Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people

The Paralympic Games, London 2012
Photos of the Swiss Alps taken by Catherine Browne during her hikes (see page 14)

View from top of Wallensee, Cantons St Gallen & Glarus, 1 January 2002

Winter table, Sa. Maria, Müstair Valley, Grisons

Ofen Pass, 2149 m, Grisons, 1 January 2002

Thalkirch, Sallfien Valley, Grisons, 1 January 2002

Sertig Valley, 1861 m, Grisons, 1 January 2002

Sertig Valley, 1861 m, Grisons, 1 January 2002

Lago Bianco, Bernina Pass, 2328 m, Grisons, 1 January 2002

Association of Former WHO Staff
EDITORIAL

In line with our statutes, the General Assembly and the election of the Executive Committee of AFSM take place every other year, alternately: this year it is the turn of the election of the Committee which will take place on 23 October.

Other elections are to take place around the same time. This year – for the first time – there will be the elections of the representatives of retirees who have remained in the Staff Health Insurance to the new SHI committees: the Global Oversight Committee and the Global Standing Committee. You have already received the call for candidates. Do not forget to vote, this election is of the greatest importance to retirees who are members of the staff health insurance.

The International Day of Older persons on 1 October (not 31 October as announced in QN 88) reinforces the theme for World Health Day, held on 4 April, which focussed on “Ageing and Health” (cf. page 5).

As is the case each year, flu vaccination for retired staff in the Geneva area will be organized at WHO headquarters. We will report back to you in the next issue of QNT.

This is your news letter, so we are always happy to publish articles from you regarding your travel, retirement activities etc.

Please remember also:

Our annual reception on Thursday 6 December from 17h, in the cafeteria of WHO Headquarters, Geneva.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Send your contributions to:
David Cohen: dacohen@sunrise.ch
Public Health

Good press for WHO! The Ebola outbreak in Uganda

An article in the International Herald Tribune by Juliette Kayyem (10 August 2012) gives credit to WHO for its work in controlling the recent Ebola outbreak in Uganda together with other partners.

According to a WHO press release of 14 August 2012, the Ugandan Health Ministry has been working with partners including WHO, CDC, the Red Cross, MSF, World Vision and PREDICT, among others to control the outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Kibaale district. Twenty-four probable and confirmed cases including 16 deaths had been reported by then. Suspected cases which tested negative during the laboratory investigations were discarded as Ebola patients, treated symptomatically for their ailments and discharged following recovery. A total of 43 people were discharged from the isolation facility including one confirmed case. With the support of the psychosocial team, these 43 people have been counselled prior to discharge and reintegrated into the community. Even for the people who tested negative for Ebola, psychosocial counselling of the communities to which they were returning, has been very important. It allayed fears and reduced stigma, enabling them to be accepted back in the community. All contacts of probable and confirmed cases are followed up daily for 21 days and are monitored for any possible signs or symptoms of illness. All alerts of suspected cases in the other districts have been investigated and are negative for Ebola.

For WHO, the deadly Ebola is now under control, through rapid identification of the disease and containment and prompt mobilization of other partners.

Yves Beigbeder

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Communiqué:

"Geneva Red Cross launched a project a few years ago - Seniors d'Ici et d'Ailleurs - to help older people from other cultures who are now living in Geneva. Many of them migrated to Switzerland at a later stage in life and find it very difficult to integrate themselves in their new host country. The project is now seeking to establish partnerships between the more privileged residents in Geneva from similar corners of the world and the less fortunate ones. Do you feel like becoming a mentor to someone from your old culture who is new to the city? The project is looking, in particular, for those from sub-Saharan Africa, Arab countries, South America, Asia, etc.

If this project interests you, please contact:

Mme Nicole Renaud Zurbriggen,
Coordinator of the project Seniors d'Ici et d'Ailleurs
Route des Acacias 9, 1211 Genève 4
Tel. 022 304 0404
E-mail: info@croix-rouge-ge.ch"

Association of Former WHO Staff
FAFICS and AFSM

The Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) is currently made up of 53 associations. Based on a long standing practice, only one association per place had been allowed to join. More recently, associations from the same place have been accepted.

To date AFSM has not opted to join FAFICS. During the General Assembly of October 2011, we announced that the Executive Committee would re-examine the relationship with the Federation and would keep you informed through our Quarterly News.

