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G7 Science Ministerial and NSF Partner Spotlight

The G7 Science Ministerial took place on September 28-29, in Turin, Italy. Prior to the ministerial, U.S. Embassy Rome’s Environment, Science, Technology, and Health team welcomed Dr. France A. Córdoba and her team of



Photo credit: NSF.gov

National Science Foundation (NSF) delegates at a reception hosted by Chargé d’Affaires Kelly Degnan. The federal agency that Dr. Córdoba has led since 2014 is dedicated to supporting initiatives that "promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense."

Many significant collaborations between American and Italian scientists are funded by the NSF through the Partnerships in International Research and Education (PIRE) program, a \$19 million annually funded program that awards grants to investigators, scientists, and students. In addition, U.S. researchers utilize Italian laboratories. For example, the NSF has significant investments in the National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN) and Gran Sasso Laboratories of nearly \$5.5 million annually.

Before the G7 meeting, the delegation, Chargé Degnan, and ESTH team went to Gran Sasso Laboratories, where groups of American and Italian scientists explained their physics experiments. En route to Turin, the delegation and ESTH team stopped at Cascina (near Pisa) to tour the [Virgo](#) facility (a giant laser interferometer designed to detect gravitational waves), which collaborates with American scientists at [LIGO](#) laboratories in Louisiana and Washington.

(Discover how the LIGO and Virgo facilities are connected to the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics in a subsequent article.)

G7 Science Ministerial delegates had three focal areas, including training researchers, innovation, and open science. The G7 Science Communique can be found [here](#). We thank Dr. Córdoba and her delegation for their work in Italy, which advanced both science and diplomacy!



Chargé, NSF delegation, ESTH, & scientists at Gran Sasso Photo Credit: INFN



Meet your ESTH Rome team:

L to R: Lee, Federica, Carlee, Caron, Elena and Sut at Bike/Walk to work day

Caron De Mars,
ESTH Counselor

Federica Signoretti,
ESTH Specialist

Michael Lee,
Office Management Specialist

Sutyajeet Soneja,
ESTH Science Fellow

Elena Berg,
Fall’17 Intern

Meet the Ambassador

Ambassador Lewis M. Eisenberg



Photo Credit: usembassy.gov

Lewis M. Eisenberg of Florida is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Italian Republic, and the Republic of San Marino. He is a prominent American financier, investor, and philanthropist. As Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and a Founding Board Member of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, where he chaired its 9/11 Victims' Families and Transportation Advisory Councils, Ambassador Eisenberg engaged with State and local governments on a number of complex issues. He is an Emeritus Member of Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management Advisory Council and Life Member of the Cornell University Council. He earned a B.A. at Dartmouth College and a M.B.A. at Cornell Johnson School of Business. He is married to Judith Ann Eisenberg. The Eisenbergs have three married daughters and eleven grandchildren. The ESTH team introduced the Ambassador to the Italian ministers they work with most closely.



Ambassador meets Health Minister Lorenzin



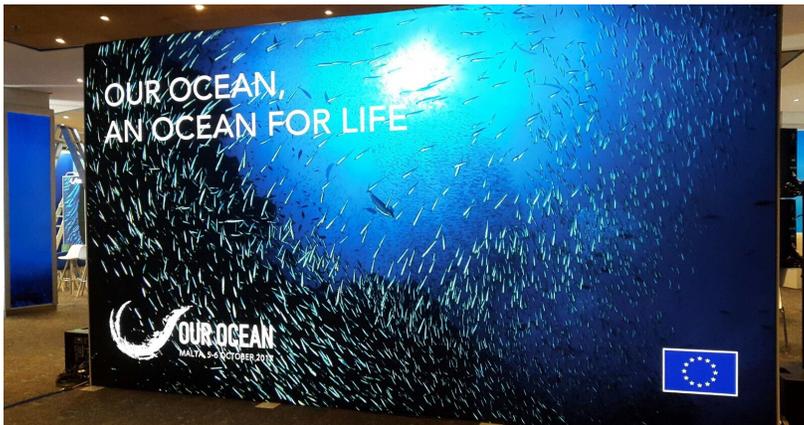
Ambassador meets Education and Research Minister Fedeli

