

INVITATION TO BECOME PART OF THE EUROPEAN TRAVEL MEDICINE INVENTORY

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The European Travel Medicine Network (EuroTravNet) [1] is a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [2] network initiated by the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) [3]. It sets out to create a network of clinical experts in tropical and travel medicine and is funded through a public ECDC tender "Travel Medicine in Europe: existing structures, functions and added-value of ECDC. Building a network to support Travel and Tropical Medicine related activities at ECDC" [4].

One of the core tasks of the network is to establish a European inventory of travel medicine providers and resources. The initial step is to create a country by country listing of individuals, practices and institutions involved in the provision of travel medicine. The data collection process has now started and any travel health practitioner in a European Union (EU), European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or EU candidate country can add his or her details by using a quick, easy to access, on line questionnaire, available from: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=t3HkKANexJxKme6ap7GBUg_3d_3d [5]. The brief survey consists of 10 questions which focus mainly on the type of travel health services provided by the respondent, such as pre- or post-travel consultations, yellow fever vaccination, screening and research. Migration medicine is very important in many EU countries and parts of the questionnaire will collate data on European institutions with particular expertise in migrant health.

All health professionals including tropical medicine specialists, nurses, physicians, pharmacists and scientists involved in travel medicine can be included. The advantage is that, in the future, this resource listing will be used to network interest groups and to disseminate information relating to tropical and travel medicine. The inventory is the property of ECDC will not be used for advertising.

At a later stage, the inventory aims to provide an overview of travel medicine services for specific indications in the pre-travel setting and of products such as vaccines and anti-malarials that are used in EU and EuroTravNet Member States. This future aim, is challenging in view of European heterogeneity and varying national guidelines and practices.

To achieve our goals and be able to provide a dynamic overview of the situation of travel medicine in Europe a large response to our

questionnaire is needed. Therefore we call on all practitioners to complete the survey and become a part of the European inventory.

References

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