The FAFICS Council meets each year at the end of June, or early July just before the meeting of the Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (UNJSPB) and at the same venue. The Council deals principally with pension issues, but also with health insurance, and other matters of interest to international civil servants. One of the important functions of the FAFICS Council is to appoint the Representatives, who have observer status, to the Pension Board.

The AFSM President is an ex officio member of the Committee of AAFI-AFICS (Association des Anciens fonctionnaires internationaux - Association of Former International Civil Servants) in Geneva. In this capacity, s/he is allowed to be included in the delegation of AAFI-AFICS to the annual FAFICS Council. In the past, David Cohen, at the time President of AFSM, participated in the meetings held in Rome (2002) and New York (2003). In the 2011 meeting held in Geneva, Dev Ray and Sue Block Tyrrell, Vice-Presidents of AFSM, were both part of the AAFI-AFICS delegation.

In June 2012, I participated in the Council meeting held in Paris from 26 to 29 June. The two Standing Committees of FAFICS on staff health insurance and on pension issues were held on 25 June. The agenda covered the usual topics: the President’s report, admission of new members, pension issues, health insurance issues, functioning of the FAFICS Council, efforts to increase FAFICS membership, and lastly the election of Committee members, the budget and the membership contribution rates. The major part of the discussion was devoted to pension issues: review of the current situation, and proposals to be made to the Joint Committee. The CEO/Secretary of the Pension Fund presented a detailed status of the Fund, followed by a question and answer session.

The presidency of Mr. Andrés Castellanos came to an end and the Council elected Roger Eggleston to succeed him. Roger is well known to us both as a member of AFSM and as outgoing president of AAFI-AFICS in Geneva. We wish him a successful mandate.

Should AFSM join FAFICS?

As shown above, it is always possible for us to participate in the annual meetings of the FAFICS Council. We are immediately kept informed of decisions taken by the Council. Another non negligible advantage is that it offers us an excellent opportunity for dialogue with other associations and the Secretary of the Pension Fund. Should we go further and become a full member? Will the annual costs be offset by a greater voice within the Federation? The question remains and we propose to wait and observe the new directions of the Federation under the presidency of Roger Eggleston.

Jean-Paul Menu
News from WHO:

Highlights of events over the past few months

- On the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in May, health ministers from the South Pacific island countries produced a draft framework for WHO’s multi-country cooperation strategy for the South Pacific. The final version will be signed during the 63rd Session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in Hanoi, Vietnam, 24-28 September.
- In June, Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, issued an accountability report on her first term of office, entitled Keeping Promises, structured around the 22 specific promises made prior to her election.
- WHO has produced health advice for people attending mass gatherings and has been supporting national authorities in preparing for events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the UEFA European Football Championship.
- Also in June, Dr Chan accepted, on behalf of WHO, the prestigious Order of the Aztec Eagle Award (OMAA) which is usually presented to “foreigners in recognition of services rendered to the Mexican nation or humanity”. At the award ceremony, Mexico’s President paid tribute to Dr Chan’s support to Mexico and the world in 2009 during the emergency caused by the H1N1 influenza virus: Dr Chan had “established an exceptional degree of cooperation during the most critical moments of the pandemic”.
- Again in June, WHO took part in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which aimed to offer the world an opportunity to both acknowledge and benefit from the inextricable links between human health and sustainable development.
- In July, WHO presented proposals to the XIX International AIDS Conference concerning the more strategic use of antiretroviral HIV medications – “We now have evidence that the same medicines we use to save lives and keep people healthy, can also stop people from transmitting the virus and reduce the chance they will pass it to another person”, said Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General.
- End July, a perception survey was launched by WHO, funded by the UN Foundation (UNF). An independent agency contracted by UNF mailed questionnaires to over 5000 partners and stakeholders in 44 randomly selected countries on how they perceive WHO. Staff have also been invited to express their views. The survey aims to assess how WHO is perceived internally and externally and to make recommendations for improving the trust and respect people have for the Organization.
- In August, WHO provided expertise and documentation to support the investigation and control of the outbreak of Ebola in western Uganda, and WHO and partners are supporting people who have tested negative or recovered from Ebola to reintegrate into community life.
- Also in August, WHO strongly welcomed the landmark decision from Australia’s High Court to dismiss a legal challenge from the tobacco industry to Australia’s legislation on plain packaging of tobacco products without any branding: WHO called upon the rest of the world to follow Australia’s tough stance on tobacco marketing.
- A new UN single-premises building is under construction in Denmark, called “UN City Copenhagen”: seven agencies plan to move into the premises from January 2013, including WHO.
- Other Regional Committee meetings taking place in September/October are:
  - South-East Asia – Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 4-7 September
  - Europe – Valletta, Malta, 10-13 September
  - Americas – Washington, DC, 17-21 September
  - Eastern Mediterranean – Cairo, Egypt, 1-4 October
  - Africa – planned for Luanda, Angola, 22-26 October.