Photo Credit: Caron De Mars



Ambassador meets Environment Minister Galletti

Our Ocean Conference in Malta



Page Photo Credit: Caron De Mars

Scientists predict there could be more plastic than fish by weight in the ocean by 2050, at the current rates of consumption and disposal, according to the [World Economic Forum](#). The fourth [Our Ocean](#) conference, held in Malta October 5-6, 2017, resulted in over 400 new [commitments](#) from governments, civil society, and the private sector to address threats (including plastic marine litter) facing the ocean and promote sustainable management of marine resources. These new commitments are valued at more than \$8.5 billion. OES Acting Assistant Secretary Judith G. Garber led the U.S. delegation, which announced [12 new initiatives](#) from USAID, NOAA, the Department of State, and the Department of Labor, totaling up to \$75 million. The “An Ocean Free of Plastic” exhibit, which is highlighted in the following article, was one of the Department of State’s three commitments announced during the 2017 Malta conference. More than 990 participants from 112 countries attended the conference, including five heads of state or government, and 36 ministers. A number of high-profile political and private sector representatives delivered remarks, including the Prince of Wales, Prince Albert II of Monaco, Queen Noor of Jordan, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella, actor Adrian Grenier, and marine biologist and explorer Sylvia Earle. Major companies attended the conference and announced new initiatives to combat marine pollution and unsustainable fishing and promote a sustainable blue economy, including Coca-Cola, Dow Chemical, Mars, PepsiCo, P&G Dish Care, Unilever, Royal Caribbean Cruises, and Hilton. ESTH Counselor Caron De Mars, one of 13 bloggers designated by the EU for social media outreach during the conference, highlighted U.S. commitments via Twitter, using the hashtag #OurOcean and tagging OES, Embassy Malta, and the relevant U.S. agencies, foundations, and corporations. The combined efforts of the bloggers reached 12.4 million people in 48 hours and #OurOcean was the ninth trending topic in the U.S. and the number one topic in Italy during that period. Future Our Ocean conferences will be held in Indonesia in 2018, Norway in 2019, and Palau in 2020.



Queen Noor

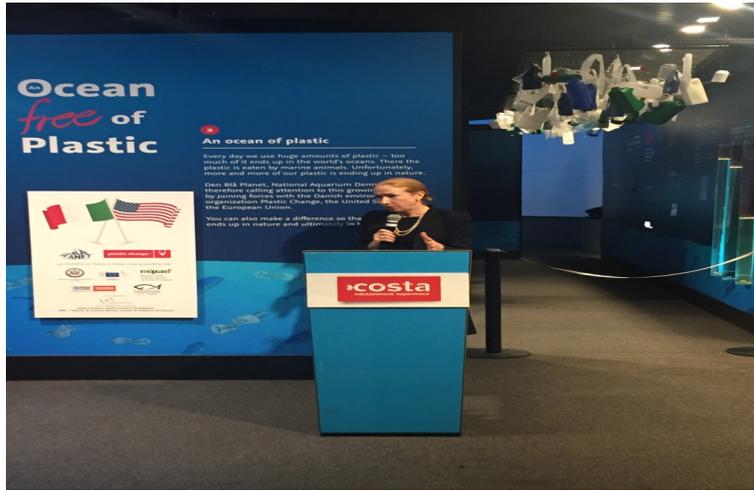


Dr. Ayana Johnson, marine biologist



Prince Charles

Genoa Plastic Pollution Exhibit



DCM Kelly Degnan

As a follow-up to the Our Ocean Conference held in Malta, Italy hosted the interactive “An Ocean Free of Plastic” exhibit at the Genoa Aquarium, the largest aquarium in Italy and the second largest in Europe. Located in the old harbor of Genoa, the 33,000-square-foot aquarium welcomes more than 1.2 million visitors each year. At the October 27 inauguration in Genoa, Deputy Chief of Mission Kelly Degnan delivered welcome remarks highlighting the risks from plastic pollution to the ocean environment, and stressed the utility of this exhibit in providing small, concrete solutions that individuals can take to address the marine litter challenge. Plastic Change’s marine biologist Malene Mohl, who provided content for the exhibit, led participants on a guided tour, which culminated in a stop at a photo booth to make a personal pledge to combat plastic pollution. Additional participants in the launch event included NGO representatives, officials from Italy’s National Research Council, local authorities, and the media. The event received positive coverage on local TV and radio shows. Turin-based national newspaper La Stampa filed [this report and video](#). Genoa hosted the largest science festival in Italy on October 26-November 5, and the timing of the exhibit opening coincided with the well-attended annual festival (which attracted 26,000 students in 2016) to leverage the reach of the exhibit’s message. Rome Public Affairs Tweeted about the event to its 150,000 followers, and the Genoa Aquarium re-Tweeted the messages. On Facebook, almost 6,000 people saw the photo-post.



