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague. He is the author of more than 50 papers and one monograph.

## Denmark: Peter Henrik Andersen, Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen

Peter Henrik Andersen was trained as a physician and in public health and holds a specialist diploma in both fields. He has been working in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention at Statens Serum Institut since 2000, and as a senior medical officer since 2004.



He is the editor of the national epidemiological bulletin EPI-NEWS, and has a special interest in the field of vaccine-preventable diseases. In this capacity, he is an expert member of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) under the Danish Health Authority and is leading the Vaccination Committee at Statens Serum Institut.

He is responsible for updating national guidelines for preventing infectious diseases in travellers and is leading the call centre in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention, giving oral and written advice to healthcare personnel on the use of vaccines, as well as in the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

Parallel to his work in infectious diseases epidemiology and public health, he has kept a link to the clinical field, and is currently a part-time consultant at the emergency department of a major Copenhagen hospital.

Finland: Outi Lyytikäinen, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki

Outi Lyytikäinen is trained in clinical infectious diseases and is a graduate of the European Program for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), assigned to Robert Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany (1995–97). She is currently the deputy head of the unit of Epidemiologic Surveillance and Response at the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), where she has led the Finnish National Hospital Infection Program (SIRO) since 1998. In the unit she also leads the training and communication activities. Her research interests include healthcare-associated infections, invasive bacterial infections and antimicrobial resistance. She has published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals.



## Germany: Jamela Seedat, Robert Koch Institute, Berlin

Dr Jamela Seedat studied medicine in Berlin and accomplished an internship in the department of paediatrics at Charité Berlin, where she had a special interest in endocrinological disorders in children and participated in an outpatient clinic. While working as an intern she also started working on her PhD thesis, which involved studies on vitamin D-receptor gene-polymorphism in connection with bone density. She completed her PhD in 1996 and continued to work in the field of occupational medicine at the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA).



Looking for a new challenge, Dr Seedat moved to South Africa, first working as a senior clinical research associate for a biopharmaceutical service company (Quintiles) and later on accepting an offer to work at the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA). During her time at MEDUNSA she worked in the department of medical microbiology and, apart from clinical work, which involved working with many patients suffering from HIV and tuberculosis, was committed to teaching medical students and participating in clinical trials.

Dr Seedat achieved a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene after a one-year course at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg South Africa.

Her next career step took her back to Germany, where she continued working as a microbiologist in the department of microbiology at the University of Kiel. She also began working in a travel clinic, using her experience gained in South Africa and the knowledge accumulated with the diploma in tropical medicine. In 2007, she passed the exam of specialisation in medical microbiology and hygiene.

Dr Seedat currently works at the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin as the editor of the *Epidemiological Bulletin*. She has been an editorial advisor for *Eurosurveillance* since 2007.

## Greece: Rengina Vorou, Hellenic Center for Diseases Control and Prevention, Athens

Rengina Vorou is a Medical Biopathologist (Microbiologist), DTM&H (Lond. 2001), PhD. She is Head of the Office for Strategic Development and Policies of the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO), Athens, Greece. She has been trained in Biopathology (Microbiology) in Greece, in Clinical Microbiology at the Leicester Royal Infirmary Clinical Microbiology and Public Health Laboratory in the United Kingdom (2000–01) and in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Sheffield Unit for Infectious Diseases (DTM&H, 2001, Royal College of Physicians). She obtained her diploma in Public Health at the National School of Public Health.



She has been employed in the Department of the Epidemiologic Surveillance and Intervention of KEELPNO since 2002 as Head of the Unit for Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and, from October 2007 to October 2008, Head of the Department of Epidemiologic Surveillance and Intervention of the same institution. She has fostered intersectoral, joint surveillance for specific zoonoses in Greece.

Dr Verou has teaching experience in graduate and post-graduate training in epidemiology, surveillance and control of communicable diseases. She has been a participant and coordinator of national and international research projects on zoonoses and national advisory bodies on vector-borne diseases. She is author and co-author of several international publications in peer-reviewed journals and numerous presentations at national and international conferences. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the Bulletin of KEELPNO and a reviewer of several international journals of public health, epidemiology and infectious diseases.