Sue Block Tyrrell

Further information and documentation can be found on the WHO web site – www.who.int
A visit to the Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members in Washington

Taking advantage of his private trip to the USA, Jean-Paul Menu had the great pleasure of being invited by Nancy Berinstein, President, AFSM (Washington), to share views on their respective Associations. To our knowledge this was the first time such a visit had taken place.

On 11 September, Nancy organised a lunch meeting at Alfio’s restaurant in Friendship Heights, Maryland, with local AFSM members and Board members. A powerpoint presentation allowed the participants to learn about the actual organizational structure of the Geneva based association, its relationship with the WHO administration and the WHO Geneva Staff Association. The presentation and the ensuing discussions examined the ways and means used by the associations to meet the needs of their members, particularly in the crucial matters of pensions and health insurance. Such an exchange brought to light many points of mutual interest.

It was of particular importance for AFSM (Washington) to learn of the close relationship of AFSM (Geneva) with AAFI-AFICS Geneva and also to learn that the President attended the meeting of the FAFICS Council last June in Paris as part of the AAFI-AFICS delegation. As was the case in previous years, this participation enabled AFSM (Geneva) to gain first-hand knowledge about United Nations pension issues and to share views on issues of common interest with other associations of former international civil servants. AFSM (Washington) is not a member of AFICS although many of their members do hold individual membership. Sharing information between Geneva and Washington will now allow all of us to learn more about one of the most important issues that affects the life of every former staff. Indeed, collaboration in many areas has become a real possibility. AFSM (Geneva) has been organizing trips and river cruises in Europe each year and we can now pursue this in hopes that some of the former PAHO/WHO staff members might participate in this lovely adventure. The AFSM Geneva Newsletter is now on line and members in the Americas may be able to access it and keep advised of happenings. This meeting has opened a door and we will continue to explore and learn to work together for everyone’s mutual benefit.

This article appears simultaneously in the Quarterly News – Nouvelles trimestrielles (Geneva) and in the Newsletter of AFSM PAHO/WHO.

Nancy Berinstein and Jean-Paul Menu

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Nancy and her husband Herbert for their wonderful hospitality in Washington.

JP Menu

A few members of AFSM /PAHO

Nancy Berinstein and Jean-Paul Menu

Association of Former WHO Staff
The European sky for October – December 2012

- This time of year sees a transition from the glittering skies of August and September, setting in the west, to a rather barren area marked mainly by the Square of Pegasus. But the January skies are rising over in the east, and Orion is rising by late evening.
- The Square of Pegasus is in mid sky looking south (as seen from the northern hemisphere, or north from the southern). Its stars are of medium brightness and the Square is quite large, but there are few other stars nearby so it is quite easy to spot. You can use it to find one of the most famous objects in the sky, the Andromeda Galaxy.
- Estimate the midpoint of the southern side of the Square, then draw a line from that point through the north-eastern star of the Square, Alpheratz. Look an equal distance beyond Alpheratz and you should spot the misty oval of the Andromeda Galaxy. In good skies you can see it unaided, but if not use binoculars. It is 2.5 million light years away, the most distant object visible with the naked eye.
- Jupiter is the only bright planet in the evening sky at the moment, visible over in the east as the brightest object in that part of the sky. The only thing that outshines it is Venus, which early risers will be dazzled by in the morning sky rising in the east well before sunrise.
- For more details go to http://www.popastro.com/youngstargazers/skyguide/.

Article kindly provided by the British Society for Popular Astronomy

New members

We have pleasure in welcoming to the large AFSM family the following new members and we congratulate them on their decision.

Life members:
Valery CHERNYAVSKY; Marc GIOVANNINI; Gillian LANCASTER; Mikhail VERENTSOV

Conversion from annual member to life member
Josefina SULIC

VERF book sale

This year’s second-hand book sale (held 11 and 12 June) raised the grand sum of CHF 13,894!