Malene Mohl and Caron De Mars



School Kids at Exhibit



Federica Signoretti

Page Photo Credit: Caron De Mars and Federica Signoretti

Turtle Excluder Devices

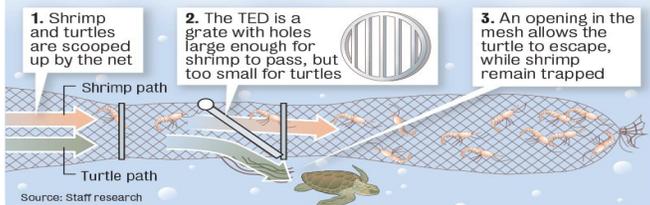
On October 11, ESTH Counselor Caron De Mars, ESTH Specialist Federica Signoretti, and ESTH Intern Elena Berg accompanied Joseph Fette from the State Department’s Office of Marine Conservation to meet with Commander Vittorio Giovannone from the Italian Coast Guard to discuss the possible use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in Italian fisheries. A TED is a specialized device that allows a captured sea turtle to escape when caught in a fisherman's net. In particular, sea turtles can be caught when bottom trawling is used by the commercial shrimp fishing industry. In order to catch shrimp, a fine-meshed trawl net is needed. This results in large amounts of other marine organisms being also caught as bycatch. When a turtle gets caught or entangled in a trawl net, it becomes trapped and is unable to return to the surface. Since sea turtles are air-breathing creatures with lungs, they eventually drown.

This innovative technology increases effectiveness in three areas. In addition to saving sea turtles, TEDs also account for a 6% increase in overall catch. The devices help sort the catch as well, which allows fisherfolk to save time as well as fuel otherwise wasted in bringing the heavy nets to surface and sorting through unwanted catch.

Joseph Fette travels often to advocate the implementation of TEDs in fisheries around the globe. The Italian government is already sponsoring research on TEDs, and may be interested in sharing the positive results from U.S. and Italian TEDs research at the European level.

A CURRENT METHOD

How Turtle Excluder Devices enable sea turtles to escape shrimp trawls:



Turtle Excluder Device

Photo Credit: NOLA.com

Italian NGO Legambiente Ranks Italy’s Greenest Cities

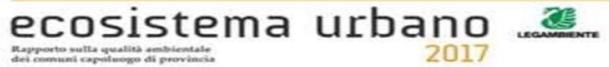


Photo Credit: Notizie in Controluce

The Italian NGO Legambiente has published the twenty-fourth annual report of the “greenest” Italian cities, based on 2016 data. The criteria used to draft the ranking were a total of sixteen categories, grouped in seven macro areas: Air, Water, Garbage Disposal, Renewable Energies, Mobility, and Urban Environment. The cities are thus ranked from one to 105, with the city with the highest point score being ranked number one. This edition added bonus points to cities that adopted innovative policies to improve environmental sustainability (e.g., car-sharing, no-traffic zones, recycling systems, efficient public transportation, etc.). The document shows an overall improvement in the green standards at a national level, even if most cities of the South still lag behind. Legambiente hopes that the cities ranked in the highest positions can serve as models for the less virtuous ones.

Mantua was ranked number one, followed by Trento, Bolzano, Parma and Pordenone. Catania, Palermo, Viterbo, Brindisi, and Enna were ranked 101-105.

Milan, thanks in part to new car-sharing services and the Area C (a central area with a congestion charge payment), jumped 42 positions, to rank at 31. Florence remained in the middle of the list at position 51. Rome and Naples, due to cyclical garbage emergencies, serious water leaks, and inadequate public transportation, scored very poorly, ranking at 88 and 86, respectively.

Physics Nobel Prize Winners



Three American physicists, Kip Thorne and Barry Barish of the California Institute of Technology and Rainer Weiss of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, won the 2017 Physics Nobel Prize for their discovery of gravitational waves between black holes. The scientists are promoters and founders of LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory). Collaboration between LIGO and the VIRGO interferometer in Italy (see page 1) led to a new observation, confirmed in August 2017, which allowed scientists to locate the source of gravitational waves with unprecedented precision. Albert Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves about a century ago. The international work on gravitational wave detection has created a completely new way to study our universe.

