

## SALZBURG INSTITUT PASTEUR SEMINAR ON PANDEMICS

August 22 – 26, 2017

• 27 fellows from 21 different countries and regions
• 11 lectures given by 5 faculty from France, Switzerland, and the United States.
• 22 interesting cases presented by fellows
• 8 cases selected by faculty to be published in the Online Case Library

From August 22 to 26, the Open Medical Institute Salzburg was fortunate enough to welcome twenty-seven fellows from around the world to discuss an ever-increasingly relevant topic: pandemics. The general trend of urbanization across the globe poses a problem for public health officials—especially in developing countries, where the governments sometimes lack adequate resources and services to curtail crises. However, even developed countries with ample resources are vulnerable to outbreaks of super-bugs—a problem greatly exacerbated by humanity’s excessive use of antibiotics. Pandemics have recently attracted a lot of attention in the media, most notably during the West African Ebola outbreak of 2014 and the 2015/16 American Zika Virus outbreak during the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Although seminars normally run the entire course of the week here at Schloss Arenberg, this group only had three days of instruction together, but they definitely made the most of their time here. Unlike other areas of medicine, which focus on workshops and demonstrations, pandemics are less tangible in nature. As such, this lectures this week’s lectures were centered on case studies and lessons from history. Faculty turned to examples such as Zika in French Polynesia and the Caribbean, Hepatitis C in Egyptian hospitals, and the nosocomial outbreak of MERS.

The first day contained a number of talks by Course Director Arnaud Fontanet of the Pasteur Institute on a variety of topics. Of particular interest was the last lecture of the day: a case study on Acute Encephalitis in North Vietnam, which colleague Rebecca Grant presented alongside Dr Fontanet. Thursday saw a number of lectures from Dr Maria van Kerkhove, two of which focused on her extensive research into MERS. The Salzburg OMI was fortunate enough to welcome Dr Roy "Trip" Guilick back once again, where his vast knowledge of and insights on HIV/AIDS are always impressed onto fellows. Finally, Dr Stephan Harbarth capped off the week on Friday afternoon with two lectures on the nosocomial transmission of diseases.

Fellows presented their own cases to each other at the end of both Wednesday and Thursday, with eight cases receiving recognition by faculty and recommendation for our case library. The week was concluded Friday with a formal graduation ceremony and dinner in one of Schloss Arenberg's halls. Twenty-seven fellows received DFP credit, but far more valuable than that was the amount of knowledge shared and brain gain initiated. The Salzburg OMI looks forward to working with the Institut Pasteur in the future, and hopes to host these motivated fellows again within our walls.

**Faculty Group Photo, (L-R):**

Wolfgang Aulitsky, MD; Maria Van Kerkhove, PhD; Arnaud Fontanet, MD, DrPH;  
Rebecca Grant, MSc; Roy M. Gulick, MD, MPH  
(not pictured: Stephan Harbarth, MD, MS)



**Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows**



## **SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW**

### **Diary of Nedim Begić, MD**

#### **22 August, Tuesday**

After a 12 hours shift in my workplace, Primary Health Care Center on Monday, on Tuesday at 6 am I started my journey from Sarajevo to Vienna, and then to Salzburg. On the first day I arrived around 4 pm and went to the Schloss Arenberg to check in for the participation. At the first sight, I thought that Schloss Arenberg was truly remarkable place and the staff that welcomed me there was really polite and helpful. At 7 pm we had an opening ceremony followed by nice speeches from the Faculty Board. All of the participants seemed really happy and satisfied to be a part of this seminar. Accommodation was great, considering the rooms, food and every other aspect. Atmosphere was friendly and all of the participants and members of the Faculty board were happy to meet each other and to be part of this seminar.