The VERF Committee would like to thank all the tireless volunteers who helped to sort, price and sell books, as well as those people who helped to clear and box the remaining books and tidy Salle C at the end. Without the invaluable help, enthusiasm and dedication of these friends, colleagues and former staff members, the book sale could not take place.

Thanks to all those who donated books for their continued support and to our valued customers who come back each year and replenish their reading supply. Remember that your support means a lot to those who receive financial assistance from the VERF.

Please note that donations to the VERF can be made at any time through the Post Office. See our page "Make a donation to VERF" for details.

http://intranet.who.int/sites/verf/donation/

Association of Former WHO Staff
In memoriam

"Faces are never so sweet and thought so true as when, friends, we are about to part"1.

Paul Lawton, who died on 1 June 2012, was born in 1924 in Cheshire, UK. Prior to studies at St. John's College Cambridge, he joined the Coldstream Guards and served with the rank of captain in World War II after D Day. In 1952 he joined the Permanent Central Opium Board at the Palais des Nations.

Paul’s WHO career began in 1958 with Cooperative Programmes for Development (CPD) at HQ where, inter alia, he nurtured the preparatory phase of what became the inter-agency Onchocerciasis Control Programme based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Well versed in inter-agency politics, Paul steered WHO’s position through the often complex negotiations for this as well as for other programmes. His dynamic personality and the clarity of his thinking and writing were an inspiration to many colleagues. In 1979 he was appointed Chief CPD, and in 1984 Director of the Division of Coordination.

Paul’s love for the arts encompassed drama, the cinema, painting (particularly Italian renaissance and Pre-Raphaelites) and literature. After retirement in January 1985, Paul used his knowledge of languages and writing skills to translate the works of Italian poets, Franco Fortini and Giacomo Leopardi. Always a keen skier and mountaineer, he lived between Chamonix, Haute Savoie, Paris and Geneva.

We remember Paul with respect and affection and we express our sincere condolences to his widow and two sons.

1. From Summer is not all, selected poems of Franco Fortini translated by Paul Lawton, published 1992. Patricia Brice & Rosemary Villars

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Michael Johnson.

Many in the WHO community will have heard of the untimely death of Mike on 24 April of this year after a long battle with cancer. He was 61 years old.

Those who knew him, and those who had the pleasure of working closely with him over the years, have undoubtedly deeply mourned the loss of such a good natured, conscientious and humble colleague. For me he was both a great friend and a great colleague.

I first met Mike in 1978 when I was working in UNCTAD and he was part of the External Auditor team at WHO, an organization I knew very little about. Mike loved life. He always seemed to be having so much fun. I even remember a snazzy red sports car he and his wife Heather used to zoom around in. Mike subsequently returned to the UK in 1983 to continue working in the National Audit Office but was quickly recruited by IARC as a Budget and Finance Officer in 1985. In the meantime, while still in the UK, he convinced me that WHO was a great organization in which to work. For this, I owe my career in WHO to Mike.

Mike rose in IARC to become the Director of Administration and Finance (DAF) in the early 1990s. He subsequently served as the DAF in WPRO between 1999 and 2003. Then he became Director of Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in Headquarters until he was offered in 2004 the chance to return to his original love, IARC, again as DAF. He remained there until his retirement in 2008.

Perhaps only people having served in an administration of a large organization such as WHO fully appreciate how hard it is sometimes to achieve things. But Mike’s really great gift was the sense of humour bubbling just under the surface of his easy-going personality. Mike saw the humorous side in most things. Yet one was never in doubt that he took his work seriously and could always be relied on to perform professionally and thoroughly whatever task confronted him. He was, thus, simply a wonderful person to work with. Moreover, whenever we would be in the same place in the world at the same time, we would make sure we took some time to be just friends enjoying each other’s company. I felt he had that knack with many people.

I - along with I am sure many others who had the pleasure of knowing Mike - sorely miss him.

Thomas Topping

Association of Former WHO Staff
**In memoriam**

**Inga Poulsen** was born in 1920 into a large farming family near Vrå in the north of Jutland, Denmark. In the mid-1970s she returned to Denmark and eventually to the area of her birth, where she still had many relatives. She died there peacefully after a short illness on 22 June 2012.