Dr. Rizzolatti receives Lombardy Science Award

Giacomo Rizzolatti is an Italian emeritus professor in neurophysiology at the University of Parma (Emilia Romagna) and at the Niguarda Hospital in Milan (Lombardy). Born in Kiev, Ukraine, he is the Senior Scientist on the research team that discovered mirror neurons in the frontal and [parietal cortex](#) of the macaque monkey, and has written extensively on the topic. Rizzolatti has received many international awards for his discoveries in neuroscience. His key finding of what he deems the “mirror mechanism” unifies brain perception and execution. Each time an individual observes an action done by others, a set of neurons responsible for coding that action in the motor system are activated. Because the observers are aware of the outcome of their motor acts, they also understand what others are doing without the necessity of an intermediate cognitive mediation. Rizzolatti is a past president of the European Brain and Behavior Society. The Lombardy Region created the one-million-euro

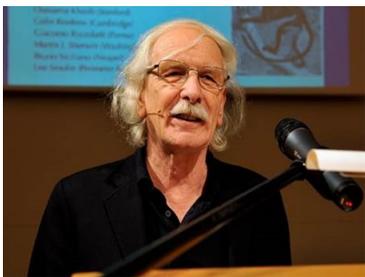


Photo credit: Giacomo Boffi

Top Scientist Award in memory of Prof. Umberto Veronesi, the famous oncologist who died in 2016. This was the first year the prize was awarded. 70% of the grant will be dedicated to research projects to be carried out in the Lombardy region.

Dr. Ranieri Guerra moves to WHO

On October 3, 2017, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, appointed five members of the WHO senior leadership team, including Dr. Ranieri Guerra as Assistant Director General for Special Initiatives. Dr. Guerra has more than 30 years of public health experience. Since 2015, he has represented Italy as a member of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe.



Photo Credit: Ministry of Health

Since 2014, he has served as Director General for Preventive Health and Chief Medical Officer of the Italian Ministry of Health. Additional roles include serving as Scientific Attaché for the Embassy of Italy in Washington, D.C., Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre and Director of the Office of External Relations at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, the research organization of the Italian Ministry of Health, and Medical Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). He has published extensively on humanitarian and emergency operations and health reform in developing and transitional countries. He also has worked with several multilateral organizations and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in these settings.

Although we are very happy for Dr. Guerra’s advancement, he has been a good friend of our ESTH Section at U.S. Embassy Rome, so we will miss him.



Aspen Institute Italia holds Award Ceremony to Recognize Scientific Collaboration between Italy and the United States

On October 26, ESTH Embassy Science Fellow Dr. Sut Soneja and Intern Elena Berg attended the celebration of accomplishments of Italian and American scientists at the Aspen Institute Italia Award ceremony. This award, established in December 2015, forms part of the Institute’s ongoing commitment towards cultivating international leadership, honoring scientific cooperation, and fostering transatlantic ties. It honors a research contribution in the theoretical or applied natural sciences that is the product of collaboration between scientists and/or research organizations in Italy and the United States. This year’s winning research was titled *“Wind from the Black-Hole Accretion Disk Driving a Molecular Outflow in an Active Galaxy.”* The authors demonstrated that wind coming from black holes contributes to the formation of new stars inside different galaxies. In particular, they proved that the evolution of galaxies depends on the black holes at their center.



ASPEN Institute Award Presentation
Photo credit: Sut Soneja

This research falls within the longstanding and well-established tradition of collaborative efforts between Italian and American scientists in the field of X-ray astronomy, pioneered in the United States by Bruno Rossi and Riccardo Giacconi (winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002). The research project was Nature’s cover story on March 26, 2015. The researchers currently work at the University of Maryland, College Park; University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy; the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences at Keele University in the United Kingdom; and the University of Alcalá in Spain.

In addition to honoring the scientists at the ceremony who won the award, the Aspen Institute also held a panel debate on the future of research and the economics of space exploration by three notable individuals with long



NASA visitors and ESTH meet before the awards ceremony.
Photo Credit: Paolo Messa

history in space exploration and science: Samuel C. C. Ting, Nobel Laureate and Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Roberto Battiston, President of the Italian Space Agency; and Colleen Hartman, Director of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. Both Ting and Battiston are principal investigators of the international \$1.5 billion [Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer](#) experiment, which was installed on the International Space Station in May 2011. The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer has thus far collected and identified nine million cosmic ray events as electrons or positrons (antimatter). The results suggest that high-energy positrons and cosmic ray electrons may come from different and mysterious sources. Solving the origin of cosmic rays and antimatter increases understanding of our galaxy.



