BACKGROUND

Training Programs in Epidemiology & Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) is the only global network of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs), trainees, and graduates. Currently, TEPHINET comprises 69 programs actively training field epidemiologists, also known as applied epidemiologists, in more than 100 countries.

An FETP is a program that builds capacity in health service agencies by providing training in field epidemiology and other public health competencies in the context of health delivery systems. FETPs are modeled after the CDC’s Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), a two-year post-doctoral training program for health professionals interested in applied epidemiology. The success of EIS led to requests from other countries for similar programs. Today, there are more than 70 FETPs, most of which are members of TEPHINET.

FETPs and FELTPs (field epidemiology and laboratory training programs) are designed to strengthen public health systems in four specific ways:

1. To increase the number and quality of field epidemiologists in the public health workforce;
2. To develop worldwide capacity for timely detection, investigation of, and response to public health emergencies;
3. To improve capacity to collect public health data through improved disease surveillance systems and to effectively use this data;
4. To promote the use of evidence-based recommendations in public health decision-making and policies.

TEPHINET member programs include those with laboratory components and those with veterinarian education components. Overall, TEPHINET comprises more than 10,000 trainees and 6,500 graduates (over the last 20 years) who play a critical role in improving global health security by strengthening country capacity to detect and respond to disease outbreaks.

With a secretariat based at the Task Force for Global Health in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, TEPHINET is the only global network of FETPs and spans multiple regional FETP networks, sub-regional programs, and national programs around the world.

As a network, TEPHINET supports FETP quality improvement through its accreditation program, provides training and professional development opportunities for FETP trainees and graduates through scientific conferences and e-learning, and facilitates resource-sharing among FETPs through a number of networking initiatives. As an implementing partner to organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Department of State, and other public and private organizations, TEPHINET provides management and training support to FETPs and graduates through funded projects.
**VISION**

All people are protected by a field epidemiology workforce capable of detecting and responding to health threats.

**MISSION**

To empower and mobilize a competent field epidemiology workforce for all people through standardized training, experiential learning, training program quality improvement, mentoring, and knowledge exchanges in order to connect epidemiologists better, faster and with quality across the globe.

**MISSION STRATEGIC GOALS**

During 2017-2020, TEPHINET will:

1. **Improve the understanding of TEPHINET’s mission and role among stakeholders**
   
   With the support of the Task Force for Global Health, TEPHINET aims to bring together the FETP community to define a shared vision, a cohesive mission, and to clarify the roles of key stakeholders including FETPs, regional FETP networks, CDC, WHO, and TEPHINET which will be documented in an integrated plan.

2. **Strengthen the quality of FETPs and their graduates**
   
   In collaboration with regional FETP networks and individual programs, TEPHINET will strengthen and maintain the FETP accreditation process and establish a certification program for graduates to ensure quality of programs and graduates.

3. **Support continuous learning within the global FETP community**
   
   In collaboration with the regional networks and programs, TEPHINET will create and implement a continuous learning strategy which defines learning objectives, course components, target audiences, learning management systems, and training needs.

4. **Increase peer-to-peer assistance**
   
   In collaboration with the regional networks and programs, TEPHINET will identify and implement tools to connect technical assistance mentors to those in need of assistance. TEPHINET will also work to identify resources to support regular face-to-face meetings to foster peer learning.

5. **Facilitate workforce mobilization in response to global disease threats**
   
   In collaboration with the regional networks and programs, TEPHINET will create the system architecture for a global FETP alumni database, establish a means of liaising with existing alumni networks, and create a program that interfaces with key stakeholders to implement a system for requesting assistance from our network of skilled alumni.

6. **Elevate TEPHINET’s voice and profile as a thought leader**
   
   TEPHINET will conduct and attend high quality conferences, meetings, and workshops to convene, inform and advance system-level solutions to global epidemiology issues and concerns.

During this strategic period, TEPHINET will continue to provide general support to build organizational capacity and sustainability of FETPs at global, regional, and program levels.
INTERNAL STRATEGIC GOALS

In order to accomplish these objectives, TEPHINET must:

1. Improve internal operating procedures, processes, systems and structures
   TEPHINET will review, strengthen, and align its standard operating procedures (SOPs) and systems related to finance, project management, and information management/communications. It will also work with the Task Force for Global Health to establish SOPs for satellite offices.

2. Improve the advisory board’s effectiveness and engagement
   The TEPHINET Secretariat will lead a review of the role of the advisory board, conduct an advisory board assessment, harmonize the advisory board’s role with the Task Force for Global Health, and develop and implement a board development plan.

3. Create a TEPHINET culture that is supportive of staff and their professional development
   The TEPHINET secretariat will conduct an internal cultural assessment, assess and address workloads on a regular basis, ensure that agreement budgets align with staff funding requirements, and develop and implement a staff retention strategy and a succession plan.

4. Establish a global FETP alumni network
   TEPHINET will develop and manage an alumni database and develop a strategy for engaging FETP alumni to participate in an alumni network.

5. Improve IT platforms across TEPHINET to support the network and TEPHINET mission
   The TEPHINET secretariat will develop and implement an IT strategy to leverage smarter technology more effectively.

6. Create a holistic and balanced fundraising model that increases fundraising effectiveness
   TEPHINET will develop and execute a robust resource development plan.

7. Improve earned revenue (i.e. fee for service) through service provision within mission
   TEPHINET will develop business plans around viable earned revenue opportunities.

VALUES & BEHAVIORS

In implementing this strategic plan, the TEPHINET secretariat commits to exhibiting the following values and behaviors with all its stakeholders to support and advance the organization and its strategic partnerships.

Integrity
Be transparent and fair

Customer Service
Go the extra mile to respond to the needs of our network and partners

Excellence
Provide high quality products and services

Inclusiveness
Include those affected by decisions in the decision-making process

Equity
Provide services contextualized according to country specific and/or regional needs

TEPHINET Director Dr. Dionisio Herrera (left) and Dr. Carl Reddy (right), Chairman of the TEPHINET Advisory Board

The TEPHINET Advisory Board (March 2017)

TEPHINET Project Manager Claire Jennings and Financial Analyst Thomas Jackson setting up for an event (April 2017)