

WEON 2022 – Abstract fringe session

Post covid-19 condition (PCC) epidemiology in a multi-island and low resource setting: Comparison of research methodologies between Caribbean and European Netherlands' long-COVID studies.

5.1.2e

1: RIVM Bilthoven; 2: Publieke Gezondheid Bonaire; 3: Mobilito Bonaire

BACKGROUND

In June 2021, having just experienced a second wave of SARS-CoV-2 infections, epidemiologists and clinicians in Bonaire expressed the need for researching PCC epidemiology in an island setting. As the context and burden of disease in the Caribbean Netherlands differs largely from the European Netherlands, it could not be assumed that what will be found through Dutch Long-COVID-studies would be similar in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the BES islands), a group of overseas municipalities in the Dutch Kingdom. Aiming to answer urgent questions about PCC occurrence, predictors and healthcare use and needs of PCC patients while strengthening local capacity in setting up and conducting research, a retrospective cohort study was set up focusing on the prevalence and predictors of PCC on the BES islands.

Concurrently, the RIVM set up a Long-COVID-study in the European Netherlands with similar research aims, predictors and outcomes. In this fringe session, we will contrast the process of developing the Caribbean and European Netherlands studies whilst finetuning methodology to locally available resources, capacity, and implementation amidst another (Omicron) wave.

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING: During this 20-minute interactive session, we will take you on a Caribbean journey into the challenges faced while designing and implementing the study in the BES islands, and how these can be solved using creative strategies. We will compare these with solutions available in the European Netherlands. We will walk through each step of the study design and data collection process with the audience to explore alternative strategies to overcome methodological challenges. This session aims to facilitate discussion amongst researchers on research opportunities in the Dutch Caribbean setting.

PRESENTATION TYPE: Fringe