Inga was 19 when her country was occupied. She spoke very little about the years between 1939 and 1945 but when peace was declared she set off for Copenhagen where she eventually went to work for what became the Scandinavian Airlines System.

With them she was reassigned to London and then to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, where she spent a number of years. After a short time in Geneva with the then Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM) she transferred first to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in New York and then to the World Health Organization in Geneva to work on pensions and staff health insurance.

At WHO it was to Inga that new staff on their way to assignments in far-flung corners of the world came for part of their briefing. Particularly close to her heart were the Advisers on Nursing Education and Nursing Administration. Well into her ‘80s she arranged an annual reunion of her ex-WHO nurse friends, each year in a different part of Europe.

After retirement, when she was back in Denmark, Inga helped the WHO Regional Office for Europe with briefing. For a number of years, almost until its demise, she was Chair of the Nordic Association of Former International Civil Servants. During that time she was a prime mover in the preparation of a publication of a book to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations: “In the Service of Peace and Humanity: Experiences of Scandinavians as UN International Civil Servants 1945-1995”.

Our sincere condolences go to Inga’s extensive remaining family of nephews, nieces, great-nephews, great-nieces, and cousins.

*Patricia Brown*

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**Alan J. Rowe**

*It was with considerable sadness that I learned from The British Medical Association (BMA) of the demise on 30 April 2012 of Dr Alan J. Rowe.*

Dr Rowe was a valued and respected WHO Short-term Consultant and WHO Temporary Adviser over a period of more than 10 years. Dr Rowe was a highly-respected professional and a very dear colleague.

Dr Rowe was the Chair of The European Forum of Medical Associations and WHO (EFMA-WHO), which was a joint partnership funded by WHO. The late Dr Jo E. Asvall, Regional Director Emeritus supported the medical profession by attending meetings of The Forum and giving a keynote address.

Dr Rowe was Editor-in-Chief of The World Medical Journal (WMJ), and Dr Otmar Kloiber, Secretary-General of The World Medical Association (WMA), who always attended meetings of EFMA-WHO has written an obituary (see May edition of WMJ).

In the last edition of “The Bulletin” (QNT88), readers will have seen the obituary for Sir Alexander Macara written by Jean-Paul Menu and Jacques A. Bury. Dr Macara and Dr Rowe were lifetime friends which might have been one reason for Sandy’s enthusiastic support and contributions to The Forum, particularly in the area of tobacco or health.

Dr Rowe’s friendship and empathy, immense kindness and understanding meant a great deal to me. Honoured is his name and may he rest in peace.

*Jill Conway-Fell*
Activities of our retirees: 2012 United Nations Inter-Agency Games (UNIAG)

The 39th annual edition of the UN ‘Olympic’ Games returned us back on 10-13 May to the beautiful Basque resort of Biarritz, on the scenic Bay of Biscay, which had already hosted the event in 2008.

As usual, just getting there was a challenging sport in itself, with Geneva participants variously driving the 1,100 kms, transiting by air or rail through Paris and Bordeaux, or making creative use of obscure airlines to navigate through Madrid and San Sebastian. And this was nothing compared to the efforts made by our far-flung UN colleagues in e.g. Darfur and Afghanistan to negotiate the visa and routing obstacles. But it also provided a resounding testimony to the enthusiasm and commitment that several hundreds of active and retired UN staff attach to the event.

The Games were launched at Champéry in 1971 with the participation of ten organizations and a limited number of disciplines – athletics, chess, football, tennis, volleyball, table tennis. These numbers have since exploded with e.g. golf, swimming, basketball, badminton, pétanque and darts (all ages and physical abilities catered for!), being added to the programme, while the number of agencies has become a labyrinth of acronyms – UNFCC, UNAMID, CTBTO, UNMACA, UNMISS - that even the most devoted UN fan will get lost in. The number of participants regularly exceeded the 1,000 mark, until costs and organizational problems reduced numbers in the last three years to “only” 500 at Biarritz, due to a very late start in the preparations.

The challenge of grouping such a horde has nevertheless had the added attraction of the four organizing cities (Paris, Geneva, Vienna & Rome) having to move afield in order to cope with the accommodation and sports venue needs, so that the Games have recently been held in locations such as Alicante, Antalya, Aix-les-Bains, Pesaro, Crete and Seefeld. With Nairobi and New York being added this year to the cycle of organizing cities, there is considerable excitement about what the future may hold.

