

RESCAP-MED SIXTH NEWSLETTER

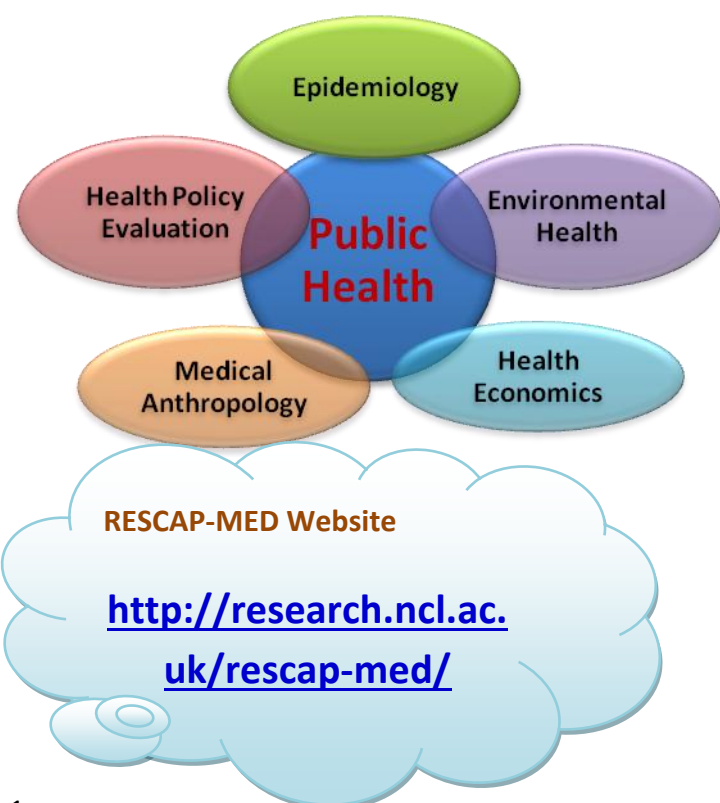


• What is RESCAP-MED?	1
• RESCAP-MED Advanced Epidemiology and Modeling Course	1
• Second Regional Symposium on Non-Communicable Diseases	2
• The Scientific Manuscript Writing Workshop	4
• Dissemination meeting with policy makers in Jordan	5
• Dissemination meeting in Turkey	6
• RESCAP-MED Fellowship Programme	6
• Web-based learning	7

What is RESCAP-MED?

RESCAP-MED aims to build research capacity for public health in countries around the eastern and southern Mediterranean. Its purpose is to develop research skills for the challenge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their social determinants: specifically the skills to address the burden of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), diabetes, and cancer.

RESCAP-MED aims to create a Mediterranean regional network for NCD researchers, in five key public health disciplines: epidemiology, health economics, environmental health, medical anthropology, and health policy evaluation.



RESCAPMED Advanced Epidemiology and Modeling Workshop

Kuşadası, İzmir

22-26 September 2014



The Advanced Epidemiology and Modeling training workshop of RESCAPMED Project was hosted by the Turkish partner Dokuz Eylül University of İzmir.

The first 3 days of the workshop focused on epidemiologic concepts including study designs, confounding, interaction, logistic regression, Poisson regression, proportional hazards model and multilevel analysis. This part of the workshop was facilitated by Gül Ergör, Kath Bennett, Julia Critchley, Fiona Pearson, and Belgin Ünal.

The last 2 days of the workshop focused on health policy modeling methods, including health economic modeling techniques and Markov Models. IMPACT Model was used as a modelling exercise. The last two

days of the workshop were facilitated by Julia Critchley, Kath Bennett, Maria Guzman, and Kaan Sözmen



The participants in the Advanced Epidemiology and Modeling workshop, Izmir, 22-26 Sep 2014

Five partner countries participated in the workshop. A total of 22 participants attended the workshop: 3 from Lebanon, 3 from Tunisia, 4 from Palestine, 3 from Jordan and 9 from Turkey.



Second Regional Symposium on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Socio-political Challenges in the Mediterranean Region: Implications for NCD Prevention and Control

December 3-4, 2014, Beirut-Lebanon



Abla Sibai Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health at Faculty of Health Sciences
American University of Beirut

RESCAP-MED was pleased to host the 2nd International Symposium on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) entitled "Socio-political Challenges in the Mediterranean Region: Implications for NCD Prevention and Control" by the Lebanon partner. The Symposium took place in Beirut, Lebanon, on December 3-4, 2014 and was co-led by Abla Sibai and

Fouad Fouad in Lebanon and Peter Phillimore and Shahaduz Zaman in Newcastle.

The Symposium aimed to bring together researchers and public health actors to present, document and debate prospects for action in NCD surveillance, management, control and prevention, within the context of the recent geo-political developments in the region.

Speakers presented different vibrant and engaging topics that revolved around non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and: displacement and migration; demographic transitions; war and conflict; capacity building, training and education; socio-political transformations; and national health systems and provision of care in times of crisis.

