

## SEPTEMBER 2011, NO 14

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## 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Hosted by Finland's THL  
September 25–28, 2011  
Hilton Helsinki Kalastajatorppa  
Helsinki, Finland

Registration deadline:  
September 9, 2011

Members can click here  
to register.

### **President's Message: Charting the Future of IANPHI**

I have greatly enjoyed the privilege of serving as IANPHI's president these past five years. Working together during that time, we have exceeded our goals for IANPHI—not only establishing a robust international community of 76 NPHI directors but also successfully undertaking more than 50 projects in 25 NPHIs.

Most of our work to date has been funded by a \$20 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This grant ends October 1, 2012. As was outlined in detail during IANPHI's [May 1, 2011 Executive Board meeting](#), the Gates Foundation cannot support IANPHI over the long term, and other revenues such as dues are not sufficient to cover costs for IANPHI's activities and infrastructure, including the secretariats in Atlanta and Helsinki.



*Dr. Jeffrey Koplan*

IANPHI's Executive Board is taking steps now to transition our organization toward a sustainable future. The board has begun a six-month planning process that will help us prepare a five-year strategic business plan that will inform our advocacy efforts. The board will meet before the annual meeting in Helsinki and will share its recommendations on IANPHI's future scope and activities with the IANPHI membership during an interactive discussion at our General Assembly.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions and ideas on this important topic as our organization begins the challenging but necessary transition toward self-sufficiency.

We believe in the value of our national public health institutes and their vital role in improving public health both in our respective nations and by extension globally. Similarly we have found that IANPHI enhances our efforts by encouraging partnerships among our members, assisting with resources for important projects, and giving us a peer group from which we learn, share experiences and skills, and strengthen our identity. We will make every effort to ensure that IANPHI continues as a vigorous institution.

### **World's Public Health Leaders to Gather in Helsinki**

There's still time to register for the 2011 Annual Meeting and join almost 70 directors of national public health institutes in late September in Helsinki, Finland. The registration deadline has been extended to Friday, September 9.

During this sixth annual gathering at the Hilton Helsinki Kalastajatorppa, participants will share their experiences and policies on a wide array of key public health issues, welcome new institutes to IANPHI's growing roster of members, and elect new members to the IANPHI Executive Board. The world's leading national public health leaders will address a wide array of topics, including the role of NCDs and public health institutes (in particular the impli-

cations of the WHO international convention on tobacco) as well as technical sessions on maternal and newborn health, the global challenge of monitoring and surveillance, HPV vaccines and screening in prevention of cervical cancer, and monitoring and surveillance of infectious disease. Members also will examine the role of NPHIs in public health crises and learn about a new set of essential public health functions being developed by IANPHI and WHO.

At the General Assembly business meeting, members will vote on membership applications from Ecuador's National Institute of Hygiene Leopoldo Izquieta Perez and [India's National Center for Diseases Control](#). Conference host THL will offer an optional program on Wednesday morning, September 28, introducing the activities and programs of that institute. See the 2011 Annual Meeting [full agenda](#) and read more about the conference.

### Five New Members Proposed for Policy-Making Board

The IANPHI Executive Board (EB) is proposing a slate of five new members for IANPHI's policy-making body to fill the slots of retiring EB members. The full membership of IANPHI will vote on the slate during IANPHI's General Assembly, September 27 at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Helsinki.



Approved by the EB in August is the following slate:

[David Butler Jones](#), Canada (Public Health Agency of Canada)

[Reinhard Burger](#), Germany (Robert Koch Institute)

[Rajae El Aouad](#), Morocco (National Institute of Hygiene)

[Mwele Ntuli Malecela](#), Tanzania (National Institute for Medical Research)

[Justin McCracken](#), UK (Health Protection Agency)

IANPHI is grateful to these retiring members of the EB and thanks them for their tireless energy and dedication to strengthening and linking the world's public health institutes:

[Mohammed Hassar](#), Morocco (Pasteur Institute)

[Tsehaynesh Messele](#), Ethiopia (Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Institute)

[Pathom Sawanpanyalert](#), Thailand (National Institute of Health)

[Geir Stene-Larsen](#), Norway (Norwegian Institute of Public Health)

[Jane Wilde](#), Ireland (Institute of Public Health)

### Member Institutes Step Up to Support IANPHI's Future

IANPHI thanks the many institutes who have helped ensure IANPHI's future by becoming among the first dues-paying members in the organization's five-year history. The IANPHI membership voted in November 2010 to start collecting membership dues beginning in 2011. These dues demonstrate members' ownership and commitment to IANPHI and will support future activities of IANPHI. Member support is helping IANPHI attract other donors to ensure the sustainability of the association in the future years.

Dues invoices were sent by mail at the end of May, and reminders were emailed to member institutes in early July with the original invoices attached. *Members who wish to waive the payment of dues or require an extension of the payment period should send an e-mail letter to the Secretary General at [ianphi@thl.fi](mailto:ianphi@thl.fi). All requests and waivers will be kept confidential.*

Each member institute has been issued a membership number, which should be written in the message field when paying annual dues so that IANPHI can properly credit your institute. If you have questions regarding the dues, please contact the IANPHI Secretariat in Helsinki at [ianphi@thl.fi](mailto:ianphi@thl.fi).

From top to bottom, left to right:  
[David Butler-Jones](#), [Reinhard Burger](#),  
[Rajae El Aouad](#), [Mwele Ntuli Malecela](#),  
and [Justin McCracken](#).

