

**Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance
(MECIDS) Timeline under MECIDS Executive Board
January 2007- February 2009**

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| January 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) meets January 16-18 in Amman, Jordan. The meeting was facilitated by Search for Common Ground and hosted at the Cooperative Monitoring Center, Amman (CMC-Amman) with the support of the NTI Global Health and Security Initiative. The participants shared data gathered via the MECIDS foodborne disease enhanced salmonella surveillance program, discussed the 2006 avian influenza outbreak, and planned next steps. • MECIDS form an Executive Board with rotating chairmanship to each country each year. |
| February 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) is preparing for two upcoming events one in March and one in April. The March event will bring the MECIDS technical personal to discuss the laboratory data that they have gathered over the last year and a half and see whether they can write a joint scientific paper for publishing. The April event will bring MECIDS Interim Executive Board to Jerusalem to discuss the process of the new MECIDS structure, and the World Bank Grant, and to discuss new opportunities for the project. |
| March 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS partners discuss via conference call the laboratory data that was gathered over the last year and a half and decided to draft a joint paper to show the collaboration and the common vision among the three countries |
| April 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS Executive Board meet in Jerusalem. MECIDS share first draft of publication with the Executive Board • Israeli Laboratories donates laboratory supplies to the Palestinian Central Public Health Laboratories in Ramallah |
| May 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS a special small Executive Board meeting in Amman to discuss and draft the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the new MECIDS Interim Executive Board, the SOPs where drafted and sent to all MECIDS Executive Board members for approvals. |
| June 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBM convened MECIDS laboratory technicians and IT personnel in La Gaude France for a workshop on the new software that IBM is donating to MECIDS countries to improve their surveillance systems to monitor infectious diseases by sharing data through the Public Health Affinity Domain (PHAD) |
| July 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS Interim Executive Board (IEB) met in Amman Jordan for their 3rd Executive Board meeting to discuss four major issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MECIDS Standard Operating Procedures |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Pulse Net equipments to Palestine and Jordan 3. IBM First Of A Kind (FOAK) project 4. MECIDS developments and next steps |
| August 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Daniel Cohen, Professor, Tel Aviv University Department of Epidemiology Preventive Medicine, Israel and Mr. Sari Husseini, MECIDS coordinator attended the Medical Informatics 2007 conference in Brisbane Australia on August 20-24, 2007. Dr. Daniel Cohen presented on MECIDS cooperation at a tutorial workshop titled "Two Models for Public Health Interoperability" |
| September 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three laboratory technicians from the Palestinian Central Public Health Laboratory in Ramallah attended a two day workshop at the Israeli Central Public Health Laboratory in Jerusalem. The three technicians received training on a Kit that was donated last year by Becton Dickinson, a global medical technology company that is focused on improving drug therapy, enhancing the diagnosis of infectious diseases and advancing drug discovery. |
| October 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Palestinian Ministry of Health and RAND cooperation conducted a pandemic influenza tabletop exercise in Ramallah, Palestine. This tabletop exercise is part of a series of exercises being conducted by the Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) members (currently Jordan, Israel, and Palestine). Country exercises will be followed by a regional-level tabletop exercise for all MECIDS members, scheduled to be in March 2008 |
| November 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS met in Amman Jordan on November 6-8, 2005 for their fourth Executive Board meeting and to conduct an International Health Regulation (IHR) workshop to reach an agreement on protocol of understanding according to the principles of the IHR concerning land-crossing, airports and seaports in time of, for example, pandemic Influenza in various stages. • Palestinian and Jordanian MECIDS representatives attend a Biosafety and Biosecurity International Conference 2007: <i>A Seminar for the Life Sciences and Policy Communities in the Gulf and MENA Region in Abu Dhabi</i> 12-14 November 2007 at the Hilton Abu Dhabi Hotel. This conference was designed to explore biosafety, biosecurity and infectious disease issues specific to the Gulf and MENA regions and to allow an opportunity for regional participants to interact with experts from other parts of the world. |
| December 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) had a couple of activities during the month of December some of which: |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bellagio, Italy; Regional Disease Surveillance Networks, were the meeting brought together representatives from though out the world to share experiences with each other. MECIDS was represented by Dr. Alex Leventhal (from Israel) and Dr. Assad Ramlawi (from Palestine) as well as MECIDS Secretariat, Sari Hussein. 2. PulseNet Middle East meeting/ PFGE training. Two people from Jordan and two from Palestine, went to Egypt for both PulseNet meeting and PFGE training. MECIDS Palestinian and Jordanian partners will get the PFGE laboratory equipment though MECIDS in the coming months |
| January 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Jordanian Ministry of Health and RAND cooperation conducted a pandemic influenza tabletop exercise in the Governate of Jarash, Jordan. This tabletop exercise is part of a series of exercises being conducted by the Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) members (currently Jordan, Israel, and Palestine). Country exercises will be followed by a regional-level tabletop exercise for all MECIDS members, scheduled to be on April 9th and 10th 2008 in Amman Jordan. Two Palestinian MECIDS members attended this exercise as observers. ▪ A small MECIDS meeting was held in Amman on January 9th, 2008 at the Marriott hotel, the objective of the meeting was to sit and discuss with the RAND cooperation and start preparing for the upcoming Avian Influenza Regional Table Top Exercise; MECIDS members discussed at the meeting dates, location, and who should be part of this regional exercise. Also, MECIDS executive board will prepare more for this exercise in the upcoming EB meeting in Jerusalem on February 28th and 29th, 2008. |
| March/April 2008 | <p><u>Seasonal and Avian Influenza lab training(March 23-April 1, 2008)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Palestinians from the MOH are attending a training at Telhashumare hospital in Israel; Jordanian participants could not attend this training due to some political sensitivities that are going on in the region at this time. <p><u>Field Epidemiology Course (March 30th – April 4th , 2008)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Palestinians are attending the first Middle East Program for Interventional Epidemiology Training (MEPIET) that is take place at the Dead Sea, Israel. MEPIET 2008 is a unique, multinational, regional training opportunity for public health practitioners and allied health care professionals, patterned on cumulative experience in delivering similar and related courses in Turkey, China and Israel. This training program aims to improve local, international and regional preparedness for the management of emerging diseases and outbreaks; to build regional capabilities in interventional epidemiology skills; and to promote interdisciplinary, inter-organizational and |