## Hungary: Ágnes Hajdu, Ministry of Human Capacities, Budapest

Dr Ágnes Hajdu is a senior advisor at the Department of Hospital Hygiene and Communicable Disease Control in the Ministry of Human Capacities in Budapest, Hungary.

She has a wide range of interests in hospital epidemiology, infection control and antimicrobial stewardship. She is responsible for coordinating the national-level surveillance of healthcare-associated *Clostridium difficile* infections, and contributes to the development and revision of national recommendations for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance in Hungary. Dr Hajdu has made significant contributions to the planning, implementation and validation of the EU point-prevalence surveys on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use in Hungary. Occasionally, she is involved in high-priority outbreak investigations in hospital settings. Currently, her work also focuses on promoting the use of health research in policy-making, as well as behaviour change interventions to improve antibiotic prescribing practices.

Her education background includes a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the University of Pécs (2004) and a specialist degree in Public Health and Preventive Medicine from the Semmelweis University. She is an alumna of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), for which she was seconded to the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo (2005–07). She served as an international ambassador of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) in 2013.

## Iceland: Gudrun Sigmundsdottir, Directorate of Health, Reykjavik

Gudrun Sigmundsdottir is a medical doctor and a specialist in infectious diseases and medical microbiology. She has a PhD in Infectious Diseases from Lund University, Sweden.

Since 2000 she has been working on surveillance of infectious diseases, prevention, preparedness and control at the Centre for Health Security and Communicable Disease Control at the Directorate of Health in Iceland, and from 2000 to 2016 she worked as a specialist in medical microbiology at the reference microbiology laboratory in Iceland.



She participates in the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) networking activities for infectious diseases, is the National Focal Point for surveillance and an alternate member of the ECDC Advisory Forum.

Her PhD was on D-arabinitol in the diagnosis of invasive *Candida* infections and she has participated in research and in publishing articles in diverse fields connected to her work at the Directorate of Health.



## Ireland: Joan O Donnell, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin

Dr Joan O Donnell is a medical doctor and Specialist in Public Health Medicine at the national centre for the surveillance of infectious diseases in Ireland (Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)). She leads the respiratory infections division of the HPSC, with responsibility for the national coordination of the surveillance of influenza, legionellosis, respiratory syncytial virus, tuberculosis and other respiratory pathogens, e.g. MERS-CoV. She has been the project coordinator of the Influenza Monitoring of Vaccine Effectiveness in Europe (IMOVE) project in Ireland since 2009.



She is a member of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) influenza, legionellosis and tuberculosis surveillance networks, the National Influenza Planning Steering Group and the influenza and legionellosis subgroups of the HPSC scientific advisory committee.

Dr O Donnell is a trainer in public health medicine with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Faculty of Public Health Medicine.

## Italy: Paola De Castro, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome

Paola de Castro has been the Director of the Publishing Unit of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Institute of Health) in Italy since 2005. She is an active supporter of science communication to different stakeholders, scientific integrity, open science, health information literacy and gender equity in research. She promotes and carries on multidisciplinary research, cooperation and training for public health, mainly focused on communication, dissemination and use of healthcare information addressed to different targets in Europe, Latin America and Africa. She takes part in and organises conferences, workshops, exhibitions, science festivals and training courses on general and specific health-related issues, addressed to both researchers and the general public, including students.



De Castro is responsible for training in communication within the CASA project in Ethiopia (2014–), is Co-Chair of Gender Policy Committee of the European Association of Science Editors, is responsible for the School-Work Alternating System at ISS, is the Italian coordinator of the E-Bug project and was the Coordinator of the EU FP7 Project NEOBELAC (2009–12), a network of academic and research institutions in Europe and Latin America involved in research and training in scientific writing and open access publishing. She was also a member of the Italian task force of the FP7 MedOAnet project (2001–13), in support of Open Access policies in Southern Europe, and has been responsible for the Dissemination Unit of the Progetto Nazionale Amianto (National Asbestos Project) financed by the Italian Ministry of Health (2013–14), as well as projects of historical heritage in public health (e.g. history of public health, preservation of scientific instruments, oral memories, pictures).