A total of 86 abstracts were submitted, out of which 15 were accepted as oral presentations and 23 as poster were distributed over the two days of the symposium. The symposium included four key note speeches and attracted over 180 attendees, with close to 60 people coming from abroad representing 14 different countries, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Kuwait, Libya, Algeria, Sudan, Spain, Turkey, UK, USA, Barbados, in addition to Lebanon.

Keynote Speakers

- Habiba Ben Romdhane (Professor of Preventive Medicine at the University of Tunis and the head of Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases Unit)
- Dawn Chatty (Professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration, Director of Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University, UK)
- Rita Giacaman (Professor of Public Health, Institute of Community & Public Health, Birzeit University, West Bank, occupied Palestinian territory)
- Nigel Unwin (Professor in Public Health & Epidemiology, University of the West Indies, Barbados)

The Scientific Manuscript Writing Workshop

Dead Sea, Jordan

10-11 December 2014



The participants of the Scientific Manuscript Writing Workshop, Dead Sea, Jordan, 10-11 Dec 2014

The RESCAP-MED Scientific writing workshop was hosted by the Jordanian partners and was organised by Yousef Khader, Mostafa Abdullrahman and the Jordanian team. The workshop focused on developing scientific manuscript writing skills. The format of the writing workshop included interactive lectures, group works, and discussions.

The workshop was intended to improve the researchers' ability to prepare research manuscripts for publication in top international journals. Workshop participants learned the critical components of a clearly written manuscript and how to structure each manuscript section. The workshop was intended to help

investigators objectively evaluate their current skill level, determine their strengths and weaknesses, and focus on improving their writing skills to achieve a well-written manuscript.



Yusuf Khader Al-Gaud

Yusuf AL-Gaud is a professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Jordan University of Science and Technology. Yusuf has published more than 190 articles on NCDs and focal infection theory. He has implemented many health programmes, organised several national and international workshops, conferences, and trainings courses on public health and coordinated several national and international health projects.

The workshop covered the following topics:

- Review of the basic epidemiologic measures and basic study designs and methods
- Research process
- Guidelines for writing a scientific manuscript

- Submission process of a manuscript to the biomedical journals

A short reading list and some useful papers were provided beforehand.

The two days of the workshop were facilitated by Anwar Batieha and Hashem Kana'an, who are the leading experts in the field of epidemiology, public health, and community medicine. Twenty two young researchers from Jordan University of Science and Technology and the Hashemite University attended the workshop.



Mostafa ABDELRAHMAN

Mostafa is an Assistant Professor at Jordan University of Science and Technology. He has an interest in radiation protection and its effect on workers and public health.

The vast majority of the participants who left feedback stated that they were very satisfied with the content of the lectures, the format of the workshops, the practical sessions and the workshop in general.

Dissemination meeting with policy makers in Jordan

Dead Sea, Jordan

11 December 2014



The policy makers in the dissemination meeting

Dead Sea, Jordan 11th Dec 2014

Key policy makers from the Ministry of Health and Councils attended the dissemination meeting. The Secretary Generals of the health and nursing councils attended the meeting. The President of Jordan University of Science and Technology Prof. Abdullah Melkawi, and the Vice President Prof. Ahmad Batieha. Yusuf khader lead the dissemination meeting and informed the policy makers and researchers about the RESCAP-MED project, its aims, activities, and achievements. He highlighted the gap between research and health policy formulation in EMR, and suggested different actions to bridge the gap between researchers and policy makers. There was an open dialogue

between the researchers and policy makers. The group discussed the challenges that hinder the impact of health research in the EMR and recommended different actions to enhance the utilization of evidence in policy making and to bridge the gap between researchers and policy makers.

The project newsletters and policy briefs were distributed to all participants.

Dissemination meeting in Turkey

Elazig / TURKEY

18 December 2014

Prof. Bulent Kilic Prof. Belgin Unal

RESCAP-MED national dissemination meeting was held during the meeting of National Strategies and Targets on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) for Turkey in December 17-18, 2014 in Elazig Province of Turkey. Nearly one hundred people (50 people from Ministry of Health-MoH and 50 people from different universities) participated in the meeting. The Director of Turkish Public Health Institute, deputies of NCDs division from MoH, Elazig Director of Public Health and staff from NCDs department attended the meeting. The results of RESCAP-MED project were presented in a half day satellite meeting on December 18th.

According to the results of Turkish RESCAP-MED junior researchers had some training needs. Among junior researchers, there was widespread competence in basic epidemiological skills, but an awareness of gaps in knowledge of more advanced epidemiological skills, and the opportunities to acquire these skills were lacking. Self-assessed competencies revealed greater training needs, especially regarding familiarity with the qualitative research skills for medical anthropology/sociology. Lack of coordination between governmental institutions and researchers was the main problem facing capacity building among junior researchers.

RESCAP-MED Fellowship Programme: Updates



Dr Kathleen Bennett

The RESCAP-MED fellowship programme is intended to build research capacity, encourage collaboration and foster links in partner countries, through the training and mentoring of early career and mid-career research

staff. The first fellowship was undertaken in March 2013 and so far thirteen researchers from five Mediterranean partners have completed fellowships.