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| | <p>international cooperation in managing public health emergencies.</p> <p>MECIDS/IBM workshop (April 16th -17th , 2008)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Palestinians from the PA Ministry of Health, five Israelis from the IS Ministry of Health, one Jordanian from the Cooperative Monitoring Center, Amman attended a two day IBM workshop in Jerusalem. This workshop was an initial deployment of the IBM Public Health Information Affinity Domain (PHIAD) technology for public health surveillance of laboratory confirmed reports; its objective was to make certain each recipient (Palestine, Israel, and Jordan) has all the information they need to bring their own system online and begin to test it and use in their own operational environment. |
| May 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS EB meets in Istanbul Turkey on May 3rd, 2008 for their fifth Executive Board meeting. The Board met to discuss the future and next steps for MECIDS and to plan for a Joint Regional Table Top Exercise for battling Avian Influenza. The meeting was a success; the EB decided to maintain MECIDS activities and decided to conduct the Regional Table Top Exercise in September, 2008. |
| June 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS wins a medal-IBM, in collaboration with the Nuclear Threat Initiative's Global Health and Security Initiative, Search for Common Ground, and the Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS), has created a unique technology that standardizes the method of sharing health information through the Public Health Affinity Domain (PHAD). |
| July 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS principles meet in Amman to discuss the progress of MECIDS and to prepare for the Regional Table Top Exercise planned to be held in Istanbul, August 2008. |
| August 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional pandemic influenza tabletop exercise conducted in Istanbul, Turkey for the Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS--comprising Jordan, Palestine, and Israel). The RAND Corporation developed and facilitated the exercise through an active collaboration with MECIDS leaders, the Global Health and Security Initiative, and Search for Common Ground. This tabletop exercise is part of a series of exercises being conducted by MECIDS countries to enhance their regional preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks. Prior to this regional exercise, all MECIDS countries participated in one or more tabletop exercises in their own country. • 2 Palestinian laboratory technicians from the Ministry of Health (Central Public Health Laboratory) participated in a training course in Amman Jordanian Ministry of Health (Central laboratory) to train on operating and applying Real Time PCR for HBV and HCV diagnosis. |
| September 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| October 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sari Hussein meets in Amman with Dr. Adel Belbesi |

