

**P2575 Lack of standardized education for hospital epidemiologist (HE) in Europe: creation of federally regulated HE in Switzerland**Andreas F. Widmer\*<sup>1,2</sup>

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**Background:** In most countries, hospital epidemiologists (HE) get their training in courses such as provided by ESCMID or similar institutions. However, few countries have federal requirements for training and diploma for physicians as commonly provided for infection control practitioners (ICP). In Germany, there is a "Facharzt für Hygiene und Umweltmedizin; in Switzerland, chiefs of hospital epidemiology uniformly are board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases (ID). However, a specialty in infection control is missing that is federally regulated.

**Materials/methods:** A search was performed using databases (pubmed, EMBASE, google) in addition to publications issued by the European Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to get a summary of current practices for HE training in Europe as well as the US. Training in Switzerland for ID requires 3 years of internal medicine and 3 years of specialty training in ID. In Switzerland, chiefs of HE are board-certified ID specialists and have commonly received a master of epidemiology, but there is not standardized mandatory training to become a HE.

**Results:** Only Germany was found to provide a title issued by the medical societies, requiring standardized training to become federally regulated and accepted HE. The Netherlands have a well-organized curriculum with multiple courses, but – to best of our knowledge – not a federally regulated title with an exam. Even in the US; HEs are commonly board certified in ID, but training for HE is ill defined, and not regulated. Since 2019, HEs training has been federally approved in Switzerland by the Swiss Medical Society (called FMH, [www.fmh.ch](http://www.fmh.ch)). The title requires being board-certified ID and an additional defined approved training of  $\geq 1$  year and passing a written and oral exam.

**Conclusions:** Training of HEs in Europe is ill regulated. In 2019, Switzerland will provide a federally regulated title for HE. Given the importance of infection control in future, training of physicians for HE should be harmonized in Europe to improve quality as well as facilitating exchange of HE between countries.

