

**02**

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Issue

# TRAVEL BULLETIN

*The official Colorado Tropical medicine Newsletter*



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*A little Amazonian helper.  
Photography by Oscar Alarcón*

# WHO DISEASES OUTBREAKS

by Outbreak News

- [Yellow Fever](#) – Venezuela. Check also our collaborative [report](#).
- [Zika Virus](#) – India
- [Monkeypox](#) –USA (imported from Nigeria)
- [Yellow Fever](#) – Ghana (70 confirmed cases with a case fatality ratio of 17%).
- [Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 \(cVDPV2\)](#) – Yemen.
- Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus ([MERS-CoV](#)) – United Arab Emirates

## NEWS AND UPDATES

by Andres Henao

- [The global burden of TB meningitis](#) in adults: up to 200,000 cases/yr, 25% go undiagnosed/untreated, 80,000 deaths, 5% of all TB cases are TBM in people with HIV co-infection. Better management needed.
- [Schistosomiasis](#) remains a public health problem in endemic areas in the Philippines with approximately 12million people residing in 28 endemic provinces located across 12 different geographical zones at risk of *S. japonicum* infection
- Screening for [Chagas Disease](#) during Pregnancy in the United States—A Literature Review.
- The combo [ivermectin–albendazole](#) resulted in higher efficacy against trichuriasis than albendazole alone in Laos and Pemba Island but not in Côte d'Ivoire.
- [T. cruzi](#) antibody titer gradient relates to prevalence of Chagas cardiomyopathy or death (odds ratio for highest vs. lowest antibody quartile, 3.2; P=0.012)
- [Strongyloidiasis](#) infections are found in many populations throughout the USA. These studies shed light on a problem of poverty and inadequate sanitation.
- Phenomenal editorial in global health: ""They publish; I perish". [Says who? Northern ventriloquism, or epistemic disobedience in global health scholarship.](#)
- Does ART status affect mortality in HIV-associated [Cryptococcal meningitis](#)? there were no sig differences in mortality at 2- & 10-weeks between ART- naïve & experienced patients.
- The silent and dangerous inequity around access to COVID-19 testing: [A call to action](#)

## FEATURE

*"As self-sanctioned champions of so-called tropical medicine, global health, and social medicine, scholars in high income countries have shaped health in low-income and middle-income countries through subjective lenses, while claiming to be objective"*

Thirusha Naidu, The Lancet

## EPISTEMIC DISOBEDIENCE

*"Activists act in epistemic disobedience variously in counterpoint to the deleterious effects of epistemic violence, risking their being viewed as unprofessional, primitive, dangerous, and unscientific by dominant groups, and jeopardizing their chances of academic promotions and access to research funding and high-impact journals"*

Thirusha Naidu, The Lancet

COMMENTS?

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# OUR RESEARCH

by Colorado tropical medicine group

- We found an annual all-cause mortality rate of 7.9% among patients with chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy. Chagas annual mortality is higher than the one for AIDS.
- As part of the Migrant Peoples in Transit Study Group, we developed a rapid health evaluation in migrant peoples in transit through Darien, Panama: Protocol for a multi-method qualitative and quantitative study. Nadja Drost, a Canadian journalist, portrayed this humanitarian crisis. For her work, she was awarded the 2021 Pulitzer Prize Winner in Feature Writing. In her own words: "I had the great privilege of following migrants and asylum-seekers from around the world who try to reach the U.S. by first crossing the Darien Gap: a lawless, road-less tract of jungle spanning Colombia and Panama." Check the astonishing video report here.
- Let's open the dialogue to improve the recognition and prevention of Chagas' disease in the US.
- Leprosy in children in Cuba: Epidemiological and clinical description of 50 cases from 2012-2019.
- Visceral Leishmaniasis in the island of Margarita, Venezuela: a neglected parasitic infection in the Caribbean.
- Check this brilliant and thought-provoking proposed mechanism for steroid benefit in PJP developed by Leland Shapiro.
- Under the guidance of Leland Shapiro and the team, we developed this protocol for assessing key cytokine levels in sepsis. Preliminary findings were presented at IDWeek, and the manuscript is under review.

## IN THE CLINIC

We are slowly resuming our clinical activities in the travel clinic front. Keep in mind travel recommendations and restrictions change from country to country. Our *shoreland travax* software has detailed COVID-19 related questions depending on the destinations.

## FUTURE SITE

<<We are exploring the creation of a tropical medicine rotation in Panamá offered to students, residents, fellows, and faculty>>

## TROPICAL MEDICINE ACTIVITIES

by Carlos Paredes and team

- Carlos was awarded the Fulbright Global Scholar Award (December 13) – to study infection in immigrants in transit through the Darien Gap in Panama and to study Leprosy in Colombia/Mexico/Cuba/Panama in collaboration with Gorgas Institute for tropical Medicine in Panama.
- Carlos and Sarah Mann participated in this terrific ASTMH webinar on Leishmaniasis, hosted by Jonathan Schultz.
- Migrant Peoples in Transit Study Group, led by the Gorgas Institute for tropical Medicine in Panama, will launch the rapid health evaluation of migrants crossing the Darien gap in January 2022. Carlos and collaborators will act as volunteers.



COMMENTS?

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# TAID JOURNAL

by Editor-in-Chief, Andres Henao

## Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease

We appreciate your outstanding contributions to the journal:

We are open to future submissions. Reminder we are having some ongoing calls for special collections:

- Special Collection on Health Equity: Breaking Down the Barriers hosted by our own Leila S. Hojat
- Special Collection on Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection
- Special Collection on Infectious Diseases Due to Therapeutic Immunosuppression
- Martin's superb unique collection on Infections associated with drug use and related behaviors



## PARTICIPATION

Medical students, residents and fellows continue to contribute and participate with publications

## THANK YOU

For those with a Twitter account, I regularly post travel papers updates. Happy to follow each other. Twitter: [@andhen25](https://twitter.com/andhen25)

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing dedication to our Travel medicine clinic, and our tropical medicine program



## PHOTOGRAPHY BY

Oscar Noya Alarcón, and José A. Suarez