

# **Réseau d'Epidémiologie Clinique International Francophone (RECIF)- EuroMed CLEN and partners in Gabon and Romania hold clinical epidemiology seminars**

RECIF (Réseau d'Epidémiologie Clinique International Francophone) in collaboration with EuroMed CLEN and the "Association des Femmes Médecins Docteurs en Sciences Ouvrant pour la Santé Humaine" (AFEMDOS, an association of women, doctors in sciences, working for human health in Gabon) conducted a seminar entitled "Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology and Research" in Kango, Gabon on March 31 to April 4, 2003. The seminar was supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Sciences and Health University of Libreville.

Twenty clinicians attended the seminar conducted by three French RECIF/EuroMed CLEN members: Dr Anne-Marie Schott (project coordinator), Dr Muriel Rabilloud and Dr Sandrine Touzet.

The Minister of Public Health, Minister of Education, Research and Technological Innovation, WHO representative, Vice-Chancellor of the Sciences and Health University, President for Education of the Council of the School of Medicine, several professors of the School of Medicine, AFEMDOS representatives and authorities of the city of Kango graced the opening ceremony.

Topics covered were: epidemiological methods, study designs, critical appraisal of the literature, evaluation of diagnostic tests, writing a study proposal, medical writing and introduction to biostatistics. In the evenings, there were workshops such as small group discussions on four previously selected potential research projects and hands-on exercises on the EpiInfo software. The four projects chosen in a pre-seminar evaluation were two projects on AIDS, one about cancers in the region of Mounana (location of a former open sky mines of uranium) and one about prevalence of epilepsy in Gabon.

One of the participants, Professor Ernest Belembaogo, Head of the Medical Oncology Department of the University of Sciences and Health of Libreville had been previously identified by his Dean, Professor Paul-Marie Loembe as a potential candidate for further training in Lyon in the field of cancer epidemiology.

Dr Belembaogo and Dr Anne-Marie Antchouey will act as resource persons in clinical epidemiology in Libreville. They will also be involved in the development of a CEU in Libreville.

Meanwhile, a level 2 seminar of methodology in clinical research was held in Iasi, Romania on May 5-10, 2003. Three universities collaborated in this seminar: RECIF-Lyon, represented by its Dean in charge Prof. Hélène Pellet; the Jules Verne University of Amiens, represented by Prof. Pierre Duhaut; and the RECIF CEU of Iasi, represented by Prof. Doina Azoicai who was the Coordinator. Prof. Pierre Duhaut, teacher and coordinator of the Romanian clinical epidemiology cooperation for 10 years, continues to support the Romanian team not only in Iasi but also in Bucharest.

Twelve physicians were trained by Prof. Doina Azoicai (RECIF CEU of Iasi, Department of Epidemiology, School of Medicine, Iasi), Dr. Cristian Baicus (RECIF CEU of Bucharest, Service of Internal Medicine, Colentina Hospital, Bucharest), Dr. Dana Minca (RECIF CEU of Bucharest, Institute of Public Health, Bucharest) and Prof. Pierre Duhaut.

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