

Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET)

TEPHINET is a network of over 24 programs that provide both competency-based training in applied epidemiology and public health services worldwide. Most programs are situated within national Ministries of Health (MOH), and they are often the first line of defense in their country in the fight against public health threats from communicable diseases. Programs conduct outbreak investigations; develop, manage and evaluate public health surveillance systems; publish national epidemiology bulletins; and carry out applied research.

Programs participating in TEPHINET include Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) and Public Health Schools without Walls (PHSWOWs) in Canada, United States, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Central America, Italy, Spain, Germany, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, Philippines, Australia, and Korea. And new programs are scheduled to begin in China and India in 2001. TEPHINET also works closely with other training programs in applied epidemiology, such as the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET).

The goals of TEPHINET are to support and strengthen existing field-based public health training programs; to improve national and regional response to public health emergencies through international collaborative partnerships among training programs and responding organizations and agencies; to support the development of new field-based public health training programs in countries with needs; and to support research activities of member training institutions in response to public health problems and threats.

TEPHINET has been doing this through organizing global and regional international conferences; sponsoring workshops to enhance the skills of training program staff and trainees; developing, publishing and distributing training materials; fostering exchanges of staff between programs; recruiting participants for international outbreak response teams; recruiting short-term consultants to assist countries to start new programs; and helping to recruit short-term and long-term international staff for programs.

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