#### **23 August, Wednesday**

We all got the program and welcome bag the day before so we knew that we should be at 7 o'clock in the restaurant for the breakfast and that lectures start at 8 am. Although the daily program for the lectures was quite long on the first sight, somehow the hours passed quickly because the lectures were amazingly good and interactive. First lecture was held by Arnaud Fontanet and it was an interesting overview about the meaning and influence of infectious diseases during history. Also, on the same day we heard a basic things about epidemiological indicators presented on simple and easily understandable way so that we could follow the rest of the lessons. Then, after lunch, we heard an interesting case study titled "Pediatric Acute Encephalitis-like syndrome outbreaks in Northern Vietnam" presented by Rebecca Grant. After that, fellow's held few presentations and I was happy to hear all the different and interesting case studies from all parts of the world. At the evening we had a nice dinner and drink.

#### **24 August, Thursday**

On Thursday we had a chance to hear presentations held by Maria Van Kerkhove. She gave us a detailed explanation of the Steps in Outbreak Investigations through some examples from her career that helped us to understand better the topic. Second presentation was about MERS-COV outbreak in the Middle East, which was a great example of complex and interesting outbreak of infectious diseases. After this, Roy Gulick held us a lecture about HIV virus and AIDS which was one of the best lecture I attended to, considering the topic and the way of presenting the lecture. I learned a lot of new things since I didn't have the chance to meet with the patients infected by HIV virus in everyday work, so it was extremely useful for me. For the end, second part of fellow's presentation was held. After dinner, most of us went for a walk and a drink in the beautiful city of Salzburg and we really had a nice time. We were all in a good mood despite the lectures lasted until 7 pm.

#### **25 August, Friday**

As on the days before, our breakfast started at 7 am and working part of the seminar started at 8 am. Arnaud Fontanet was presenting us about the Hepatitis C virus in terms of emergence and modes of transmission and he also presented us a case study about Acute Hepatitis C in Fever Hospitals in Egypt. I really learned a lot on these lectures, because he showed us a great knowledge and expertise in this field and did it on the way that was easily understandable giving us the opportunity for interactive type of lesson. After the Coffee Break we had a chance to hear more about Zika pandemic from the same lecturer which was a really big outbreak in modern history followed by great media interest. Also, the presentation was great and it really showed us many things we didn't know about this topic. After the

lunch, a new lecturer was introduced to us. Stephan Harbarth from Geneva University Hospitals shared his knowledge and experiences about Antimicrobial resistance and Control of Nosocomial Outbreaks of Multiresistant Bacteria. He really showed us the magnitude of this problem and necessity for the more serious approach in solving this situation in whole world. We heard two case studies from Stephan Harbarth which were really interesting and which helped us to connect theoretical and practical knowledge considering this topic. I heard what is really important for preventing nosocomial outbreaks and what should be the procedures if the outbreak happens. At the end we had a post seminar test which everyone solved quite well, I believe. I am saying that because the quality of presentation was really good, and everyone certainly learned a lot of new things. Since we finished with lectures a bit earlier on Friday, we had a chance to walk through the city center again and to meet Salzburg. Then we attended to the graduation ceremony where we got certificates and we heard a short speeches from the lecturers. After that, we had a great dinner and we were hanging out. At the end, Wolfgang Aulitzky held us a truly inspirational speech that made me realise that we were a part of the great project that will certainly make our future better and the future of our children. We left the hotel after graduation ceremony for the night out in the city of Salzburg and we all together had a nice conversation in one of the pubs in Salzburg. All of the fellow's exchanged their contacts and promised to meet one day again which I hope that will be true.

### **26 August, Saturday**

This was the day only for departures, but most of us still had a chance to spend a few hours hanging out in this beautiful city. We all were happy that we were part of this seminar and surely this experience enriched everyone's life in many aspects. I believe that all of the participants were thankful to the Faculty And Organising Comitee on the amazing couple of days in Salzburg. Everyone went home with beautiful memories.

## **SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW**

### **Diary of Akbope Myrkassymova, MD**

#### **22 August, Tuesday**

Although I was a bit tired after spending whole day exploring Salzburg I was excited about welcome reception and meeting other participants. At welcome reception participants started lively introducing themselves to each other. Starting questions were “where are you from?” and “is it your first time participating in the OMI seminar?”. Although former participants looked more confident and active, and had some useful recommendations for new-comers. Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky in his welcome speech mentioned that unlike to previous seminars for this particular seminar participants were from more different countries. That is of course great as it gives us opportunities to know more about medicine in countries other than Post Soviet Union countries.

