

## Message from the President

Charles D. Ericsson

The sixth conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine (CISTM-6) was highly successful. I want to give special thanks to the chairperson of the Conference Organizing Committee, Dominique Tessier, for all of her hard work. Likewise, the Organizing Committee could not have been as successful as it was without the devotion and consummate professionalism of Ms. Susan Stokes. Many attendees commented on the quality and breadth of the plenary sessions. In this regard, I want to single out for special praise the excellent work of the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee, Frank Bia, Christoph Hatz, and Stephen Ostroff.

Judging by the general quality of the oral presentations and the posters we are clearly still a young society. The quality of the research presentations will improve as the reputation of ISTM matures. We should be able to attract reports on many excellent studies under the broad definition of travel medicine. We need to convince investigators to prefer our meeting to infectious diseases, tropical medicine, and similar society meetings.

During the conference the Executive Board of the ISTM and the various committee chairs and members were very active. Following the conference in Montreal, the Executive Board and others from around the world conducted a strategic planning meeting, which was followed by an Executive Board meeting. These meetings served to stimulate much discussion and action which we will share with you in future communications and in reports from the various committees that will be published in *NewsShare*.

You should know the Executive Board and Chairpersons of ISTM committees. All of these people will now be expected to attend the Executive Board meeting held at the biennial CISTM. Please contact any of them if you are interested in serving ISTM or have suggestions. Brenda Bagwell, our very able secretary to the Secretariat, can help you reach any ISTM member. She can also send you details on how to join ISTM in the event that you are not a member. She can be reached at <bcbistm@aol.com>, and her address is PO Box 871089, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

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The Executive Board members are:

### *Voting Members*

- President: Charles Ericsson (USA)
- Past-president: Michel Rey (France)
- President-elect: Louis Loutan (Switzerland)
- Counselor: Brad Connor (USA)
- Counselor: David Freedman (USA)
- Counselor: Santanu Chatterjee (India)
- Counselor: Karen Howell (UK)

### *Nonvoting Members*

- Secretary/Treasurer: Frank Von Sonnenberg (Germany)
- Special Advisor to the Board: Phyllis Kozarsky (USA)
- Special Advisor to the Board: Robert Steffen (Switzerland)
- Administrative Director of the Secretariat: Susan Stokes (USA)
- Secretary to the Secretariat: Brenda Bagwell (USA)

### *Committee Chairpersons*

- Electronic Communications: David Freedman (USA)
- Fundraising: Robert Steffen (Switzerland)
- Host Countries: Santanu Chatterjee (India)
- Membership: Graham Fry (Ireland)
- Migrant Health: Louis Loutan (Switzerland)
- Professional Education and Training: Phyllis Kozarsky (USA)
- Publications: Christoph Hatz (Switzerland)
- Research Committee: Pat Schlagenhauf (Switzerland)
- Travel Industry and Public Education: Brad Connor (USA)
- Long Range Planning Committee: Michel Rey (France)

### *CISTM-7 Appointees*

- Chair of the CISTM-7 Organizing Committee: Frank von Sonnenberg (Germany)
- Chair of the Scientific Committee: David Freedman (USA)
- Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee: Robert Steffen (Switzerland).

At the Board meeting, each chair presented his or her committee's progress to date and indicated what resources might be necessary to reach goals. Although details are forthcoming, the Executive Board identified certain goals.

The membership committee is a high priority as we try to identify how better to benefit our members and how to appeal to members of national societies of travel medicine to join ISTM. We are intent upon putting your membership dollars to work to generate identifiable membership benefits. One short-term goal is to publish updated membership and clinic directories, both of which should be available soon and will be on the web site free to ISTM members.

We are also exploring how we can improve our electronic communications, such as managing hot links on our web site and making *NewsShare* available electronically. Members will be permitted to have a free link to their clinic's home page as long as the page is not overtly commercial. For commercial hot links, we are exploring a fee for a listing in a shopping mall linked to the ISTM site. You will see your Society become rapidly heavily oriented toward electronic communications. I urge all of you to get online so that you can fully benefit from the Board's commitment to regular communication with the membership.

Fundraising is a high priority in order to support the many projects that have been identified. Heretofore, our corporate sponsors have heavily subsidized the membership and projects of the ISTM. The International Society of Travel Medicine is grateful for this support. The time has come to better demonstrate to sponsors how our efforts benefit them and to diversify our funding sources.

The International Society of Travel Medicine continues to be supportive of research projects and hopes to organize a clinical trials group. Information about how to apply for a grant will be available soon. The research committee is currently considering whether to target junior and less experienced researchers. This committee is also exploring the feasibility of a network of willing mentors who can help others who have ideas for research but who do not quite know how to proceed with data collection and analysis.

An ISTM task force met in the spring to consider the advisability and feasibility of establishing a certificate of knowledge in travel medicine that could be earned by either nurse or physician practitioners of travel medicine. The task force is committed to developing a body of knowledge for practicing travel medicine. This body of knowledge will be published in *Journal of Travel Medicine (JTM)*. The development of a test necessary to grant a certificate is a much larger undertaking, and further action awaits the results of the needs assessment survey

that was disseminated at CISTM-6. Please note that this certificate is not certification to practice.

ISTM is actively exploring the establishment of guidelines for practice, which will be published in *JTM*. Initial considerations are guidelines for the Hajj and for cruise ships. Another educational success is the indexing of *JTM* on Medline. Our journal will now be published every other month beginning with a January 2000 issue. We have also applied for indexing with the Institute of Scientific Information, which will allow us to track our "impact factor."

ISTM is committed to the education of the traveling public. To this end, the Board is actively exploring the formation of a foundation that could be the means to better attract funds to support public education.

A major project is GeoSentinal, a system of collection and analysis of data from clinics around the world that monitors ill travelers or migrants. This system should begin supplying important information to our members in the near future. GeoSentinal has entered into a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and, as such has received funding to maintain their current efforts for 5 years. The Executive Board supported use of additional ISTM funds especially to target and develop more European reporting sites.

New initiatives relate to the Board's desire to enlarge the definition of travel medicine. Many ISTM members are practitioners who are concerned with promoting the health of travelers such as tourists and business travelers. ISTM is embarking on major efforts to embrace a broader definition of travel to include migration and the impact of travel on both developing and developed host countries.

I hope you share with me a sense of enthusiasm for the goals and directions that ISTM is taking. Please share this enthusiasm with your colleagues. You are the best ambassador that ISTM can have.

Warm regards,

Charles D. Ericsson

President, International Society of Travel Medicine

## Notice

Steffen R, Dupont H. *Manual of Travel Medicine and Health*. Hamilton: BC Decker; 1999.

An errata has been issued correcting three misprinted malaria maps in Appendix C:

On page 471, the area along the Zambezi river, which is a high risk malaria area, was printed white instead of dark gray, as was the box in the legend that reads: "High risk areas: Zambezi river valley (1-12) and northern half of country (11-6)."

On page 480, the same printing error occurred. Krüger National Park and surrounding area, which is a high risk malaria area, was printed white instead of dark gray, as was the box in the legend that reads: "High risk all year in Krüger National Park and neighbouring parks, KwaZulu-Natal and Transvaal (north, east and west) from November to June."

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