

MENA-ISN

History, Achievements and Future Direction

MENA-ISN

October 4th, 9:30-10 AM, SKYPE Connection
Meral Akcay

MENA-ISN was Established during 5th ESWI Meeting in Riga, 2014

Name of the Member	Country
1. Prof.Hisham Tarraf	EGYPT
2. Prof. Suleiman Abusrewil	LIBYA
3. Dr. Abdulhakeem Althaqafi	KSA
4. Dr Jalal Nourlil	MOROCCO
5. Dr Amal Barakat	MOROCCO
6. Dr Djoher Hannoune	ALGERIA
7. Dr Fawzi Derrar	ALGERIA
8. Pr. Salim Nafti	TUNISIA
9. Prof.Dr. Serhat Unal	TURKEY
10. Prof.Dr.Bulent Tutluoglu	TURKEY
11. Prof. Dr. Esin Şenol	TURKEY
12. Dr.Ahmet OZLU	TURKEY(MOH)
13. Dr. Mojtaba Rostamijalilian	IRAN
14. Dr. Masoud Mardani Dashti	IRAN
15. Hulya Akan	TURKEY
16. Lale Ozisik	TURKEY

16 Members from
7 Countries

Current Members and Countries

Name	Country	Organisation / Institution
1-Favzi Derrar	Algeria	Pasteur Institute
2-Samia Hammadi	Algeria	MOH
3-Idris Omaima	Egypt	Cairo University
4-Hesham Tarraf	Egypt	Cairo University
5-Abdulreza Esteghamati	Iran	Iran University of Medical Sciences
6-Masoud Mardani	Iran	Shahid Behest University Of Medical Sciences
7-Mohammed Abdallat	Jordan	MOH
8-Abdulrahman Algeer	KSA	Center for Infection Prevention & Control - Ministry of Defense
9-Muslim AbuHasan	KSA	MOH
10-Fatima Al Slail	KSA	MoH
11-Ghassan Dbaibo	Lebanon	American University of Beirut
12-Nada Ghosn	Lebanon	MOH
13-Mohamed Abugalia	Libya	National Centre for Disease Control
14-Suleiman Abusrewil	Libya	medical school Tripoli University
15-Omar Elahmer	Libya	National Centre for Disease Control
16-Jalal Nourlil	Morocco	Institut Pasteur du Maroc
17-Hicham Oumzil	Morocco	MOH
18-Salah Al Awaidi	Oman	MOH
19-Yusuf Kemal Mirza	Pakistan	Agha Khan University
20-Marta Nunes	South Africa	University of the Witwatersrand
21-Salim Parker	South Africa	Head of Travel Medicine
22-Sibongile Walaza	South Africa	Medical Epidemiology Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis (CRDM)
23-Nissaf Ben Alaya	Tunisia	MOH
24-Jalia Ben Khelil	Tunisia	Hopital Abderrahmene Mami- Head of ICU Responsible for SARI Flu Surveillance
25-Mehmet Ceyhan	Turkey	Hacettepe University
26-Caglar Cuhadaroglu	Turkey	Atisade University, Faculty of Medicine

18 Countries, 26 Members

MENA-ISN Mission

Reduce the burden of influenza by increasing the evidence-based communication with policy makers, program managers, health systems, health care workers and general public in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

MENA-ISN Objectives were in Line
with WHO/GAP Objectives



**MENA-ISN Objectives:
2014**



1. Improve surveillance and document disease burden
2. Increase the evidence-based communication on influenza burden and benefits of vaccination
3. Increase number of countries with flu vaccination in their national immunization programs
4. Improve the monitoring of influenza coverage rates to be aligned with WHO influenza vaccination coverage rate targets.

MENA-ISN Held 9 Meetings



- Latvia, ESWI Meetings, 2014 and 2017
- Istanbul, MENA Regional Country
- Geneva, WHO Presentations and Visit
- Amsterdam, ECCMID Congress
- Barcelona, During Internal Medicine Training Meeting
- Prague, Foundation Merieux , April 2017
- Riga, Foundation Merieux, September 2018
- Egypt, Foundation Merieux, April 2018