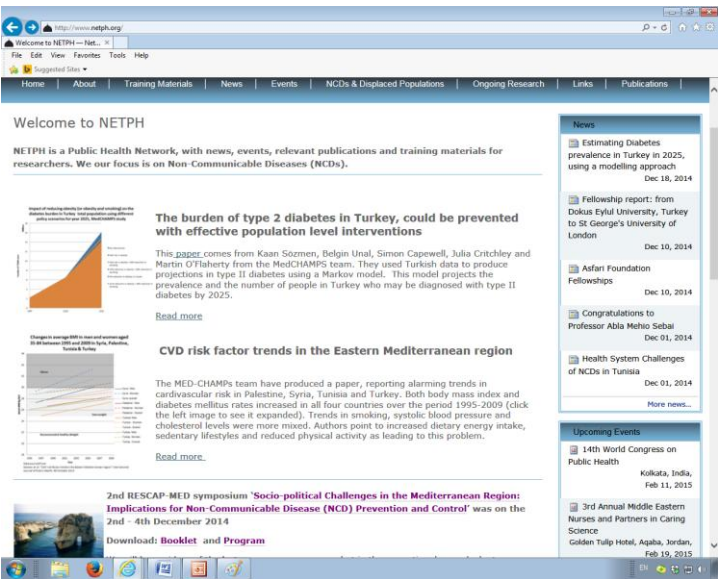
Fellowships by Country

Country	Number of Fellows	Visits Completed
Jordan	2	2
Lebanon	4	4
Palestine	2	3
Syria	-	-
Tunisia	2	3
Turkey	3	6
Total	13	18

Fellowships Completed

Fellow Name	Country	Host Institution	Date	Duration
Eren Korkmaz	Turkey	Newcastle University	March 2013	18 days
Christy Costanian	Lebanon	Trinity College Dublin	September 2013	10 days
Duygu Islek	Turkey	University of Liverpool	September 2013	10 days
			February 2014	2 weeks
			November 2014	2 weeks
Ceyda Sahan	Turkey	St. George's University, London	September 2013	2 weeks
			March 2014	2 weeks
Niveen Abu-Rmeileh	Palestine	University of Liverpool	August 2013	2 weeks
			January 2014	4 days
Faten Tlili	Tunisia	Newcastle University	November 2013	2 weeks
			June 2014	2 weeks
Olfa Saidi	Tunisia	University of Liverpool	February 2014	2 weeks
Hala Kerbage	Lebanon	Newcastle University	June 2014	2 weeks
Anthony Rizk	Lebanon	Newcastle University	June 2014	10 days
Khaled Abu Hammour	Jordan	Dokuz Eylül University	September 2014	2 weeks
Sayer Al-Azzam	Jordan	Trinity College Dublin	September 2014	1 week
Doaa Hammoudeh	Palestine	Newcastle University	October 2014	1 week
Sibelle el Laban	Lebanon	University of Liverpool	November 2014	2 weeks

Web-based learning



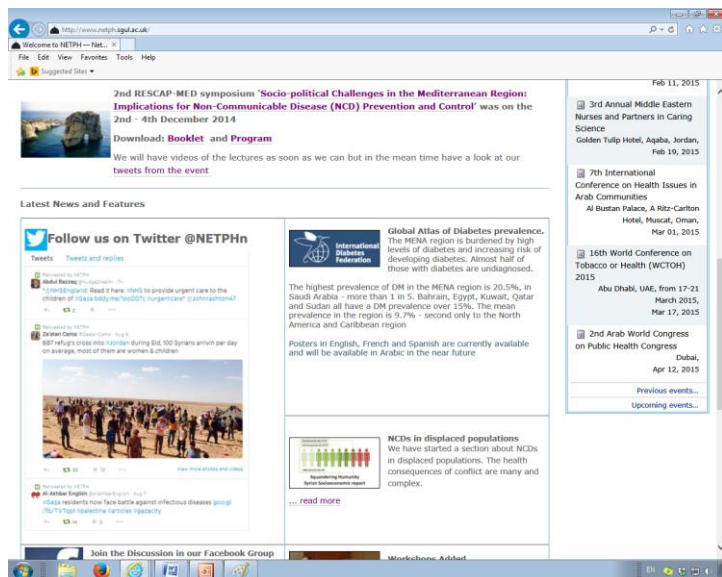
The North Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and Turkey Public Health (NETPH) Network website has been up and running for over a year and it continues to grow. More training materials have been added and we now have workshops for Epidemiology, Advanced Epidemiology and Modelling, Writing, Social Determinants of Health, Environmental Health, Health Economics, Health Policy and Medical Anthropology. The sign up process is now automated, so there is no delay for users.

Following suggestions during a steering group meeting we now have a section devoted to NCDs & displaced populations, highlighting papers and research focused on chronic conditions and displaced populations.

We continue to use Facebook and Twitter to engage with other researchers, grow the literature library of

publications and reports and produce reports on recent publications and events. We have seen steady growth in these social media networks. We welcome contributions and suggested articles.

We have had visitors from around the world, and registrations for training materials seem to cover a wide range of stages along the career path, with the majority of registrations coming from students and junior researchers. Most registrations are people working or studying in the Academic sector.



Links

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/100218610103673/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NETPHN>

Website: www.netphn.org/