

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA INFUSO

This issue of Eurosurveillance with a Topic on tuberculosis and vaccination (pp 6-33) is dedicated to the memory of Andrea Infuso, a dear and respected colleague and friend, who died suddenly on 20 September 2005 at the age of 44. Andrea was actively involved in the preparation of this special issue on vaccination and tuberculosis. As EuroTB coordinator since 2000, his knowledge of and contacts with all European experts involved in tuberculosis surveillance in Europe were very valuable in conceiving this thematic issue. The Euroroundup, *European survey of BCG vaccination policies and surveillance in children, 2005* (pp 6-11), written by Andrea as first author, is a posthumous publication.

The editorial team

Andrea Infuso, medical epidemiologist, and coordinator of the European tuberculosis surveillance network EuroTB, died suddenly on 20 September 2005, at the age of 44. He made outstanding contributions to the development of HIV and tuberculosis surveillance in Europe.

When he qualified as a doctor in Milan in the mid-1980s, at the height of the emergence of AIDS, his first job was as a clinician, caring for AIDS patients in one of the major infectious disease hospitals in Milan. He later joined Médecins sans Frontières to work at a refugee camp in northern Thailand, where he was in charge of a small hospital and trained community health workers. When he returned to Italy, he worked at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome for several years, where he was known for his intelligence, his ability and his commitment to public health. In 1995, he was selected by the Italian government to be part of the first cohort of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET). The director of the Italian Centre for Epidemiology and Surveillance said that Andrea was considered to be the best investment that they could make.

His European career began with his EPIET assignment at the Institut de Veille Sanitaire (InVS) in France. He was so much appreciated there that, after completing the two year EPIET programme, he was recruited to lead major European

surveillance activities and remained in France, first with the European Centre for the Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS (CESES) and later with InVS. He played an essential role in developing the surveillance of HIV infection at the

European level. In 2000, he took over the scientific coordination of EuroTB, which is funded by the European Commission and is a World Health Organization collaborating centre. He continued to make substantial and valuable contributions, harmonising data from 52 countries and introducing programmatic aspects into tuberculosis surveillance to monitor drug resistance and treatment outcomes. He was very concerned about the rising incidence of HIV and tuberculosis in eastern Europe and never stopped drawing attention to this urgent public health issue.



Andrea Infuso, coordinator of EuroTB, pioneer in European tuberculosis and HIV surveillance

Andrea was respected not only for his scientific acuity but also for his commitment to his colleagues. He was always there to help and defend others, and he had an incredible force and energy to fight for good causes. He asked the most incisive, often provocative, questions, always stimulating constructive discussions. He was both direct and respectful. He was devoted to his wife, Monica, and their children, Milo and Gae, whose drawings papered the walls of his office. He was a fine musician and a good singer. Above all, he was fun. Andrea will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues.

Françoise Hamers, Institut de Veille Sanitaire, France

Note: This tribute was previously published online on 29 September 2005 in the Eurosurveillance weekly release <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2005/050929.asp#4>