The Inauguration of the CUORE Experiment at Gran Sasso National Laboratory

On October 23, ESTH Embassy Science Fellow Dr. Sut Soneja and Intern Elena Berg visited the Gran Sasso National Laboratory (LNGS) in Assergi, Province of L'Aquila, Abruzzo, Italy for the inauguration of the CUORE experiment (Cryogenic Underground Laboratory Of Rare Events). LNGS is the biggest and potentially one of the most important underground research centers in the world; its main point of strength is hosting experiments that need low radioactive background. The CUORE project, which took 12 years for the prototype to show results and involves significant cooperation between scientists from Italy and the United States, is an experimental observation search for [neutrinoless double beta decay](#). Observing neutrinoless double beta decay could confirm physicist [Ettore Majorana's theory](#) of the nature of the neutrino, which would allow scientists to explain, in part, why neutrinos have mass and the prevalence of matter over antimatter in the universe. This, in turn, is the foundation physicists believe makes the creation of stars and planets possible. Notable participants at the inauguration who have worked on the CUORE experiment included LNGS Director Stefano Ragazzi; Italian National Institute of Physics President Fernando Ferroni; Professor Yury Kolomensky of the University of California at Berkeley; and Jehanne Gillo, Director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Physics' Facilities and Project Management Division.



Intern Elena Berg and CUORE scientists. Photo Credit: Sut Soneja



Photo Credit: INFN

European Commission Announces Details for €30B in Research Funds Under Horizon 2020



Photo Credit: Irish Research Council



www.europe.europa.eu #EU2017



Photo Credit: European Commission

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 aspires to achieve excellent science and industrial leadership, and tackling societal challenges. The initiative's goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation, and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.

On October 27, 2017, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars hosted the U.S. launch of the European Union's Horizon 2020 research program (2018-2020). The European Commission published details on the last tranche of funding (€30 billion) under the Horizon 2020 research program. The final three years of Horizon 2020 (2018-2020) will focus on "fewer topics with bigger budgets" in fields ranging from personalized healthcare and cybersecurity to cleaner energy and the root causes of extremism. Low-carbon research has the biggest topical allocation at €3.3 billion. A pilot for the European Innovation Council intended to support top-class innovators, start-ups, small companies, and researchers, will receive €2.7 billion. Projects designed to digitize and transform European industry and services will receive €1.7 billion. A further €941 million will go toward the "circular economy," an attempt to reduce waste and increase recycling. European Union security projects, focusing on areas such as cybersecurity, will receive €1 billion.

Additionally, more than €200 million will support research on migration-related issues, such as the root causes of migration, "migration management," and integrating migrants in new countries. In order to encourage participation with international partners, approximately €1 billion will go to 30 international competitions. Examples include: cooperating with Canada on personalized medicine; collaborating with the United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Australia on road transport automation; working with India on water challenges, and teaming up with African countries on food security and renewable energies. Six new prize competitions have been confirmed, which include €10 million to develop a battery for electric vehicles; €10 million for a bench-scale prototype of an artificial photosynthesis device that produces a synthetic liquid fuel; €5 million each for a scalable, reliable and cost-effective early warning system for epidemics; a prize for "blockchain for social good"; a prize for an affordable way of launching nano- and micro-satellites into low-earth orbit; and a prize for technology to aid humanitarian work. Seen as a means to drive economic growth and create jobs, Horizon 2020 has the backing of European political leaders, who put it at the heart of the European Union's blueprint for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

EU Provides Satellite Imagery to Support Harvey Response



At the request of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the EU activated its Copernicus Emergency Management Service Satellite to assist with Hurricane Harvey response efforts. As of August 31, the EU had provided six damage assessment maps covering the areas of Texas hit by Harvey. Copernicus maps provide helpful estimates regarding affected populations and infrastructure as well as supporting search and rescue operations. This is the fourth time the EU has provided this type of imagery support since 2012 and is an excellent demonstration of our trans-Atlantic cooperation. USNATO Ambassador Hutchinson, during an August 31 interview with MSNBC and via social media, expressed gratitude to the European Commission for this support.



