

Notes on ideas for ESCAIDE2021 plenary sessions and potential speakers (16 March 2021)

Suggestions from 5.1.2e with input from several members of the EPIET Alumni Network (www.epietalumni.net) – for each of the three suggested topics I have made suggestions for which topics (from table 1 in the “Guide to develop ESCAIDE 2021 plenary sessions”) they might fit under:

1. **Community engagement related to infectious disease prevention and control in Europe** - highlighting some good examples of this from the European setting (for example in engaging with migrant communities, i.e. the UK vaccination campaigns among non-white communities could be presented) – this topic could perhaps fit under the suggested sessions D2 “Communicating evidence-based public health to different audiences” and/or E1 “Role of scientists in health communication and in crisis preparedness and emergencies”.
This could also be linked with a topic that many EAN members expressed interest in on “**Structural inequalities and their impact on public health interventions**” – how can we as epidemiologists be better at conducting our investigations, analyse our data and suggest interventions that decrease social inequalities that affect the populations we aim to protect from the impact of infectious diseases. This could be linked to the implementation of COVID-19 interventions as well as broader reflections on e.g. race and gender in public health.
A possible speaker might be Stefan Baral from Johns Hopkins (<https://www.jhsph.edu/faculty/directory/profile/2433/stefan-baral>)
2. **The issue of health equality during a crisis** - i.e. access to diagnostics, treatment and vaccines globally – this could fit in both E4 “Solidarity in public health planning and action” and G4: “Solidarity in public health for cross-border health threats” – an excellent speaker in this session could be: Ellen t’Hoen, director of Medicines Law and Policy (see e.g. her piece in Nature Medicine from May 2020: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0876-6>) and perhaps also someone from the MSF Access campaign (<https://msfaccess.org/covid-19-vaccine-6-recommendations-equitable-access>) and/or a speaker on the COVAX initiative by WHO, Unicef, CEPI, GAVI and others.
3. Perhaps a talk on the WHO work on the **infodemic** – 5.1.2e from WHO could be an interesting speaker on this. This plenary could fit under I3 “Trust in Science and Pandemic denial”