



# ISW-TBE Newsletter

July 2006



we are very proud to present to you the **first edition** of our **international TBE newsletter** which you will hopefully enjoy while reading.

The newsletter will cover an update on the latest activities of the International Scientific Working Group on TBE (ISW-TBE) and will appear quarterly. In this edition you will find a summary on the activities of

- the latest ISW TBE meeting in Munich in March 06
- the international press conference event "A Gift for Europe" in Vienna in April 06
- the TBE activities at the NECTM conference in Edinburgh in June 06

Please feel free and come back to us in case of comments, further suggestions and ideas for this newsletter that we will certainly try to incorporate in one of our next editions.

We wish you a good summer holiday season!

Best regards

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## 1. ISW-TBE International Meeting in Munich, March 2006



The 8th meeting of the ISW-TBE group was taking place in Munich in March and was dealing with the topic "TBE – a European health challenge".

TBE incidence has more or less increased in all European countries with a TBE risk in the last years (excepting Austria). Additionally, TBE has become an international public health problem because of increasing mobility of people traveling to risk areas. TBE vaccination should be recommended when people travel to endemic regions and come into contact with nature, regardless of the duration of the stay. As no clear recommendations for travelers exist, it will be one of the major future challenges of the ISW TBE to increase problem awareness outside endemic regions and create general recommendations, which are valid for at least all European countries.

The consensus report of this meeting has been so far published in the Austrian journal "Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift" in English language in June.

The full article can be downloaded from: [www.isw-tbe.info/EuropeanHealthChallengePress](http://www.isw-tbe.info/EuropeanHealthChallengePress)

## 2. International Press Conference: A Gift for Europe, Vienna, 25.06.2006

The international press conference from the ISW-TBE together with the launch of the first international patient website <http://www.tick-victims.info/> in 16 different languages has created a lot of international attention and resulted in a lot of articles in lay public as well as in the scientific media.

This website has been designed for TBE patients as well as for the overall population across Europe and beyond in order to retrieve general information as well as specific answers to individual questions.

The website shows an interactive and internationally oriented approach.

More than 600 press kits were sent out across Europe immediately after the event. Media coverage after the event started very promising. After two weeks we had obtained more than 1.500 visitors (> 5000 hits) on our new patient website and more than 4000 hits on the relaunched ISW homepage.

The press workshop was dealing with the increasing number of TBE cases every year in Europe (more than 10.000), the long-term sequelae of these patients as well as with the successful TBE vaccination campaign in Austria which already started 30 years ago. One example from such a press article in a medical paper dealing with a detailed summary of the "Gift For Europe" initiative can be found on our ISW website in English, French and German language.

To read the full article, please go to: [www.isw-tbe.info/AGiftforEuropePress](http://www.isw-tbe.info/AGiftforEuropePress)



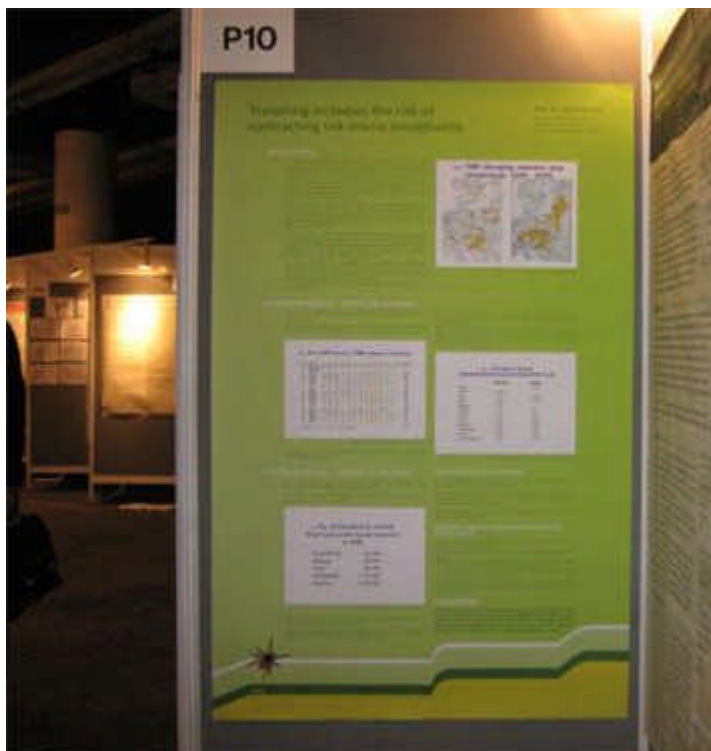
### 3. NECTM (Northern-European conference in travel medicine), Edinburgh, 7-10.06.2006



At the beginning of June Edinburgh was hosting approximately 1000 health care professionals in the field of international travel medicine. Protection against TBE for travelers was identified as an increasingly interesting topic in travel medicine.

Prof. Ursula Kunze was one of the presenters at this scientific congress. Her poster was addressing the topic: "Travelling increases the risk of contracting tick-borne encephalitis".

Every year, over 60 mio. People only from EU member states, travel to TBE endemic regions or countries. Moreover in Europe at least 10.000-13.000 cases of TBE are referred to hospitals each year (the estimated number of unreported cases is much higher). The risk of infection is especially high for all people who pursue leisure time activities in nature, in endemic areas. For Austria for instance a risk assessment has shown that - based on an estimated risk of TBE infection of 1/10.000 for a 4-weeks stay - the predicted number of travel associated cases is 60 per year over whole country of Austria. The risk of acquiring a TBE in Austria is comparable to the risk of getting a typhoid fever in highly endemic area. Presently no clear recommendations for travelers exist, the risk of TBE infection is usually not mentioned to travelers. Considering the increasing risk of infection, resulting in increasing numbers of TBE cases in Europe, there is an obvious urgent need of recommendations for travelers. Everybody who travels to an endemic region and gets in contact with nature, should be vaccinated, regardless the duration of the stay.



The original poster presentation can be found under: [www.isw-tbe.info/TBEforTravelers](http://www.isw-tbe.info/TBEforTravelers)

## 4. Service

We can offer you the following service items to be ordered via [ursula.kunze@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:ursula.kunze@meduniwien.ac.at):

- TBE endemic areas 2006 – big map - please see picture
- TBE endemic areas 2006 – in A3 format
- TBE Product Monograph 2006
- ISW-TBE flyers
- Vaccination cards