De Castro is a Council member of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE) and co-chair of the EASE Gender Policy Committee; a country representative of HIFA2015 (Health Information for All by the year 2015); a member of the European Association of Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL), the Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (Italian

Library Association, AIB) and AISA (Italian Association for the Promotion of Open Science). She is on the editorial boards of *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*, *Eurosurveillance*, *European Science Editing*, *Open Journal of Bioresources*, *Revista CONAMED*, *Rare journal*, *Notiziario dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*, *I beni storico scientifici dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*, *Dispense per la Scuola*, *Rapporti ISTISAN* and *Istisan Congressi*. A selected list of her publication is available from:

[http://www.iss.it/site/attivita/ISSWEB\\_istituto/RicercaPersonale/dettaglio.asp?idAna=1070&lang=1](http://www.iss.it/site/attivita/ISSWEB_istituto/RicercaPersonale/dettaglio.asp?idAna=1070&lang=1).

## Latvia: Dzintars Mozgis, Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Riga

Dzintars Mozgis was born in Auce, Latvia on 14 July 1958.

He graduated from the Riga Medical Institute faculty of paediatrics in 1982 as a medical doctor and started work as a paediatrician. After postgraduate training in paediatric surgery in 1987, he worked at University Children's Hospital as a paediatric surgeon. In 1990 he visited and practiced at the Moscow Research Institute of Paediatrics and Paediatric Surgery; in 1992 at the University Hospital



Eppendorf, Hamburg; in 1993 at the University Hospital Benjamin Franklin, Steglitz, Berlin and Rudolf-Virchow-Kinderkrankenhaus, Wedding, Berlin. In 1994 and 1995 he took part in in-service training courses in healthcare management held by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA). From 1995 to 2010 he was the CEO of the University Children's Hospital in Riga.

Dr Mozgis completed his doctoral studies in 2002 and got a PhD in 2004; in addition, he worked part-time in the Riga Stradiņš University department for Public Health and Epidemiology as a lecturer from 2001, assistant professor from 2005 and associate professor from 2009. From 2013 to present he has been the Deputy Director for epidemiological safety and development in the Centre for Diseases Prevention and Control, Latvia. He has about 50 publications. His recent interests are related to antimicrobial resistance, healthcare and public health management, child injuries and medical history.

Luxembourg: Thérèse Staub, Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg,  
Luxembourg City

Thérèse Staub is a medical doctor who studied medicine at the University of Strasbourg in France, where she also specialised in internal medicine and infectious diseases. She has worked in the unit of Infectious Diseases in the Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg since 1997. She is in charge of the Infection Control Unit since 2011. She is President of the Conseil Supérieur des Maladies Infectieuses of Luxembourg.



Malta: Tanya Melillo Fenech, Superintendence of Public Health,  
Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care, Msida

Tanya Melillo is a medical doctor with a Masters in Health Services Management/Public Health and a PhD in Public Health. She has been heading the infectious disease prevention and control unit in Malta for the past 9 years. She is a lecturer at the University of Malta and lectures on disaster management, health management and infectious diseases. She is responsible for migrant health in her country and is presently working on a migrant health strategy. She is also responsible for preparing all health preparedness and response plans related to biological agents and generic preparedness. She is a member of the Royal Society for Public Health and of the Faculty of Public Health.



## The Netherlands: Barbara Schimmer, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

Dr Barbara Schimmer is a medical epidemiologist working at the Centre for Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Surveillance at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). She worked for 10 years at the gastroenteritis and zoonotic infections unit carrying out surveillance projects, outbreak investigations and applied research. She will finish her PhD on ‘Q fever in a One Health context’ in 2018. Among other tasks, she is co-chair of the weekly early warning meeting and content chair of the annual Transmission Day gathering of around 300 Dutch public health professionals in the field of infectious diseases. She is an alumnus of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), for which she was based at the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo (2004–06).





