

Travel Wise

The Newsletter of the British Travel Health Association



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Patrons: Sir Christian Bonington CBE and Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE, DSc (Hon), FRGS

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EDITORIAL

2009 has been an eventful year for the BTHA. Prof. Larry Goodyer took over editorship of the Journal, the new web site has been launched thanks to enormous effort from Mike Townend and other members of the Committee, and the successful 11th BTHA SCIENTIFIC Conference addressed some of the most current issues in the field of Travel Medicine. A list of members Travel Clinics has been created and can be viewed on the public access part of the web site. We would encourage you to forward your Travel Clinic details so this list is as comprehensive as possible. We have started to communicate with members by email. Please forward your email address to Diane our Secretariat at info@btha.org to ensure you are kept up to date with all current developments. Arboviruses and tick borne infections continue to present a serious health challenge to a large percentage of the world's population. The recent Yellow Fever outbreak in the Central African Republic has triggered a massive government led vaccination campaign in that region. Dengue fever is found to be the most common cause of fever in the returning traveller from the Caribbean, Central America, and South Central Asia. We must not forget the less exotic H1N1 influenza virus. Travellers with chronic diseases, especially asthma should be asked to ensure they have had their swine flu vaccination prior to travel. This is particularly important for travellers to Asia where H1N1 transmission remains very active.

December 2009 saw the United Nations climate change conference. The impact of the changing environment and diminishing world water resources on health was highlighted. More variable rainfall patterns are likely to compromise the supply of fresh water. Globally, water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality can compromise hygiene and health. This in turn increases the risk of diarrhoea, which kills approximately 2.2 million people every year. We as Travel Medicine practitioners should be leading the field in encouraging environmental awareness and responsibility among ourselves and the travellers we advise.

If you would like to get involved in one of our sub committees, or wish to stand for election to the Executive Committee in March, 2010 please contact our Secretary Diane at info@btha.org. We are grateful to our members for their continuing contributions to both Travel Wise and The Journal. Any articles for publication should be emailed to juliegallagher@doctors.org.uk Editor, Travel Wise.

Julie Gallagher

Bulletin Board

BTHA Secretariat will provide information on how to join the Association. Contact BTHA at PO Box 336, Sale, M33 3UU. Tel 0845 003 9197, Fax 0870 005 3521. Email: info@btha.org Website www.btha.org BTHA Executive committee members and current office holders are Eric Walker (President) John Davies (Chairman), Iain McIntosh, George Kassianos (Hon Secretary), Julie Gallagher (Deputy Chairman & Hon Treasurer), Reggie Cooke, Larry Goodyer, Claire Wong (Deputy Secretary), Mike Townend (co-opted) Elaine Richardson (co-opted).

BTHA Publications sub committee, Iain McIntosh (Editor in Chief), Larry Goodyer (Editor Journal) Julie Gallagher (Editor Travel Wise) Reggie Cooke, Jane Wilson-Howarth, Ray Walker, Elaine Richardson, Sandra Grieve, Jane Avis.

Services to members include:

- Research grant of up to £500
- Education Bursary of up to £300
- Four issues of Travel Wise per year
- Two issues of the BTHA Journal per year
- Reduced subscription to Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease
- Reduced fee for the BTHA Annual Scientific Meeting
- Free listing for your Travel Clinic on public access part BTHA website
- Access to research groups
- Study days
- BTHA FTM exam education bursary £300

Contact the Secretariat or visit the website for details of these services. info@btha.org

If you are not yet a member of the BTHA and would like to join, or you are a member and would like to take a more active part, for example by joining one of the subcommittees or helping to organise BTHA activities, please contact the Secretariat or visit the website. BTHA subcommittees include:

- Education
- Research
- Publications
- Conference organisation
- Links with other societies

