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Man with Snake by James Moore

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 (Deputy Chairman), George Kassianos (Hon Secretary), Julie Gallagher (Hon Treasurer), Sarah Buckley, Reggie Cooke, Steve Riley, Larry Goodyer, Claire Stringer, Damian Williams (co-opted).

BTHA Publications sub committee, Iain McIntosh [Editor in Chief], Sarah Buckley [Editor Journal] Julie Gallagher [Editor Travel Wise] Larry Goodyer, Reggie Cooke, Jane Wilson- Howarth, Ray Walker, Elaine Richardson, Sandra Grieve

Services to members include:

- Research grant of up to £500
- Educational bursary of up to £300
- Four issues of Travelwise per year
- Two issues of the BTHA Journal per year
- Reduced subscription to Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease
- Free loan of Topics in International Health CD ROMs
- Reduced fee for the BTHA Annual Scientific Meeting

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

If you are not yet a member of BTHA and would like to join, or if you are a members 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

Please remember our new Tel No. 0845 003 9197

The role of the Travel Health advisor is continually expanding.

Travel Medicine advisors need to be aware of both the economic and political situations in a country as well as the health risks that will meet the traveller.

The current situation in Kenya will undoubtedly bring new challenges to the Travel Health Advisor over the next year. Political unrest brings with it not only economic upheaval but a marked reduction in personal safety and public services. The inevitable health risks follow as both arthropod borne and infectious diseases increase. Government measures to deal with these outbreaks are pushed aside as resources are diverted into riot control and maintaining security. Media silencing prevents both the traveller and the travel health advisor from determining the actual risk of travel however logic tells us that these risks will be many. Political refugees escaping to neighbouring countries bring with them disease, personal trauma and psychological illness. It is not only travellers in the coming months to Kenya that we must council but those to the surrounding countries as well. For the traveller it may seem like exciting times but they may face genuine health and security challenges on arrival. VFR's maybe returning to a very different country from the one they left. Once vaccinations have been completed we need to ensure the traveller is very much aware of food hygiene and personal security measures. Directing travellers not only to Fitfortravel web site and NaTHNac websites but the Foreign and Commonwealth Office web site should be mandatory for all travellers to East Africa for some time. On the other side of the World the spread of yellow fever has reached Paraguay, previously free from yellow fever since 1974. With 13 suspected and now 5 confirmed cases among hunters in the San Estanislao area in the Department of San Paulo, a rural area in the central East of Paraguay. The W.H.O are recommending that all travellers to this area should now be vaccinated against Yellow Fever.

Yellow Fever vaccination continues to be a topic much debated for certain travellers. Why not post your travel medicine related questions and queries on the new BTHA forum on the web site and pull on the knowledge and experience of the British Travel Health community for guidance. While TRAVAX and the new Country Information Pages on the NaTHNac website give us excellent guidance, there are invariable questions to which answers are not straightforward. The more the Forum is used the greater the resource will be. **To access the forum you will need your new BTHA membership number which can be obtained from Diane by emailing at info@btha.org**

We are also keen to receive and print articles from members on their own travel experiences or travel medicine areas of interest. Send contributions to info@btha.org F.A.O - Julie Gallagher, Travelwise Editor.