## Norway: Emily MacDonald, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo

Emily MacDonald is a Senior Adviser in the Department of Zoonotic, Food- and Waterborne Diseases at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Since 2010, she has been involved in the preparedness, surveillance and response activities for enteric zoonotic diseases and vectorborne diseases and activities related to implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).

She coordinates activities related to the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology (EPIET) and Norwegian Field Epidemiology Training Programme (NorFETP) in Norway. She is the Focal Point for Public Health Training and alternate for Emerging Vectorborne Diseases Networks through the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. She has been deployed as an epidemiologist through the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network several times, including during the Ebola outbreak in Guinea and the Philippines post Typhoon-Haiyan.

Since 2014, Emily has been actively involved in the Global Health Preparedness Programme (GHPP), an initiative launched by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health to support implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) in four partner countries. She was seconded to the Public Health Institute of Malawi from 2015 to 2017, is scientific lead for the GHPP partnership with Malawi and contributes to the GHPP partnership with Ghana. Her academic background is in geography, health economics and policy, and she is an alumnus of Cohort 2012 of EPIET.

## Portugal: Paulo Jorge Nogueira, Directorate General of Health, Lisbon

Paulo Jorge Nogueira is currently the Director of the Directorate of Analysis and Information of the Directorate-General of Health (DGS) of the Portuguese Ministry of Health, and is a member of the of the Portuguese Statistical Council. He has a PhD in International Health (Health and Development Policies). His background is applied mathematics with a degree and an MSc in Probabilities and Statistics. He is also currently Invited Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, where he teaches Biostatistics and Epidemiology. In his tenure at DGS he has revived the original institutional scientific review *Saúde em Números* that was originally published from 1987 to 2000, now renamed as *Portugal Saúde em Números (Health by Numbers Portugal)*, issued both in Portuguese and English.



## Romania: Daniela Pitigoi, National Institute for Infectious Diseases 'Prof. Dr Matei Bals', Bucharest

Professor Daniela Pitigoi has extensive experience in the management of public health projects and over 20 years of experience as an epidemiologist, with practical involvement in influenza, healthcare-associated infections, surveillance of communicable diseases at the national level, vaccinations, field investigations and outbreak management in Romania. She was involved in high-level positions in the development of the Romanian communicable diseases



surveillance and control system (in the position of Counsellor of the General Department of Public Health of the Ministry of Health, Manager of the National Immunisation Programme and Director of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Romanian Ministry of Health). She has acquired practical experience in redesigning the communicable diseases surveillance and control system for Romania through her work as national team leader for the PHARE project, 'Improving the System for Epidemiological Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases in Romania' (2003–04) and for the project PHARE Project Ro - 2002/000-586.04.11.01: Restructuring of the Romanian Network of HIV/AIDS Regional centres (2005–06).

Professor Pitigoi also worked for the John Snow Research and Training Institute (JSI): Romanian Family Health Initiative Project – avian influenza component (2007–08) to draft avian influenza-related policies and activities and to develop the field epidemiology and surveillance training courses for epidemiologists, microbiologists and veterinarians. As a World Health Organization consultant she supported the Ministry of Health to assess the Romanian (2001) and Moldavian (1999) surveillance systems for communicable diseases. She has been lecturer at the Epidemiology Department of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy 'Carol Davila' of Bucharest, Romania since 2002 and associate professor since February 2015. She was an alternate member of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control management board for 2 years and has been member of the *Eurosurveillance* editorial board since February 2009.

## Slovakia: Lukas Murajda, Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

Lukas Murajda is a medical doctor with a specialization and PhD in public health, a master's degree in applied epidemiology and a training for medical officers in Austria. He worked at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University, Slovakia (2006–12) and was a fellow in the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) at the State Health Office, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany (2012–14). Since 2015 he has been working as a medical officer in Austria, currently as a deputy chief medical officer of Land Salzburg. He was the Communication Person of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Competent Body for Scientific Advice and Guidelines in Slovakia (2006–12).



