

# 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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## 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](mailto:info@btha.org) Website [www.btha.org](http://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).

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

Contact the Secretariat or visit the website for details of these services. [info@btha.org](mailto: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

# EDITORIAL

The current international Health Care situation can be summed up by Bob Dylan's immortal words 'Times are a changing'. The opening lecture of the 1st NECTM conference held in Edinburgh in 2006, informed us of the relationship between climate change and health. Three years further on, a recent report on climate change and health published in the Lancet 2009, 373:1693-733, concluded that 'Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century.' As the United Nations climate change conference approaches, [December 2009] we can only hope that the threat that climate change presents to the health of the world's poorest countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa will be highlighted and action taken. Water shortage, or excess, [as sea levels rise], political conflict, migration and changing disease patterns have a major effect on the health and health care provision in those countries worst affected by climate change. As Travel Medicine Practitioners, we have to be more aware than our professional colleagues in other specialties of these threats. Not only for our personal practise advising traveller's, but also to provide professional backing to policy changes that will reduce the impact of climate change on the world's poorest populations.

The BTHA 11th Scientific meeting will take place on the 28th November at Charing Cross Hotel, London. It should be a really good conference and well worth putting in your diaries.

A new Director of the U.S. Centers for disease Control and Prevention, [CDC] in Atlanta, has been appointed-Dr. Tom Frieden. Dr. Frieden was the former health commissioner for New York. The CDC is an important player in global health and it will be interesting to see what changes Dr. Frieden can implement.

The BTHA Executive Committee would like to offer sincere thanks to Damian Williams and Sarah Buckley, who have recently stepped down from the Committee. Both Damian and Sarah demonstrated consistent hard work and enthusiasm while serving on the BTHA Exec. Both will be greatly missed from the Committee and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

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](mailto: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 [info@btha.org](mailto:info@btha.org) F.A.O Julie Gallagher, Editor, Travel Wise



Julie Gallagher