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British Travel Health Association
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Membership forms and payment can be processed via our website

Patrons: Sir Christian Bonington CBE and Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE, DSc (Hon), FRGS

I did not anticipate writing another editorial for Travelwise since I relinquished the post of editor, but in Julie's temporary absence I am stepping "once more unto the breach".

In this edition we are featuring a number of updates which we hope members will find useful, including updates to the Green Book, travel vaccines on the NHS, the use of the pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine, as well as important information on the authorisation of Patient Group Directions by PCT clusters from the PGD website and snippets from some of the journals.

Our main feature article gives an account of the participation by Major Andy Whiteside in the Atacama Desert Race in Chile. His account of the gruelling race and the extremes of climate and terrain that he endured left me full of admiration for his courage and endurance.

In recent times we have seen many different examples of human courage and endurance. The Haiti earthquake, the Pakistan floods and the Japanese earthquake and subsequent nuclear disaster have drawn our attention to the precarious nature of our existence on this planet, but they have also brought out many of the better aspects of human nature in the world's response to these tragedies. As I write, it is a different kind of tragedy that is uppermost in my mind. The recent appalling bombing and shootings in Norway, a country known for its open and egalitarian society, carried out by one of its own citizens, has shown that there is also potentially a very dark side to human nature. A message of sympathy and support has been sent to colleagues in Norway by one of our Executive Committee members, Reggie Cooke. It is at times of pain and grief such as these that the support of friends and colleagues is of prime importance, as I know from my own experience. Although it can do little to relieve the pain and loss, it is important to let the sufferers know that we care. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Norwegian colleagues, the victims of this deranged killer and those who have suffered the most extreme personal loss imaginable.

Finally, may I draw your attention to this year's conference, the 13TH BTHA Annual Scientific Conference with the theme of Travel Health from a Global Perspective on Saturday, 1st October, 2011 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP. To book your place visit our website www.btha.org.

BTHA Secretariat will provide information on how to join. Contact BTHA at Mina Sedani, De Montfort University, Leicester LE1 9BH. Email: info@btha.org Website: www.btha.org

BTHA Executive committee members and current office holders are: Iain McIntosh (President), Julie Gallagher (Chairman, Deputy Treasurer), George Kassianos (Hon. Secretary), Martin Brown (Hon. Treasurer), Eric Walker, Mike Townend, Reggie Cooke, Tania John, Paul Richards, James Moore (co opted).

BTHA Publications sub committee, Mike Townend (Chair), 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
- BTHA FTM exam education busery £300

Contact the Secretariat or visit the website for details of these services. 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

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