## Project Update: Uganda Lays Foundation for Future Research Growth



UVRI Director Edward Mbidde

Over the past four years, IANPHI grants have served as catalysts to the [Uganda Virus Research Institute's](#) vision of becoming a world-class center of excellence in health research. The UVRI leadership has successfully used that IANPHI capacity-strengthening support with regional networks to leverage about \$16 million in research support from external partners.

The most recent grant of about \$150,000 awarded in August will provide support for the physical and human resources recently incorporated into UVRI, lay the foundation for further research growth, and support the developing culture of leadership and mentorship in health research in developing countries especially in Africa.

“The maiden visit to UVRI by IANPHI in 2007 provided a platform from which other funders including our development partners on campus continue to contribute towards the growth of the institute into one that blends high quality research with academic excellence,” says UVRI Director Edward Mbidde. “And our experience shows that modest investments when effectively and efficiently utilized, can have a huge multiplier effect with enormous dividends.”

UVRI is a key source of expertise for many of the country's infectious disease functions, including outbreak investigation, clinical trials, scientific research, and laboratory science. Since 2007, IANPHI has underwritten development of a resource center, strategic plan, telephone system, and a research support office to increase UVRI's capacity to manage, coordinate and execute large projects. UVRI has added new facilities, including totally refurbishing BSL2 and BSL3 laboratories funded by CDC and WHO.

A grant-writing workshop in 2009 helped scientists secure research funding, including fellowships for post-docs. UVRI has increased its staff and boosted training. Continuing investments by IANPHI, pro-bono technical assistance from the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), and support from other partners have helped take UVRI to new levels in reference laboratory, epidemiology, grant management, and research capacity.

However, UVRI still lacks some basics—such as a secure power supply and adequate water storage in case of fire—which the new grant will address. [Read more.](#)

## Bangladesh Scientists Sharpen Writing Skills

Mentoring in Bangladesh broadened its reach this summer when the “mentee,” Principal Scientist Mushtuq Husain, became the mentor by helping coordinate and lead a workshop on mentorship and scientific writing skills for his fellow scientists. The results were 11 scientific abstracts, suitable for presentation at a meeting or submission to a journal. Topics ranged from hospital-based surveillance for typhoid fever to adverse effects of drugs used for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, and the group also drafted 90% of a five-year report on Bangladesh's IEDCR. In addition, the workshop covered case studies and local models of mentorship.

Dr. Husain has worked closely with his mentor, Dr. Oman Khan, over the past two years to develop his scientific writing prowess and has since had scientific papers published. He and Dr. Khan are among six mentor-mentee pairs in IANPHI's Mentorship Program, which facilitates active partnerships between experienced public health professionals and promising current or



**IANPHI's first grant to UVRI has had a “multiplier effect.”**



Participants in the IEDCR-IANPHI workshop on mentorship and scientific writing included L-R: Dr. Sultana Shahana, Dr. Nuzhat Nasren Banu, Dr. Selina Khatun, Dr. Rukhsana Shaheen, Dr. Mushtuq Husain (IANPHI Fellow), and Dr. Mujaddeed Ahmed.

## Read more about the scientific writing and mentorship workshop.

potential national public health institute (NPHI) leaders. This program is part of an ongoing IANPHI effort to provide a career path for public health professionals through training in strategic leadership and management, providing them with public health tools, training, and support they need to develop their full potential.

“We, at IEDCR are very much impressed by the outcome of the mentorship program of IANPHI. The mentorship program has developed qualitatively the IANPHI Fellow (Dr. Husain), and in turn it has facilitated the development of IEDCR as an institution,” says IEDCR Director Mahmud Rahman. “The Fellow is providing leadership at IEDCR as well as in the area of public health in this country.”

### Member Update

#### Cuba: Remembering Gustavo Kouri Flores

The former director general of Cuba’s *Institute of Tropical Medicine “Pedro Kouri”* was an active participant in IANPHI since its first meeting in 2006, helping shape IANPHI’s constitution and definition of essential public health functions. He is remembered in *The Lancet* for developing biomedical research in Cuba and never losing sight of the practical aspects of surveillance, prevention, and control of infectious diseases in countries around the world. He passed away in Havana on May 5, 2011, at age 75. Jorge Pérez Avila is the current director of the institute.



Gustavo Kouri Flores



Owen Metcalfe

**Guinea:** Dr. Lamine Koivugui is the new director of the Guinea National Institute of Public Health.

**Iceland:** In May, the Public Health Institute of Iceland was incorporated into the *Directorate of Health*. The scope of the Directorate of Health now includes public health measures and health promotion. The current medical director of health is Dr. Geir Gunlaugsson, who will serve as Iceland’s representative to IANPHI.

**Ireland:** Owen Metcalfe has been nominated as the new director of the *Institute of Public Health in Ireland*.

**Moldova:** The National Scientific and Practical Center of Preventive Medicine in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, has changed its name to the *National Center of Public Health*, and Dr. Ion Bahnarel has been nominated as director.

**Russian Federation:** Prof. Sergei Boytsov has been named director of the National Research Centre of Preventive Medicine.



**Thailand:** In May, delegates from Cambodia visited the Thailand National Institute of Health to learn about cell culture and virus isolation techniques for influenza virus. The training course was part of a regional collaboration between Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar to reduce health threats both within and across borders.

Public Health Institutes of the World

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