IEDCR Investigates Anthrax Outbreak in Bangladesh

A collaborative team of epidemiologists, physicians, veterinarians and anthropologists from the Bangladesh Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) and IEDDR, B rushed to several provinces in August to investigate an outbreak of cutaneous anthrax. IEDCR Director Mahmudur Rahman reports that by September 9, a total of 479 cases of cutaneous anthrax had been detected from eight districts. IEDCR is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Department of Livestock and other stakeholders to control the outbreaks. Read more about the outbreak.

More Countries Seek to Join IANPHI

During the General Assembly at the 2010 IANPHI Annual Meeting in Atlanta, IANPHI members will vote on the inclusion of prospective member institutes, consider a proposed membership fee, and elect new members to the Executive Board. Countries that have applied for associate or institutional membership include El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, and Togo. More information about these applicants, the fee proposal, and the slate of candidates proposed by the IANPHI nominating committee can be found on the IANPHI website.

Global Problem of Chronic Diseases Needs United Approach

Policy makers should increase their sense of urgency and unite in their efforts to stop the global spread of chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes that threaten the health and economies of industrialized and developing nations alike. Chronic diseases account for 60% of all deaths worldwide and cost hundreds of billions of dollars, according to a recent article in the New England Journal of Medicine by Emory University co-authors K. M. Venkat Narayan, professor of medicine and global health; Mohammed Ali, assistant professor of global health; and Jeffrey Koplan, vice president for global health, director of the Emory Global Health Institute, and president of IANPHI. The perspectives article, “Global Noncommunicable Diseases – Where Worlds Meet,” is available at http://www.nejm.org.
New Secretary General Nominated

Dr. Teija Kulmala of Finland, a physician with broad experience in international research and development collaborations, has been nominated to serve as IANPHI’s next secretary general. Dr. Kulmala is a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics with a focus on international reproductive health. Her nomination by IANPHI Vice President Pekka Puska will be considered by the IANPHI Executive Board during the 2010 Annual Meeting, October 31–November 2, 2010, in Atlanta, USA. Read more about Dr. Kulmala and the role of the secretary general.

Grand Challenges in Global Health Looking for Good Ideas

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed $100 million to encourage scientists worldwide to expand the pipeline of ideas to fight our greatest health challenges. Launched in 2008, Grand Challenges Exploration grants have already been awarded to 340 researchers from 34 countries who showed innovation in global health research. Initial grants of $100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects may receive a follow-up grant of up to $1 million.

The program is open to anyone from any discipline with good ideas—from student to tenured professor—and from any organization—colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and for-profit companies. The initiative uses an agile, accelerated grant-making process with a short two-page online application that does not require preliminary data. Winning grants will be awarded approximately four months after the submission deadline.

EDCTP Seeks Senior African Scientists and Health Professionals for Advisory Committee

The mission of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) is to accelerate the development of new clinical interventions against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis in sub-Saharan Africa. The Developing Countries Coordination Committee (DCCC), an independent advisory body of the EDCTP comprising prominent African scientists and health professionals, is seeking four new members to serve a two-year term starting January 1, 2011. The DCCC convenes at least twice a year, each meeting lasting one or two days. Applications are invited from senior scientific experts and health professionals from sub-Saharan Africa with experience in HIV/AIDS, malaria, or tuberculosis. Please visit the EDCTP website for more details.
Conference Round Up

4th Africa Nutritional Epidemiology Conference
October 4–8, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

IANPHI 2010 Annual Meeting hosted by the U.S. CDC
October 31–November 2, 2010, Atlanta, USA

IANPHI Regional Meeting for Africa
November 3, 2010, Atlanta, USA

The American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
59th Annual Meeting
November 3–7, 2010, Atlanta, USA

American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting
November 6–10, 2010, Denver, USA

European NPHI Directors Meeting
November 28–29, 2010, Brussels, Belgium

Environmental Health 2011—Resetting Our Priorities
February 6–9, 2011, Salvador, Brazil

African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC)
8th Annual Conference
November 30–December 3, 2011, Cairo, Egypt