Social and touristic features have become integral to the Games. With a large proportion of returning participants, firm friendships have formed over the years between the ‘opponents’ in the different disciplines, and the competitions invariably take place in the best sporting spirit. The opening and closing ceremonies are a riot of fun – the town of Biarritz on this occasion throwing open the Halles for the welcome evening so that we circled – and consumed – as much as we could of all the local delicacies – oysters, pâtés, hams and meats, pastries, fish, tapas, cheeses, peppers and beans, cider and wine – and more wine. I was most grateful the next morning for being a sedentary chess player.

Sad to say, WHO involvement in the Games has become almost invisible over the years. For an organization dedicated to the promotion of health, with well over 6,000 staff worldwide, one would imagine that we could field more than 18 teams in each discipline, creating the formidable task for a supporter to link up with various other agencies to form teams in each discipline, creating the formidable task for a supporter to cheer along the lines of “Come on UNEP-UNODC-UNOG-WHO!”

It’s quite impossible to have an overall view of the Games, due to the venues and hotels being scattered all around the town, but the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) invariably comes out on top in the collection of cups and medals. There was a marvelous moment when a 70-year ILO lady retiree was awarded a medal for having won her first round tennis match. A particular aspect of the 2012 Games in general was the participation of so many teams of young women in the more physical sports.

There were some notable contributions from the WHO platoon, with “our” teams finishing first in the men’s swimming and second in men’s athletics, women’s swimming and table tennis. The most remarkable performance definitely came from Dr Heli Bathija, in her first participation in the Games as part of the women athletics. Just two months before her retirement, she trained with her colleagues and then joined the 10 km foot race along the Anglet-Biarritz beaches. Wearing number 1 and finishing in last place, she was cheered by all and welcomed as if she had arrived first (photo). Hopefully she will participate next year, as a retiree this time.

So let me encourage all AFMS members, around the world, to be alert to the possibilities offered them by the Games to maintain contact with the UN family and to demonstrate their continued prowess in their favoured activity. - And on to the 40th edition in May 2013.

Derrick Deane
Activities of our retirees: An Immunisation programme against tetanus

As a retiree of the WHO, I would like to share with you my voluntary activity with the Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis, founded in the United States in 1915, is an international association of independent clubs (310,000 members) in which persons from different socio-professional groups are represented. Each Kiwanis club tries to help its region by providing specific assistance to disadvantaged social groups, especially children.

In Switzerland, there are approximately 7,000 members grouped in 200 local clubs. Members are volunteers from various professional domains. Various benevolent activities are undertaken (concerts, stands in the streets) to collect funds; hoping to improve the quality of life of their fellow beings in difficulty and above all adolescents and children. The worldwide motto of the Kiwanis is: "Serving the Children of the World".

There are four clubs in the region of Geneva and Nyon with approximately 160 members (men and women).

At WHO, I had worked at the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) in Alexandria with the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), and then moved to Geneva to the department of Vaccine Research and Development fighting against preventable diseases including Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus.

ELIMINATE TETANUS!

And here come the international Kiwanis who have joined forces with UNICEF in the project “Eliminate” aimed at wiping out maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) in the world by 2015 and thus saving the lives of mothers and babies. To eliminate MNT worldwide, more than 129 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more.

Kiwanis International has pledged to raise US$ 110,000,000 within 4-5 years. The District Switzerland-Liechtenstein aims to contribute CHF 1,350,000 to this project, or CHF 2,000 by club, per year, during 4 years. (We are 195 clubs).

In order to raise the required funds, the Kiwanis Club Genève-Métropole organized a public event on 24 March 2012 in Place du Molard in Geneva, where we invited each passerby to donate CHF 5.--. Why CHF 5.--?

5 CHF save the lives of 3 mothers and their future newborns

Three doses of the vaccine are required to immunize a mother and her future newborns against MNT.
We obtained the support of the press, large stores and the TPG to ensure good visibility, and a total of Euros 22,500 was raised!

If you are interested or if you need further information, please contact me at: eidm@sunrise.ch. Also, please visit our website below.

www.kiwanis-metropole.ch
http://sites.kiwanis.org/Kiwanis/fr/theELIMINATEproject/home.aspx/

Please join us on Saturday 23rd March 2013 in Place du Molard to support this important worldwide action.

