



International Society of Geospatial Health Newsletter - October 2015

Note from the President



Dear Friends and Colleagues of GnosisGIS,

GnosisGIS 2015 in Basel seems quite a while ago...but it is still on my mind.

I would like to thank you all for coming to the conference, the excellent presentations you gave and for your enthusiastic participation. The scientific feedback for the whole conference has been great. We enjoyed the venue, the organization, the food, the fun, and the geospatial science!

Special thanks to our dearest Jürg Utzinger and his team at Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

Thank you again for all the hard work you devoted to GnosisGIS 2015.

We are already looking forward to seeing all of you next year at the GnosisGIS 2016 symposium!

Arrivederci and warmest regards,
Laura Rinaldi

ISNTD Impact Interview with Mark Booth

Newly appointed Executive Committee Member, Mark Booth from Durham University (UK) was recently interviewed by the International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases for one of their ISNTD Impact Interviews. The interview is about the impact of climate change, urbanization and migration on disease burden and vector ecology as well as some of the data gaps which remain. The full interview can be viewed here:

<http://www.isntd.org/-/isntd-impact-int-mark-booth/4590635039>

GnosisGIS Executive Committee

Thomas Kristensen, John Malone and Xiao-Nong Zhou are stepping down from the Executive Committee after 10 years of dedicated service. New members of the Executive Committee are Jeff Luvall (USA), Anna-Sofie Stensgaard (Denmark), Mark Booth (UK), Jen McCarroll (Secretary/Treasurer – USA), Prixia Nieto (South America) and Shang Xia (China).

Research from Brazil

In Brazil spatial analysis and GIS are being used in studies of oral epidemiology (spatial epidemiology) with very prominent results. Recent studies include:

- Spatial distribution of xerostomia and social exclusion index of elderly patients in Piracicaba, SP, Brazil. *Arq. Odontol.* 2015, 51, 1, ISSN 1516-0939.
- Bayesian model and spatial analysis of oral and oropharynx cancer mortality in Minas Gerais, Brazil
- Mortality for oral cancer in Minas Gerais, Brazil, 1996-2012

~submitted by *Emílio Prado da Fonseca*

National Science Council Second Decadal Survey

The National Science Council is conducting the second decadal survey that recommends to NASA what should be done for the next 10 years for earth observations from space. The first decadal survey (2007) recommended very specific space missions spelling out types of measurements, numbers of missions and methodology to be used. The ongoing second decadal survey is organized significantly different. Rather than focusing on "missions" the process will be driven by science and applications that could benefit from satellite data. That gives those of us involved in public health and vector borne diseases a chance to give input into what our data needs are. There are a number of ways we can be involved. First, the nominations are still open for participation in the NRC panels using this link: <http://sgiz.mobi/s3/eb9c7ce75e78>. Participation in these panels will give us an active role in the process. Membership is not limited to US participants. Second, after the organization and membership of the panels have been finalized, then we can provide materials to the panels to support our data needs. Our journal contains many articles that will support our position. Third, as a professional organization, GnosisGIS can represent the needs of our members to the appropriate panel. Forth, encourage other public health professional organizations and our colleagues to participate. As the process is still being finalized, I don't have the contact information or the procedures that will be followed to obtain input. I will keep you informed in future newsletter articles.

~ submitted by *Jeff Luvall (NASA)*