

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Finding your way in travel health. That is the challenge for health practitioners. How do they perform an individual traveller risk assessment and manage this risk with accurate and reliable guidance? This question formed the basis for the creation of NaTHNaC in 2002 – to help support busy travel health professionals in general practice. Now, in our eighth year, we have completed a comprehensive package of guidance and resources. The dynamic country-specific health advice and outbreak information found on our website, and the daily support of our national advice line, will be capped off with the publication in June 2010 of *Health Information for Overseas Travel*. We are just completing a two-year effort in revising this definitive text for travel medicine care in the UK, known as the UK 'Yellow Book'. Used in close conjunction with our website information it will provide:

- the structure for individualised travel health risk assessment and management
- guidance on travellers with special health needs and/or complex itineraries
- a detailed disease guide covering the most common travel-related infectious risks
- algorithms for evaluating ill returned travellers
- an extensive resource guide covering all aspects of travel medicine

Additional activities undertaken by NaTHNaC:

- Supporting and advising the Health Protection Agency and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the UK response to travel-associated pandemic influenza. We created a pandemic influenza page, wrote a health information sheet and posted numerous Clinical Updates throughout the pandemic.
- Collaborating with global partners, the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on improved determination of the geographic risk of yellow fever. This work has been particularly timely as the epidemiology of yellow fever is changing, especially in South America, and the vaccine has been recognised to carry rare, but potentially severe adverse events. More accurate targeting of yellow fever vaccination will protect those UK travellers truly at risk.
- Providing education and resources to more than 3,400 Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our programme of registration, training, standards and audit is a world model for yellow fever centre management. The training portion of our programme has been adapted by the US CDC for use in their new online training module for all US yellow fever centres.
- Assessing the current status and practice of YFVCs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and whether our programme has made a difference to this practice. Early analysis of the results indicates that after training, 96% of health professionals had improved confidence in yellow fever vaccine administration and 68% of centres instituted changes to their practice.

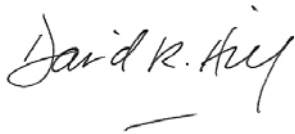
Other important notes:

- In the last year we had 704,743 visits to our website where 3,549,961 pages were viewed by persons from every country of the world. We posted 99 Clinical Updates, listed 2,333 disease outbreaks on the Outbreak Surveillance Database, and took 9,097 calls on our national advice line.
- Growth always involves change: Stella Bailey left after four years as our Service Manager with Geraldine Oliver joining us in that post in May 2009; Naomi Bryant, our Senior Information Analyst left in September 2009 to join the HPA and Daiga Jermacane has filled the position; Emma Philpott left her position as YFVC administrator, and Yetunde Ibitoye has joined us; and Nicki Boddington, an MSc student, joined us to pursue research on a part-time basis.

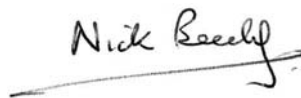
The plans for the next year are outlined in the NaTHNaC Business Plan (page 20) and are summarised:

- Launch the UK Yellow Book.
- Refresh the NaTHNaC website and provide enhanced resources for travellers
- Update the content for the country information pages
- Pursue mobile applications for our country information pages
- Introduce online training for renewing YFVCs, and develop other training modules
- Introduce an Assessment and Audit instrument for existing YFVCs
- Continue our international collaborations on yellow fever geographic risk mapping
- Move NaTHNaC home offices within 250 Euston Road, London

We are pleased to share with you the exciting work NaTHNaC has undertaken during the past two years as we move to become world leaders in travel medicine.



Professor David R. Hill, Director



Dr Nicholas J. Beeching, Chair, Steering Committee