#### **23 August, Wednesday**

After the breakfast, a seminar started by Arnaud Fontanet introducing himself to the group, and consequently each participant introduced themselves to the group. So we found how diverse our background were. Although I have recently got MSc degree in Public Health I felt myself a bit “out of the plate” as my background specialty is on gynaecology. As it is scheduled we took a preseminar test, answering to them I had doubts as topics were not quite familiar to me.

So first lecture. It was a kind of an introductory lecture. There was second lecture after coffee break which was in addition to the first one in terms of key elements of epidemiology of communicable diseases. Those lectures were important for me as I am neither epidemiologist nor a clinician in infection unit.

After the lunch there was a seminar which I enjoyed so much. It was a discussion around case study which took place in Vietnam. It was helpful in terms of understanding and imaging practice done real life settings. Thanks for Dr. Fontanet. His lectures reminded me the time when I studied at LSHTM, interesting and captivating!

Presentations from fellows made me feel uncomfortable since I had not prepared mine. I regret I could not make it as it would be helpful to know their opinion.

Discussion was followed by well prepared dinner which was the wonderful end of the day.

#### **24 August, Thursday**

In the morning, during the breakfast participants were asking each other how they slept. Probably that was because the first lecture day was a little bit tiring.

So for the first half of the day we had two lectures from Maria Van Kerkhove. First one was very good. It helped me to understand the whole process of investigation and the main differences from a research project. And I liked how she delivered it since she was periodically emphasising key elements and differences. With the same approach we had second lecture on MERS. The topic itself is something new for me. And I had to admit before I thought if disease is not circulating in my area (country) then I do not need to worry about it. However, I realised later that travelling or expats can bring in diseases to my country so that it may cause an outbreak.

The case study we had after lunch enhanced our understanding of outbreak investigation practice. After that there was a lecture by Roy Gulick. This lecture is my favourite one. He managed to put a lot of information in one presentation and it was surprisingly understandable. I mean that he touched many aspects of HIV topic and he did it with chronological flow of the HIV issues. That was much more understandable and interesting at the same time. Later on I asked other fellows which lecture they enjoyed most. And most of them agreed with me on HIV lecture.

Case presentations from the fellows made the end of the second seminar day. As I am not a specialist on communicable diseases during the seminars I had assistance from fellows sitting next to me. They helped me a lot in clarifying some particular things that I was confused of.

Almost forgot but we had a group photo session with faculty members during coffee break time.

### **25 August, Friday**

After breakfast there were lectures on Hepatitis C and ZIKV delivered by Arnaud Fortanet. I learnt a lot from them, especially on cohort effect in case of Hepatitis C. So I am wondering if there are other diseases which has been affected by a similar effect. A lecture on ZIKV clarified many things in my mind, and again with a help of fellows from Mexico.

Afternoon gave us an opportunity to enjoy the lecture from Stephan Harbath. This lecture was helpful in terms of providing new information (article materials) and solution to practical issues.

The lecture was followed by a post-seminar test. I think second time I did better than first one.

After having 2 hours break kindly provided by Administration we were gathered for graduation ceremony and dinner. Wolfgang Aulitzky gave his final speech touching current situation in East European and Central Asian countries, and the aim of the programme. And also he mentioned that there are more opportunities for future work with OMI.

After dinner we headed to the city Center to have some walk, group photos and some drink in the pub.

In addition to new knowledge, this seminar gave me an opportunity to meet with those wonderful professionals with different backgrounds, to opinion exchange and to set network and apply it in my practice. The beauty of this programme is that it makes you think wider and generate new ideas. I feel very lucky to have a chance to attend this seminar, and I am very thankful to Faculty members and OMI team for doing this.