Note from the editors: *Eurosurveillance* - an authoritative information source on infectious diseases

Eurosurveillance editorial team (eurosurveillance@ecdc.europa.eu)¹

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

Citation style for this article:

Eurosurveillance editorial team. Note from the editors: Eurosurveillance - an authoritative information source on infectious diseases. Euro Surveill. 2015;20(1):pii=21005. Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21005>

Article published on 08 January 2015

After a break over the festive season, the *Eurosurveillance* editors present the first issue of the journal in 2015. It features two rapid communications and a news item about Ebola virus disease (EVD), a disease which, since 2014, has caused worldwide concern. The EVD outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone is the third event classified as a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)' by the World Health Organization [1]. Since mid-2014, numerous healthcare workers (HCW), epidemiologists and other emergency specialists have volunteered to work, often under difficult circumstances and risking their health or even lives on the ground to stop Ebola where it is most needed. They deserve our highest respect for their efforts and work. While the outbreak has unfortunately not yet been controlled and suffering goes on in the affected countries, there have been success stories from Nigeria and Mali where concerted actions were able to limit and halt the spread of the disease [2,3]. In Nigeria this was possible due to a close collaboration between mainly the public health and medical sectors, and using structures already in place to fight polio.

While the main burden of EVD is of course in West Africa, few cases have arisen outside the affected area through secondary transmission during healthcare for medically evacuated patients, or through individuals becoming symptomatic after having left West Africa [4,5]. One of the rapid communications in this issue describes the public health measures following the secondary Ebola transmission to an HCW in Spain in late 2014 such as contact tracing and monitoring of 232 individuals [6]. Another rapid communication presents an SMS-based system developed in Australia that should allow active tracing and monitoring of potentially exposed persons and require less resources than the traditional ways of monitoring [7].

The importance of the EVD outbreak matches the number of publications on the subject. A PubMed search using keywords [Guinea] OR [Liberia] OR [Sierra Leone] OR [Nigeria] OR [West Africa] OR [Western Africa] OR/ AND [Ebola virus] OR [Haemorrhagic Fever, Ebola] OR [Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever] OR [ebola virus*] OR [ebola] OR [evd] and limited to publications after 1 February

2014, retrieved 285 entries on 7 January 2015, many of them commentaries and editorials reflecting the situation, its challenges and potential solutions. *Eurosurveillance* has contributed with 13 articles published by the end of December 2014, mainly rapid communications as well as editorials and letters. They are available from a **dedicated space** on our website.

At the beginning of a new year we provide feedback on the past year. In 2014, we received on average 72 submissions per month and published 288 items: 68 rapid communications, 137 regular articles, and 83 in other categories (editorials, letters and news). The geographical focus of submitted as well as published articles was Europe, however, we received publications from well over 60 countries worldwide and published a number of papers from countries outside of Europe that were of relevance for public health overall and Europe in particular.

Besides our traditional focus on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB) on World AIDS day and World TB day respectively, we published a special issue on polio in February to cover the introduction and silent transmission of wild poliovirus type-1 over several months in 2013 in Israel. Other dedicated issues focused on the serious and increasing threat of vector-borne diseases (April), the potential transmissibility and evolution of avian influenza A viruses (June) and chikungunya in the Caribbean and its impact on Europe (July).

In mid-2014, when the annual impact factors were released by Thompson Reuters, soon followed by the SCOPUS-based SCImago Journal Ranks, we were glad to see that despite a lower impact factor than in previous years (2014: 4.65), *Eurosurveillance* remained among the top 10 journals in the category of infectious diseases and that it was in the first quarter of journals in four categories (medicine general, virology, public health, environmental and occupational health) in SCImago. The Google Scholar metrics were equally favourable with the journal listed on rank 4 and 10 among journals in the categories epidemiology and communicable diseases. On the social media channel

Twitter the number of followers keeps increasing and they use the information we provide in their tweets and/or comment on our content.

The beginning of a new year is also the moment when we like to express our gratitude to all our supporters. We are grateful to our reviewers and – as every year - publish a [list](#) with the names of the experts who have helped us: once again more than 500 individuals kindly dedicated their time to provide us with written guidance. There are also many supporters and colleagues out there who assist us with input whenever we ask them to share their views and discuss ideas with us; they remain unnamed here but we thank them wholeheartedly nonetheless. A special thanks goes to our editorial board members, associate editors and editorial advisors in the countries, who have continued to support us actively and enthusiastically over the years. We rely on their constructive feedback and encouragement. We are also grateful for the continued funding, logistic support and encouragement we receive from our publisher the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and its Director who grant us the editorial freedom [8] that has been crucial to establish *Eurosurveillance* as a credible and well respected source for authoritative scientific information.

Last but not least we note with pleasure that the results from the recently published ECDC external evaluation [9] which has demonstrated that a large proportion of public health decision makers consider the journal highly useful. Having the interest of our readers and contributors in mind, we aim to remain an attractive platform for the public health and scientific community working in the wider field of infectious diseases and look forward to doing this jointly with all our supporters and contributors in the years to come.

References

1. World Health Organization (WHO). Statement on the Meeting of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee Regarding the 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa. 8 August 2014. Geneva: WHO; 2014. Available from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2014/ebola-20140808/en/>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Enhanced Airport Entry Screening To End for Travelers from Mali to the United States. Atlanta: CDC. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0105-enhanced-airport-screening.html> (accessed on 7 January 2015)
3. World Health Organization (WHO). Nigeria is now free of Ebola virus transmission. Situation assessment - 20 October 2014. Geneva: WHO; 2014. Available from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/ebola/20-october-2014/en/>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Texas reports positive test for Ebola in one additional healthcare worker [Internet]. Atlanta: CDC; 2014 Oct 15 [cited 2014 Oct 16]. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/s1015-texas-second-health-care-worker.html>
5. Ministerio de Sanidad Servicios Sociales e Igualdad. Diagnosticado un caso secundario de contagio por virus Ébola [press release in Spanish] [Internet]. 2014 [cited 2014 Oct 6]. Available from: <http://www.msssi.gob.es/gabinete/notasPrensa.do?id=3427>
6. Lópaz MA, Amela C, Ordobas M, Domínguez-Berjón MF, Álvarez C, Martínez M, Sierra MJ, Simon F, Jansá JM, Plachouras D, Astray J, Working group of Ebola outbreak investigation team of Madrid. First secondary case of Ebola outside Africa:

epidemiological characteristics and contact monitoring, Spain, September to November 2014. *Euro Surveill.* 2015;20(1):pii=21003.

7. Tracey LE, Regan AK, Armstrong PK, Dowse GK, Effler PV. EbolaTracks: an automated SMS system for monitoring persons potentially exposed to Ebola virus disease. *Euro Surveill.* 2015;20(1):pii=20999. Available from: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20999>
8. Sprenger M. Visions for the next five years: ECDC as a sustainable and service-oriented organisation. *Euro Surveill.* 2010;15(19):pii=19564. Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19564>
9. ECDC external evaluation Specific Contract: The second independent evaluation of the ECDC in accordance with its Founding Regulation (European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) no 851/2004. Available from: <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/Key%20Documents/ECDC-external-evaluation-2014.pdf>