Photo Credit: European Commission



Ada Lovelace is credited with being the first computer programmer in the 1840s. One hundred years later, [Grace Hopper](#) created the first compiler. Could a major computing breakthrough be at the hands of one of Italy's "Coding Girls" alumnae? Rome's Public Affairs Section, which has supported Coding Girls since 2014, asked ESTH Counselor Caron De Mars to inspire the 250 Coding Girls at the opening of a day-long hackathon on November 9 at Tor Vergata University in Rome. This cadre of coders will join the 4,000 young women trained in 2017 through a partnership between Embassy Rome's Public Affairs Section, Microsoft, the Fondazione Mondo Digitale, and La Sapienza University. Earlier in the year, a Coding Girls Summer School trained more than 60 talented young Italian women to transmit their knowledge and enthusiasm to these new coders in 20 schools in Milan, Rome, Naples, and Catania. This fourth edition indicates the Embassy's continued drive to open up new opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education for girls. As De Mars said in her opening remarks, "Even if you don't pursue computer programming, the leadership, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities incidental to coding hackathons are skills that you can transport to any endeavor."

Public Affairs Asst. Tiziana Candiloro & ESTH Caron De Mars with organizers-
Photo Credit: Cecilia Stajano



The Global Fund’s “No One Left Behind: Global Health, Access to Care, Inequalities and Migration”

On July 10, ESTH Counselor Caron De Mars and ESTH intern Maria Winters DiMarco attended the “No One Left Behind: Global Health, Access to Care, Inequalities and Migration” event hosted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the [Global Fund](#), as well as the Friends of the Global Fund Europe.



Speakers highlighted the importance of considering global health in relation to other issues, including access to clean water, food security, agricultural development, and climate change. Several speakers also emphasized the importance of using definitions that are universally agreed upon, so as to streamline both communication and comprehension of the issues. This event served as an opportunity for subject matter experts in the field of global health to discuss, debate, and question the progress the international community has made in recent years and collectively consider what can be accomplished moving forward.

Particular focus was placed on how countries can achieve Goal 3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which reads, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.”

Speakers emphasized the need to “build and sustain efficient health systems and service delivery,” and “encourage international cooperation and ongoing financial commitments,” all while keeping the quality of services provided in mind. Several speakers stressed that while economic growth is often a priority during development conversations, it is also important to focus on equitable solutions that will deliver services to marginalized or vulnerable communities that are often ignored or underserved, which may include the LGBT community, migrants, prisoners, and drug users. Speakers also noted that special attention must be paid to enhancing the daily lives of women and girls—not only through the delivery of adequate health services, but by providing access to education.

Federico Soda from the Coordination Office for the Mediterranean of the International Organization for Migration spoke of the need to focus on health solutions that are accessible to mobile populations and that are specifically migrant-friendly. Soda held that holistic approaches to health policy that reflect the effects of climate change and the increase in mobile migrant populations will be better able to address today’s global health challenges and meet the goals for 2030 and beyond.



High Level Event
“No One Left Behind: Global Health, Access to Care, Inequalities and Migration”
Rome, July 10th 2017
Istituto Superiore di Sanità



Op-Ed for World Antibiotic Awareness Week

Former ESTH Embassy Science Fellow Dr. Sut Soneja and Dr. Ranieri Guerra, former Director General for Health Prevention at the Italian Ministry of Health, published a joint Op-Ed on November 17, 2017 in *Il Messaggero* titled “Recognizing World Antibiotic Awareness Week and the United States’ and Italy’s Shared Commitment to a Healthier World.” The text read as follows:

From November 13th to 19th the world will observe the 3rd annual World Antibiotic Awareness Week, established by the World Health Organization (WHO). This is especially timely in light of the G7 Health Ministers Meeting held in Milan, November 5th and 6th. As representatives of the Italian Ministry of Health and the United States Embassy to Italy, we jointly recognize the importance of promoting this week as we partner to address some of the world’s most pressing health issues.

Antibiotics are medicines used to treat and prevent bacterial infections. However, the inappropriate and inconsistent use of antibiotics, in combination with a dramatic reduction in the development of new types of antibiotics, has resulted in bacteria adapting to them. As a result, the use of first-line treatments is becoming ever more ineffective. The goal of World Antibiotic Awareness Week is to spread awareness globally about the growing threat of antibiotic resistance, as well as highlighting best-use practices for antibiotics across all sectors as a means to prevent the growth of antibiotic resistance. Within the United States and Europe, it is estimated that 50,000 deaths occur annually as a result of drug-resistant bacteria, with worldwide projections to be around 700,000 deaths. In addition to cutting short peoples’ lives, this also results in increased health care costs and imposes an economic burden on families and society at large. Simply put, antibiotic resistance places modern medicine at risk and undermines the economic potential of nations.