Scientific Content of the Meetings

- Istanbul, April 2015
 - WHO/EMRO representative delivered the WHO policy on influenza
- Geneva, September 2015
 - Pediatric Influenza (Terho Heikkinen)
 - Universal Influenza Vaccination and role of HCPs (Litjen Tan)
 - Thinking Out of the Box (Ipek Ozel)
 - WHO Presentations and Visit (WHO influenza action plans)
- Amsterdam, ECCMID Congress, 2016
 - All participants benefited from ECCMID congress sessions
- Barcelona, During Internal Medicine Training Meeting, 2016
 - Advocacy concept and understanding current decision making process workshop (Ipek Ozel)
 - Herd Immunity Concept (Mark Loeb)
 - Dutch Surveillance System (John Paget)

- Prague, Foundation Merieux , April 2017
 - Ongoing International Influenza Initiatives to Advocate Influenza Vaccination (Atika Abelin)
- Latvia, ESWI Meeting Foundation Merieux, 2017
 - Influenza Viruses, Pandemics and epidemics (Ab Osterhaus)
 - Role of HCWs in Influenza Transmission and Vaccination (Helena Maltezeu)
- Egypt, Foundation Merieux, April 2018
 - Pregnancy Mouse Model to study maternal immunisation (Gulsah Gabriel)
 - Influenza vaccination in high-riskgroups: a revision of existing guidelines and rationale for an evidence-based preventive strategy high risk groups (Melissa Andrew)
 - How to bust advocacy to improve influenza vaccination policy (Saad Omar)



Publications from MENA-ISN

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

OMAN MEDICAL JOURNAL [2018], VOL. 33, NO. 4: 283-290



A Snapshot of Influenza Surveillance, Vaccine Recommendations, and Vaccine Access, Drivers, and Barriers in Selected Middle Eastern and North African Countries

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: Influenza is a vaccine-preventable acute respiratory viral infection that causes epidemics annually around the globe. A regional influenza stakeholder network (MENA-ISN) comprised of experts assessed the status of influenza prevention and control using a structured survey. **Methods:** A survey questionnaire was used to obtain information from each participating country on surveillance system, the burden of disease, influenza vaccination programs, recommendations, funding and access for vaccine and vaccination, target rate, coverage rate monitoring, and drivers and barriers to influenza vaccination. **Results:** Out of the 10 countries that participated, nine had an influenza surveillance system and vaccination policy, and seven had World Health Organization (WHO) accredited reference laboratory. Three countries had burden of disease data available and eight had a reimbursement vaccine policy. Influenza vaccine was available in five countries through the Ministry of Health whereas in others, pharmacies also dispensed for the private sector. In all countries, prescribers were physicians, and vaccinators, which could be physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. Eight countries had a set vaccination target rate and only three monitored the influenza coverage rates. Drivers and barriers of vaccination were similar in all countries. **Conclusions:** Despite existing policies, influenza vaccination coverage remains far below the WHO recommendations. Increased awareness and effective implementation of policies with collaboration of stakeholders can help increase the rates to reach WHO targets.

G Model

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Influenza vaccination situation in Middle-East and North Africa countries: Report of the 7th MENA Influenza Stakeholders Network (MENA-ISN)

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News Letters




MENA INFLUENZA STAKEHOLDERS NETWORK NEWS LETTER

December 5, 2014

MENA News

Since the first meeting at 5th ESWI Influenza Conference in RIGA in September 2014, some countries have already started activities regarding influenza awareness. In this issue of this news letter you will find influenza activities conducted in Egypt, Iran and Algeria as well as recent information on influenza activity in the world and in MENA region.



Egypt

In the beginning of November 2014, a national influenza campaign titled "together against flu" was conducted in Egypt with the leadership of our MENA Stakeholder Network member Prof. Dr. Hisham Tairaf in collaboration with MoH, and a number of national scientific societies including pediatrics, internal medicine, diabetes, respiratory and cardiovascular specialties. The activity was largely covered by media and supported by Sanofi Pasteur.



THE FIFTH ESWI
INFLUENZA
CONFERENCE
14-17 SEPTEMBER 2014 | RIGA



Iran

A country level Influenza Stakeholder Network, Iranian Physicians Working on Influenza (IPWI) was established in Iran. IPWI has already selected a very nice logo for their group. The group held their first meeting on November 20th, 2014 in Tehran. The meeting was chaired by one of our MENA Influenza Stakeholder Members from Iran, Dr. Masoud Mardani, Professor at Iran Medical University, Infectious Diseases Department, who is an expert on influenza in Iran.



