INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GEOSPATIAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GnosisGIS members,

Hope you and your family are good health and doing well in these uncertain times. First and foremost I would like to very much thank Laura Rinaldi for her marvelous work as President of GnosisGIS for many years. Laura has been instrumental in connecting scientists worldwide in growing our society and in raising the academic standard of our journal Geospatial Health.

Looking ahead, the GnosisGIS Executive Committee is developing a strategy to further promote scientific exchange between individuals and organizations active in the geospatial health domain, and provide active support especially to early career scientists and professionals. To reinforce our community, activities will gradually be extended to include regular webinars, workshops and courses. The successful annual GnosisGIS symposium will continue to be organized each year. Via our website we provide news and information on job opportunities, conferences, and publications in Geospatial Health.

In case you have ideas, suggestions, or want to become more actively engaged in GnosisGIS, please drop me a line (s.amer@utwente.nl)

Stay Healthy, Keep Safe

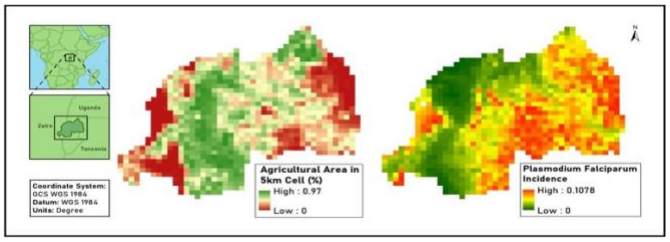
Sherif

NEWS ITEMS

HOW MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDENT GROUPS AT ITC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE ADDRESS GLOBAL GEOHEALTH CHALLENGES WITH LOCAL ACTIONS

Five student groups at ITC addressed important global health challenges using geoinformation technology in March and April, 2021 to support informed decision-making at the local level. After identifying a specific health challenge, explaining its root cause(s) and consequences, students developed a suitable analytical approach, using geospatial data, methods and tools, to analyze the selected health problem. Based on their analysis, the students proposed an intervention, strategy a, indicator(s) or policy recommendation to support efforts that reduce this health problem. Linking the analysis with a global policy framework (e.g. the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development) was central, as were reflections on the potential role of geoinformation and earth observation.

A **Rwanda**-based case study investigated if linkages could be identified between malaria incidence, and socioeconomic and environmental factors. Findings showed that the geographical areas with the highest malaria risk are located in the South and Northeast of Rwanda; agriculture plays a central role in malaria incidence (see figure below).



A **Fiji**-based case study looked at the provision of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities, and at the impact that a tropical cyclone had on healthcare facility infrastructure, and on WASH in healthcare facilities. This study analyzed the extent of damage, recommended local disaster resilience solutions.

The above is a short extract of a newsletter article published by the German Working Group Medical Geography and Geographic Health Research. Via this link you can access the full text.

GNOSISGIS 2021 – BELGRADE, SERBIA

The14th symposium is organised as part of the EMOP2021 conference entitled "Changing Climate Changing Parasites" scheduled for **October 12-16, 2021 in Belgrade, Serbia**.

The GnosisGIS symposium will be held on 16th October in the morning. For further details please see: https://emop2020.org

The **deadline for abstract submission is 28th of June**.

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Transport geography: Implications for public health

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Abstract

The obstruction of traffic between France and UK due to efforts to rein in coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), together with the recent, week-long blockade of the Suez Canal, underline how interconnected and thus vulnerable the world has become. What this has to do with public health may not be immediately evident. However, as illustrated by two papers published in this issue of *Geospatial Health* dealing with the ongoing waves of COVID-19 spread (Mahmud *et al*., 2021; Tiwari & Aljoufie, 2021), transport geography - with its focus on geographical dimensions of travel, transport and mobility - does indeed have a direct impact on health and epidemiology.

Read the full article here.

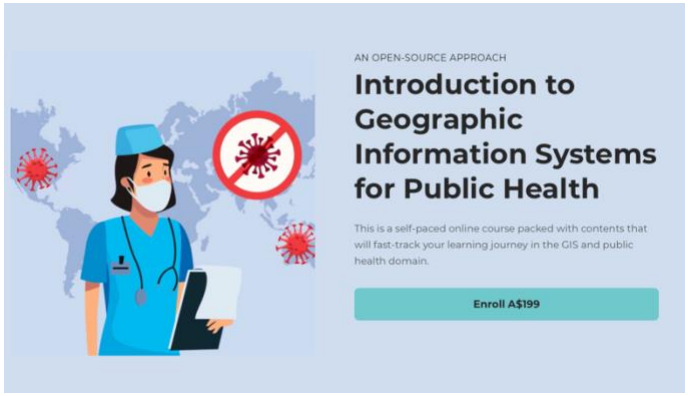
PUBLICATIONS

Recently, Dr. Behzad Kiani and Dr. Robert Bergquist, editor in chief of Geospatial Health, published a study regarding spatial accessibility measurement. This study presents a new configuration of the two-step floating catchment area methodology to measure spatial accessibility to hospitals for people with a disability in urban areas.

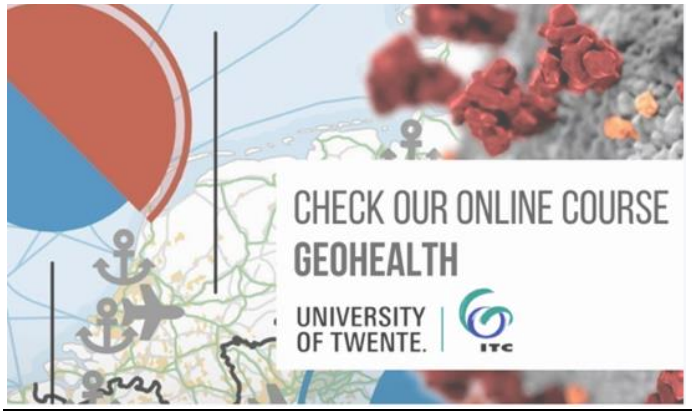
The study showed that inclusion of the disability severity factor in the enhanced two-step floating catchment area analysis method may improve performance of accessibility measurement. The study is published in Archives of Public Health Journal, the official journal of Belgian Association of Public Health.

Read the full article here.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Introduction to Geographic Information Systems for Public Health - an open source approach. This is a self-paced online course packed with contents that will fast-track your learning journey in the GIS and public health domain. For further information see video here and for more information on the course content here



Online geohealth course (15 Nov 2021 – 4 Feb 2022)**.** This 10-week course is centred on integrating the ecology of disease with spatial information and geospatial methods and technologies. A variety of data science and spatial analysis methods will be used to integrate host-pathogen-environment interactions to assess disease and health risks. More details on course contents & registration here.