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| | <p>(MECIDS Chairman, Jordan) and World Bank officials to discuss the progress of MECIDS. Dr. Adel briefs WB officials on MECIDS and the successes that MECIDS have accomplished and emphasized on the importance of this tri-lateral cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the Sixth International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Dr. Assad Ramlawi (MECIDS Chairman designate, Palestine) attended a Session on (Sharing the experience of Avian and Human Influenza Operations In MENA), Dr. Assad presented MECIDS and the cooperation between Israel, Palestine, and Jordan and how they cooperate on Avian Influenza. |
| November 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six Jordanian MECIDS Participants attended an IBM workshop in Amman. This workshop was an initial deployment of the IBM Public Health Information Affinity Domain (PHIAD) technology for public health surveillance of laboratory confirmed reports; its objective was to make certain each recipient has all the information they need to bring their own system online and begin to test it and use in their own operational environment. • The NATO Public Diplomacy Division co-organised with the Tel Aviv Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) on 24-26 November 2008 an international seminar on Regional Security Dialogue and Cooperation in the Middle East. Mr. Terry Taylor, from the GHSS NTI, Washington, DC lectured on the global approach to sub-regional networks of surveillance of infectious disease and its advantage and Dr. Alex Leventhal from the Israeli Ministry of Health presented the case of MECIDS network as a tri-national cooperation with a potential bridge to peace in the Middle East. It has been the only example of a cooperation in the East Mediterranean sub-region. |
| December 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) met in Amman on December 19th and 20th, 2008 for their seventh Executive Board meeting to discuss the future of MECIDS and to set up a new business plan for 2009/2010 and to discuss upcoming MECIDS activities. In this meeting the chairmanship was handed to Palestine. |
| January 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) sends two Palestinians and two Jordanians from the Ministry of Health to Egypt's NAMRU 3 laboratories to conduct a two weeks training on Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE), the first part of the training included hand-on practical laboratory course where trainees were introduced to the PulseNet protocol for Salmonella, E. coli, Shigella, and Klebsiella. The second part of the course was watch-on training BioNumerics database. |
| February 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Alex Leventhal, MECIDS former chairman presented |

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| | <p>MECIDS at the International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance –IMED 2009, Vienna. Abstract: MECIDS: Cross Border Surveillance and Response in the Middle East.</p> |
| March/April 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Palestinian Ministry of Health in collaboration with MECIDS conducted a two day training course in Bethlehem on food borne diseases, were 30 laboratory technicians from around the west bank attended this workshop. • MECIDS EB convened though Video and Tele conference to discuss the current activities and other related MECIDS issues. • Dr. Assad Ramlawi participated in the Connecting Health Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance (CHORDS) conference by a video-recording that was taken at the Palestinian Ministry of Health prior to the conference, and also participated in person though teleconference in the press briefing after the conference. • MECIDS principles EB convened an emergency teleconference to discuss the current outbreak of the swine flu. |
| May 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palestinians, Israelis and Jordanians Ministry of Health officials, meet in Jerusalem to cooperate and share experiences on the recent outbreak of the swine flu (A/ H1N1). The group met at the World Health organization office in Jerusalem on Friday May 1st , with observers from the WHO and the Egyptian Embassy. The three countries decided to have another meeting two weeks to further discuss the situation and its control measures. They agreed that it is very important that they coordinate and cooperate their efforts to mitigate, control, and prevent the virus from spreading causing a disaster; They also agreed to harmonize protective procedures and messages to the public within the three countries. • Israel MECIDS, Organization of a scientific symposium on pandemic influenza: Presentation of the lectures "Clinical and epidemiological data and preparedness activities related to the identification of 7 cases of H1N1 Swine flu in Israel" by M. S.Green at Tel Aviv University and "Epidemiological and virological aspects of the ICDC sentinel Influenza surveillance network in Israel" by Z. Kaufman to a large audience of health professionals at Tel Aviv University, (May 3, 2009) |
| July-September 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS Executive Board conducts several conference calls regarding the outbreak of (Swine Flu) Influenza A H1N1, Each MECIDS country (Israel, Palestine, and Jordan) gave a brief update on the number of cases and the prevention procedures that each country is taking. • Palestine and Jordan receives PFGE equipments • Dr. Sami Ali Shaikh (MECIDS scientific Coordinator) |

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| | <p>writes MECIDS analysis report for laboratory data collected from all MECIDS countries (see report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS Palestine receive laboratory Salmonella kits • Israel MECIDS, Organization of the International Workshop on Foodborne and other Enteric Infections held at Tel Aviv University on July 7-8, 2009 at which lectures related to MECIDS laboratory-based surveillance of foodborne diseases in Israel have been presented (more than 150 participants). |
| October 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECIDS conducts an Executive Board meeting at the Kimpinski Hotel Dead Sea, Jordan, under the chairmanship of Dr. Assad Ramlawi (Palestine). the meeting was conducted on Saturday October 31st, 2009. (see agenda and minutes) • Israel MECIDS, Performance of the Middle-Eastern Program for Interventional Epidemiology Training (MEPIET) with special emphasis on activities related to the H1N1 swine flu pandemic and foodborne diseases surveillance (more than 30 participants, Naharia, October 18-23, 2009). • Israel MECIDS, Issue of written guidelines on the ways to reduce the risk of transmission of pandemic H1N1 swine flu and organization of a scientific symposium with the lecture "A/H1N1 Influenza pandemic 2009 ("Swine Flu"): What happened so far and what can we predict (perhaps)?" given by Prof. Dan Engelhard, Head, Epidemics Management Team, Ministry of Health (Tel Aviv University, October 18, 2009; more than 150 participants) |
| November 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palestine receives PFGE software • MECIDS Palestine conducts a workshop at the City Inn Hotel in Ramallah, the workshop covered two topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H1N1 2. Leshminieses |