The G7 Health Ministers met to discuss a variety of pressing global health topics, including the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance. Under the 2005 WHO International Health Regulations and the Global Health Security Agenda (launched in 2014, and which Italy will chair in 2018), the international community has committed to prevent, detect, and respond to the threat of antimicrobial resistance by utilizing an integrated approach spanning human, animal, agricultural, food, and environmental aspects. Entities ranging from the WHO to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE) are working together to tackle the threat of antimicrobial resistance.

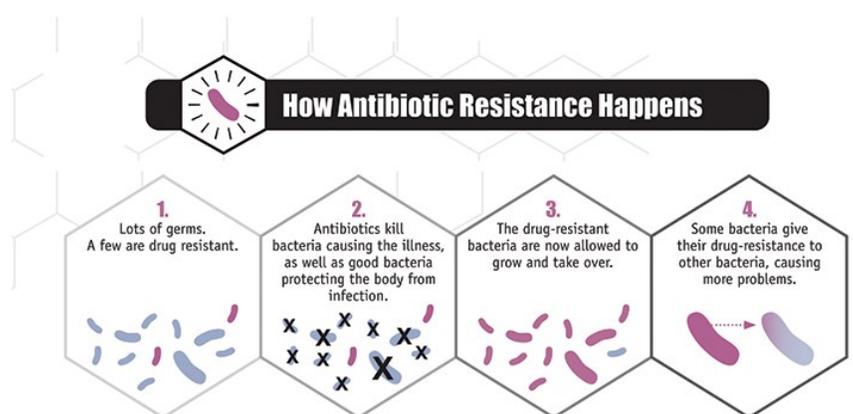


Photo Credit: cdc.gov

Continued

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Efforts to combat antibiotic resistance include raising awareness of antibiotic misuse, reducing inappropriate prescribing practices, improving regulatory oversight and measures in order to assure the quality and safety of medicines, and strengthening stewardship among livestock and human medical practitioners.

The United States and Italy have a long history of working together on critical issues. Health cooperation has been an important part of that friendship. As we look to the future, the threats we face demand an integrated and coordinated approach. We stand ready to work together with one another – and our G7 partners – to operationalize and implement strategies to address this issue in our own countries and around the world.

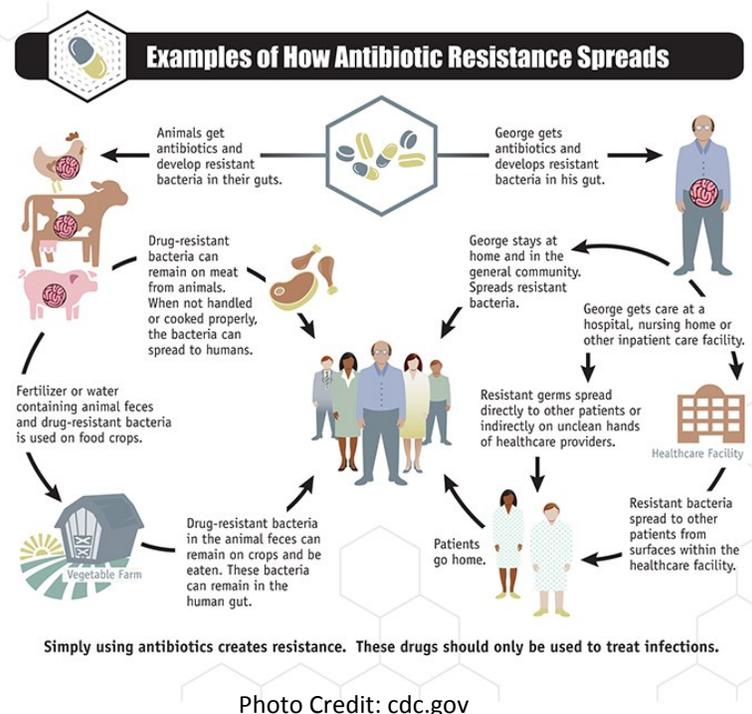
At the time of the publication of the Op-Ed, Dr. Guerra was Director General for Preventive Health and Chief Medical Officer of the Italian Ministry of Health and Dr. Soneja was serving as an Embassy Science Fellow in the U.S. Embassy to Italy. Both are public health experts.