IRANIAN PHYSICIANS
WORKING ON INFLUENZA
I.P.W.I




MENA INFLUENZA STAKEHOLDERS NETWORK NEWSLETTER - 5

November 11, 2015

MENA Influenza Stakeholder Network (MENA-ISN) has completed its first year with success. MENA-ISN held a total of 3 meetings where the group discussed about the existing gaps in influenza programmes in regional countries, actions to be taken to increase influenza awareness and vaccination coverage rates to be aligned with WHO target rates. Need for local data to support informed decisions by local health authorities to reduce the burden of influenza in the region were also among the discussion topics. MENA-ISN meetings were technically supported by WHO and this technical support will continue as long as the activities and achievements of MENA-ISN are aligned with WHO goals. MENA-ISN has thus far:

- completed the country influenza mappings
- defined a clear mission and prepared a strategic plan which has been well accepted by WHO
- defined country level actions to be taken to increase influenza awareness during upcoming 2015-2016 influenza season
- held meetings that were attended by WHO speakers and by distinguished scientists on influenza

- started close interactions with WHO/Geneva and EMRO
- WHO hosted MENA-ISN at the HQ in Geneva during 3rd MENA-ISN meeting in Geneva, and delivered several presentations to the group on how to document and reduce the burden of influenza in the region.
- WHO/EMRO invited a MENA-ISN member to attend "Intel-Country Meeting of The Eastern Mediterranean Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance (EMARIS) Network" that was held on September 14-16, 2015, Amman, Jordan. Dr. Hisham Tairaf, kindly took the task on behalf of MENA-ISN and presented the aim and plan of MENA-ISN during this meeting.

The season is about to start in our region and some countries have already started on influenza awareness campaigns, and some have already started taking the actions listed in their action plans.

In this issue of the first newsletter of the 2015-2016 season, activities done in countries and epidemiological update on influenza activity will be covered. As you will notice MENA-ISN members have actively participated in these country activities.

Regional Influenza Awareness Activities/ Campaigns

Algeria

MoH officially launched the 2015-2016 season with the Algerian flu surveillance network (RASG) on October 11th, 2015 at the National Institute of Public Health.

The surveillance network included 100 GPs from private and public sectors and all were present at the meeting.

Web Site

The screenshot displays the homepage of the MENA Influenza Stakeholders Network website. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://www.thefluend.com>. The page features a navigation menu with links for HOME, NEWS, INITIATIVES, MEETINGS, NEWSLETTERS, MEMBERS, PROFILE, and STATISTICS. A search bar is located below the navigation menu. The main content area includes a yellow banner with text about influenza, a 'Submit' sidebar with buttons for SUBMIT NEWS, SUBMIT INITIATIVE, SUBMIT MEETING, CREATE NEWSLETTER, and CREATE MEMBER, and a grid of news items. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date 02.12.2015 and time 13:06.

MENA Influenza Stakeholders Network

Search

HOME NEWS INITIATIVES MEETINGS NEWSLETTERS MEMBERS PROFILE STATISTICS

Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease that annually infects 5-10% of adults and 20-30% children worldwide leading to severe infection in 3-5 million and death in 250.000-500.000 people.¹ Many international health organizations such as World Health Organisation recommend annual influenza vaccination²⁻³ as influenza vaccination is the most effective option to prevent the disease and / or severe outcomes from the illness.⁴

Despite recommendations, the influenza vaccination coverage rates remain very low in Middle-East and North-Africa region countries. TheFluend is constituted to support the Middle East and North Africa Influenza Stakeholders Network in their battle against influenza through sharings and discussions about influenza and vaccination.

We would like to welcome you in TheFluend website and encourage you to share your news, initiatives, activities, etc.

Submit

- SUBMIT NEWS
- SUBMIT INITIATIVE
- SUBMIT MEETING
- CREATE NEWSLETTER
- CREATE MEMBER

SURVEILLANCE 27. 11. 2015
Amine Slim
first seasonal flu case in Tunisia
READ MORE

EVENTS **HEALTH AUTHORITIES** 23. 11. 2015
Thefluend Admin
WHO Euro Flu Awareness Campaign

Middle Eastern & North African
MENA
Influenza Stakeholders Networks

Global Epidemiological Surveillance Standards for Influenza

13:06 02.12.2015

Country Influenza Stakeholder Networks (CISN)

- Iran has established CISN (IPWI)
- Pakistan has established CISN
- Egypt has established CISN
- Other countries pending.....

Future Direction

- Determine the “Road Map” with clear actions
- Increase visibility of MENA-ISN
 - Connect with Global Influenza Networks and other regional networks
 - Social media
 - Proactively engage in influenza related topics
 - Establish CISNs in the countries