My aim in writing this article is not only to share with you my activity as a volunteer but also to invite you to join the Kiwanis Club in Geneva.

Monique Eid
Webmaster/Chargée de la Communication

Association of Former WHO Staff
Activities of our retirees: Hiking in the mountains

My love for mountain walks started in 1981 with dedicated weekly hikes, sun, rain, or snow in the Jura, Vaud pre-Alps and the Swiss and French Alps.

My attachment to the Rhine saw different river-side hikes from Basle to Koblenz (Rhine/Aar confluence), Schaffhausen, the Rhinefalls, Stein am Rhein, Konstanz, Vaduz.

Three years ago, I discovered the source of the Rhine, Lake Tuma at 2,345 metres in the Gotthard massif. What gasping beauty, a small tranquil azure alpine lake culminating in 1,320 metres through Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, France, Germany, exiting into the North Sea at Rotterdam. My 6-25 kms hikes commenced at the Oberalp pass towards Coire/Chur, oldest Swiss city, passing through Ruinaulta, Switzerland’s wild grand canyon of white mountains from a Flims rockfall 10,000 years ago.

This led to my love affair with Canton Grisons/Graubünden/Grishun, one-sixth the size of Switzerland with 1000 mountains, 150 valleys, 615 lakes and 10,000 km of trails. Allegra! It is the watershed of many rivers (Vorderrhein, Hinterrhein, Glenner, Valser, Rabiusa, Avers, Julia, Plessur, Albula, Inn, Spöl and more) and mountain passes (Oberalp, Flüela, San Bernadino, Splügen, Bernina, Ofen, Maloja, Julier, Albula, Nufenen to name a few). Never have I ceased to wonder at the different levels of roads and railways, viaducts and bridges, an amazing feat having been constructed by sheer hand labour in the 1800s.

I have hiked alongside rivers and in all the big valleys (Lumnezia, Sumvitg, Vals, Rheinwald, Safien, Müstair, Upper and Lower Engadine) and some small ones (Sinestra, as sinister as its name with a ghost in the spa), ridden the Rhätische Bahn trains or postal buses through many mountain passes. An autumn 15-km walk climbed to over 2,000 metres where it started sleetting. Last winter’s trails with -25˚C temperatures included Ternna, Sertig, Davos, Klosters, Flan, Tschlin, Sent, Strada, Martina, Nauders, Müstair, Zernez, gateway to the National Park. Often, the walks were in isolated places with no living soul. I have shivered with vertigo on wire-grid walkways across high viaducts or swinging bridges.

Although marmots and deer appear, I have not encountered M13, the brown bear wandering between the Grisons, Italy and Austria stealing honey and food along the way. However, there are interesting human encounters. During the Davos WEF, a lady pulling her sledge of purchases showed me the “Smash WEF” igloos built by the altermondialistes. Thereafter, a Fox News reporter started filming us, sledge and all. In Juf, Europe’s highest habitable village at 2,126 metres with Valaisan heritage, a gay couple of two defrocked priests invited me to their private chapel with tabernacle, crucifix, holy water and hundreds of icons. Once on the Tessin Chestnut Trail picking chestnuts, I took the wrong bus, risking missing the last train back. In desperation, I hitched a ride from a young man who roared down the mountain with both my hands hanging onto the seat. We arrived before the bus!

In the trains and buses, it has been a pleasure to meet world travellers with whom I share my tourist tips and maps, not to forget many amiable and friendly overhearing Swiss who told me I know Switzerland better than many Swiss.

When the winter trails turned mushy and the higher trails were still inaccessible, I walked in wild cantons Uri, Schwyz and Glaris, including La Voie Suisse, from the Rüti meadow wherein in 1291 its original cantons, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwald saw the foundation of Switzerland. The 25-km trail climb up Seelisberg ends with 970 steps down towards Lake Uri. The second 19-km trail, Flüelen-Brunnen, passes through William Tell country: the Tell chapel where the legendary hero jumped off a boat to escape Gessler; Switzerland’s biggest carillon with choice selections at the top of the hour; and white oval stone slabs commemorating all 26 cantons.

Colleagues wishing to share my hiking joy in the Grisons or elsewhere, boats included, are most welcome to join me.