G7 Health Ministerial

The G7 Ministerial Meeting on Health held in Milan November 5-6, 2017 focused on three main topics: 1) impact of climate and environmental factors on health, 2) gender perspectives in health policies and increased attention to the health of women, children and adolescents, and 3) antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Side events included a Global Nutrition Summit in which new financial commitments were outlined and a conference on "New Technologies for Health Care" organized by the Italian Pharmaceutical Industry Association that highlighted some of the work the United States is doing on AMR. The Mission also leveraged the meeting to coordinate social media posts on U.S. Mission platforms, post content to the [U.S. Mission G7 webpage](#), and place the op-ed above on antibiotic awareness in a leading Italian national newspaper.



Photo Credit: Sut Soneja



Going Green In Rome

International Coastal Cleanup Day

On September 16, Rome’s Tri-Mission Green Team and [Retake Roma](#) Ostia came together to co-sponsor a beach clean-up for International Coastal Cleanup Day below the Pontile di Ostia (the dock in Piazza dei Ravennati), 45 minutes outside of Rome. Retake Roma is an eight-year-old non-profit movement that has spread throughout Italy. Retake volunteers remove graffiti from walls, re-paint park benches and other structures, pick up trash, and refurbish public spaces. Retake has a long-standing relationship with the three U.S. Missions in Rome, dating back to its first joint clean-up of Villa Borghese in 2009. Beach Cleanup Day volunteers gathered trash like cigarette butts, plastic, and glass bottles; removed graffiti from the dock; and repainted the walls. About 20 Tri-Mission and community volunteers withstood a windy day to clean up the beach and help restore the dock. Here is a [link](#) to some of the work that was accomplished.



ESTH Team cleaning the beach.
Photo credit: Retake Roma

Embassy Walk or Bike to Work Day

The Tri-Mission Rome Green Team hosted a successful Walk or Bike to Work Day on November 16, 2017, to demonstrate small changes staff members can make to conserve resources and be more mindful of their individual impact on the environment. Focused upon raising environmental awareness in our missions through education and action, Green Team members volunteered to offer healthy breakfast options and coffee to those that bicycled or walked to work. Participants were asked to log information from their smart phones, activity devices, or other methods that included steps, distance walked or

biked, and calories burned, along with their normal mode of travel to work. Over 20 participants helped reduce Tri-Mission Rome’s emissions that morning! Overall, bikers and walkers traveled a total distance of about 45 miles and walkers logged 84,000 steps. The healthy breakfast donated by Green Team members included nuts, fruit, eggs, salmon, whole-grain bread, coffee, and tea: it was delicious and nutritious. In addition, a raffle was held for all participants that signed up as new Green Team members to win a reusable water bottle. This initiative complemented the G7 Health Ministerial in Milan, Italy, which took place on November 5 and 6, 2017, by encouraging the Tri-Mission community to lead a more environmentally friendly and healthy lifestyle.



Participants eating a healthy breakfast
Photo credit: Caron de Mars

2018 Look Ahead...

January 21-26	Arctic Frontiers (Tromso)
Feb 1	Tri-Mission Green Team trip to Rome's Waste Disposal Center
March 1-3	2nd International Space Exploration Forum (Tokyo)
March 3	World Wildlife Day
March 21-23	Senior Arctic Officials meetings (Levi, FI)
March 22	World Water Day
March 24	World TB Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 22	Earth Day (2018 theme plastics)
April 24-30	World Immunization Week
April 25	World Malaria Day
April 30-May 4	Air Quality Awareness Week
April	Global Entrepreneurship Congress (Istanbul)
June 8	World Oceans Day
June 20-21	UNISPACE+50, a special segment of the 61st session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
August 12	World Elephant Day
October 24-26	Senior Arctic Officials meetings (Rovaniemi, FI)
November 12-18	Global Entrepreneurship Week
November	Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Location TBD)
December 3-14	UNFCCC COP-24 (Katowice, Poland)
December 5	U.S.-Italy Joint Committee Meeting on Science & Technology Cooperation (Washington)

If you know someone who would like to be added to this newsletter mailing list, or if you would like to be removed, please contact

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