Spain: Josefa Masa Calles, National Centre of Epidemiology, Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), Madrid

Josefa Masa-Calles is an epidemiologist who has worked at the National Centre of Epidemiology for more than 10 years, in charge of the National Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) Surveillance, including diseases under eradication and elimination plans (polio, measles and rubella).

She trained in medicine and public health at the Universities of Extremadura and Granada and in the Spanish Field Epidemiology Training Programme (PEAC) in Madrid.

Her research interests range from the evaluation of infectious disease surveillance systems and the eradication of polio, measles and rubella to the assessment of VPDs burden to the effectiveness of the vaccines included in the national vaccination program. She acts as an expert on vaccination programs for the Ministry of Health and for the European Medicines Agency. She's a teacher at the Public Health National School and a Member of the Research Network in Epidemiology and Public Health (CIBERESP).



## Sweden: Anders Wallensten, Folkhälsomyndigheten, Stockholm

Anders Wallensten is a medical doctor by training and a specialist in family medicine who currently works as Assistant State Epidemiologist at The Public Health Agency of Sweden. At the agency, he works with surveillance-related activities such as outbreak investigations, risk evaluations and communications. He is an alumnus of the European Program for Intervention Epidemiology Training and an assistant professor (docent) at Uppsala University. His research interests mainly concern the epidemiology of zoonotic infections.



## Turkey: Fehminaz Temel, Public Health Institution of Turkey, Ankara

Dr Fehminaz Temel holds a medical degree from the Medical School of the Mediterranean University in Antalya, Turkey. Since graduation she has worked as a general practitioner for 9 years. She started public health specialty training in 2003 and received her Public Health Specialization (PHS) certificate from the Department of Public Health, Medical School of the Hacettepe University, in Ankara Province, Turkey in 2008. While obtaining her medical degree, she worked as a research assistant in Hacettepe University.



After receiving her PHS certification, she started the Epidemiology Fellowship program and completed the program as an epidemiologist in 2010.

Dr Temel worked in the Ministry of Health of Turkey as a Public Health Specialist and an epidemiologist in the Epidemiology Unit until 2012. She has been working as the director of the Turkey Field Epidemiology Training Program at the Early Warning Response and Field Epidemiology Department, which was established in March 2012 at the Public Health Institution of Turkey, Ministry of Health.

Her fields of expertise include: epidemiology, outbreak investigations, early warning and response, communicable disease surveillance and vaccination programs.



## World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe: Masoud Dara, WHO, Copenhagen, Denmark

Dr Masoud Dara is a physician and public health expert from Belgium. In addition to his medical degree, he has accomplished several courses and postgraduate studies including courses at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Harvard School of Public Health.



Dr Dara's professional career began as a clinician responsible for diagnosing and treating tuberculosis (TB) patients in rural and urban areas of Iran. Since 1998, he has worked with multiple national and international organizations implementing TB and TB/HIV control and care programmes, public health interventions and emergency responses. He has worked as the Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) programme manager and medical coordinator in Central Asia and as the Head of Belgian Red Cross in Kosovo from 1998 to 2001.

From 2001 to 2003, Dr Dara worked as a World Health Organization (WHO) Medical Officer in the Russian Federation, providing technical assistance to national health authorities, as well as TB and TB/HIV control services across the country. From 2003 to 2010, he worked as a senior consultant of KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation in different WHO regions, mainly in the fields of MDR-TB, TB/HIV and infection prevention and control. Since 2008 he has been appointed as the Chair of scientific working group of TB control in prisons for the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, and since February 2015 he has served as Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases*. From 2010 to 2014, Dr Dara led the WHO Regional Office for Europe's TB and MDR-TB programme, providing technical assistance to the Member States in prevention and control of drug-resistant TB. From 2014 to 2016, based at WHO Office at European Union in Brussels, he worked as WHO Senior Advisor for communicable diseases, health emergencies and humanitarian response. Since October 2016, he has been coordinating communicable diseases and leading the Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and viral hepatitis programme at the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

We would also like to acknowledge the following Editorial Board members:

#### Associate editor

**Tommi Asikainen**, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

#### Editorial advisor

**Poland:** Malgorzata Sadkowska-Todys, National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene, Warsaw