Catherine Browne

Association of Former WHO Staff

This Dictionary is an exhaustive compilation of over 3000 entries, expanding on the first edition. It presents a standardized terminology for international disaster relief and emergency relief. It covers the entire multidisciplinary scope of disaster medicine and humanitarian relief, including such new problems as climate change and bioterrorism. The initial work was already very well received and, in his Foreword, Dr H. Mahler (a former WHO Director-General) states that “this new expanded edition comes as a timely essential aid against growing threats of inhuman violence and destructive disasters”.

Our former WHO colleague, Dr Bill Gunn is Founder and Chairman of the International Association for Humanitarian Medicine - Brock Chisholm (IAHM), an active nongovernmental organization constituted in 1984 and based in Geneva.

Concepts and Practice of Humanitarian Medicine, S.W.a. Gunn and M. Masellis, Eds, International Association for Humanitarian Medicine.

Dr Gunn also announces that, under IAHM’s impetus, the Chinese Association of Humanitarian Medicine has been founded and that this book has been translated in Chinese. Dr. Gunn has been named Professor of the Chair of Humanitarian Medicine at Sun-Yat-sen University.

Handling of Plague Epidemics in India, Dr Satnam Singh, Unistar, Chandigarh, India, 2012

This book shows how India suffered both nationally and internationally following the announcement by government health authorities of the 1994 plague outbreak in Surat without adequate epidemiological and microbiological evidence. The author demonstrates that it was not plague, and certainly not pneumonic plague. Dr Satnam Singh, an opthalmologist and epidemiologist, worked for WHO from 1962 to 1983 in trachoma control projects and smallpox eradication in Thailand, Nepal, Sudan and in SEARO.
On the lighter side

THE SHREDDER

A young engineer was leaving the office at 5:45 p.m. when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document, and my secretary is not here. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly," said the young engineer. He turned on the machine, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine, "I just need one copy."

Lesson: Never, never, ever assume that your boss knows what he's doing.

DURING THE CRUISE

Ah! Here is coming our guide!...

During the cruise

Association of Former WHO Staff
An exhibition at the Ariana Museum, Geneva

ERIC JAMES MELLON – TO THE FRONTIERS OF CERAMIC DECORATION Musée Ariana, Geneva, 8 June – 14 October 2012

Eric James Mellon, 87 year old English painter, born in Watford, UK chose to present at his first international exhibition. The 60 ceramic objects and 20 pictures exhibited by the Ariana Museum show the essential of his work. His originality is evident. Like a mediaeval artist, he creates and decorates his oeuvres in his studio, continually studying new decorating techniques from lead to glaze which he makes himself with the ash from elm trees in his garden. His ceramic recipients, mainly in classical form, are entirely covered in drawings and, since 1979 are recognisable from his personal signature in the form of a small fox, the inspiration for which came to him from reading Saint-Exupery. His work is characterised by several themes: from the circus, with its characters linked to childhood such as jugglers, acrobats and riders, to mermaids, which represent one of the transformations of Selene, goddess of the moon, and one of the forms that she assumes to meet a human being. During his long life he has often celebrated tenderness in the form of a pair of lovers. Mellon shows his love for “Woman” in his vases. These show real women whose faces are always painted in a positive light. He uses themes drawn from mythology, such as that of Europa, abducted by Zeus in the form a white bull, being taken to the island of Crete. Mythological references continue with that of the myth of Persephone and Pluto, as told by Ovid in his Metamorphoses. After the death of his father, Mellon became interested in myths linked to the afterlife.

The most recent oeuvres (2011) are of his model Carnele, who accompanied him to Geneva, often with his tame cockerel, Percy. Apart from his undeniable and original technique, the exhibition bathes us in a poetic atmosphere with classical mythological references which, in these troubled times, lead us to reflect on their topicality in a globalised world where modern myths are in crisis. An additional merit of this exhibition of excellent general quality.

Laura Ciaffei

BAFUNCS’ 35th Annual General Assembly (see QNT88)

We forward to you our apologies for the very bad quality of the photo presented in QNT 88. We hope this one is better.

The group photo above shows most of the former WHO staff who attended the reunion. Standing, from left to right: Coby Sikkens, Bryan Suitters, Ziaul Islam, Brenda Suitters, Pat Brown, Carolyn Allaman, Simone Ray-Tabona, Enid Steward-Goffman, June Hargreaves-Beer, Fred Beer and Sheila Cooper, and in front Penny Ratcliffe and Sue Block Tyrrell.