

The World Health Organization Celebrates 90 Years of the Weekly Epidemiological Record (WER)



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The Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases Department of the World Health Organization (WHO) has mounted a unique exhibition at the WHO library in Geneva to mark the Weekly Epidemiological Record's (WER) 90th birthday. The exhibition ran from April to June 2016

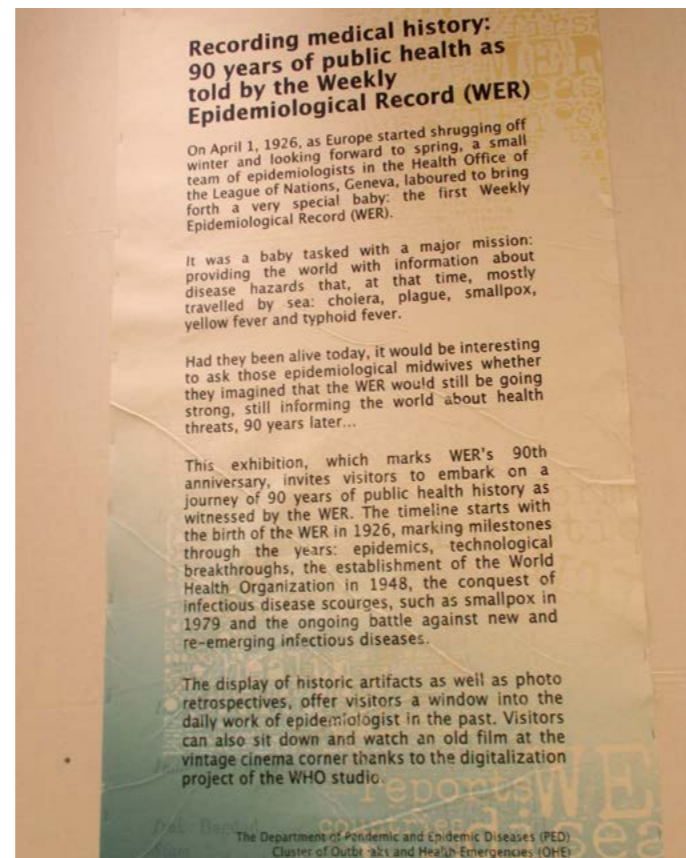
that, at that time, mostly travelled by sea: plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus and smallpox. Ninety years later, the WER is still informing the world about health threats. Over the decades, the WER has gone from a simple record of five notifiable diseases to a source of information and analysis about disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics and the policies and strategies used to address them.

Today, the WER disseminates information on outbreaks of diseases under the International Health Regulations. Vaccination policy, treatment, epidemic and pandemic response and preparedness activities now form the bulk of articles and information in the WER.

The Weekly Epidemiological Record (WER) has been recording the story of epidemics every week since 1st April 1926. The Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases department (PED) at HQ, which manages this historical publication, is showcasing 90 years of public health.

“The WER is a unique publication which has survived for 9 decades and evolved considerably” says Dr Sylvie Briand, Director of PED. The exhibition invites visitors to embark on a journey through 90 years of public health. The timeline starts with the birth of the WER in 1926, marking milestones through the years: epidemics, technological breakthroughs, the establishment of WHO in 1948, the conquest of infectious disease scourges such as smallpox in 1979 and the ongoing battle against new and re-emerging infectious diseases.

The WER was first published in 1926 by a small team of epidemiologists in the Health Office of the League of Nations, in Geneva. The mission of the publication was to provide the world with information about disease hazards



Source: WHO - Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases department
The WHO Weekly Epidemiological record (WER) in Geneva has prepared eight panels to that effect. I have been able to arrange for these panels to be loaned to Lebanon through the good offices of WR Lebanon. These eight panels have been mounted over specially fitted wooden panels and have been exhibited at the Lebanese Epidemiological Association (LEA) annual conference in December 2016.

students in your institution.

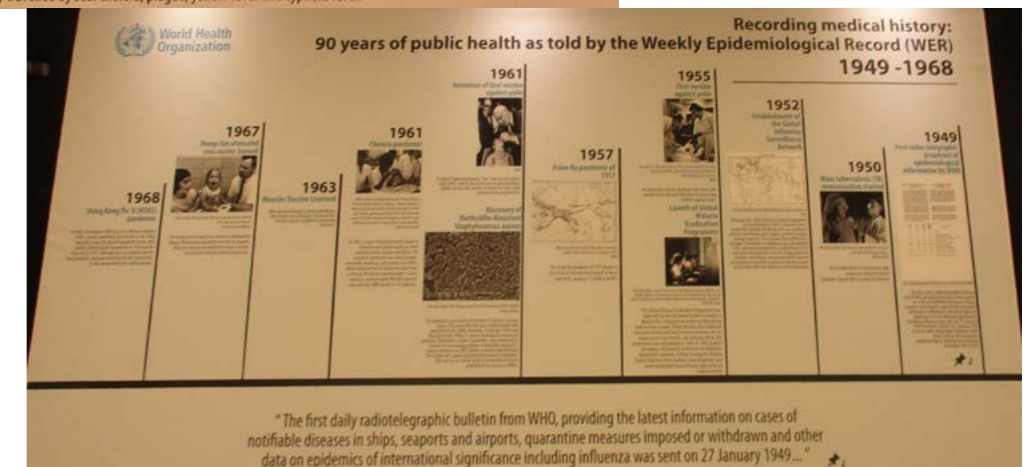
I am herewith inviting academic institutions, hospitals, to hold this exhibit in their respective premises for perhaps 3- 5 days. These panels are currently with the WHO office in Lebanon. WHO will arrange for their transport to and from your institution, should you be interested to have this exhibition.

I am attaching a review of this event as well as photos of the exhibit for your review.

Please let me know whether you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity.

E Mail: kronfolco@hotmail.com

I believe these panels depict a most interesting historical review of the achievements of public health worldwide. This information should be of interest to Faculty, staff and





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