
Dr Sonia Boender

Health Scientist & Field Epidemiologist

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Health scientist, specialized in infectious diseases, public health, and global health. Field epidemiologist.

Over eight years of work experience (public, not-for-profit, academia), in both resource-rich and resource-limited settings. Demonstrated experience with infectious disease monitoring and surveillance, on national and international level (including ECDC and WHO).

Thrives in an international, multi-disciplinary team.

Independent, flexible, creative, enthusiastic, connector.

SKILLS HIGHLIGHT

- Epidemiological methodology & data analysis
- Project management and organisational skills, in resource-rich and -limited settings
- International work experience in Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific
- Strong communicator
- Experienced teacher, trainer, and mentor (MSc and PhD students)

EXPERIENCE

Robert Koch Institute, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology

September 2018 - present, Berlin, Germany

Research Associate (Sept. 2020 - present)

- Project coordinator [ESEG](#) [Erkennung und Sicherung Epidemischer Gefahrenlagen], detection and protection of epidemic situations
- Setting up a syndromic surveillance system based on routine emergency department data in Germany
- Routine health data in real-time ([SUMO](#))
- COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 response in Germany

ECDC EPIET Fellow (Sept. 2018 - Sept. 2020)

- Field epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)
- National infectious disease surveillance
- Public health research
- Outbreak investigation, including COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2

Last updated: September 2020

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Sept 2018 - Sept 2020, Europe

Fellow of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET)

- Hosted at the Robert Koch Institute (national public health institute of Germany)
- Visiting scientist at the Luxembourg Institute of Health
- Short-term consultant WHO GOARN
- Cohort Representative (elected): spokesperson and point of contact for fellows, the ECDC Fellowship programme heads, the training site forum, and the EPIET Alumni Network

Luxembourg Institute of Health

May 2019 - March 2020, Luxembourg

Visiting Scientist

Investigation of the HIV outbreak among injecting drug users in Luxembourg, using a respondent driven sampling approach.

- Survey protocol development, to seek people who inject drugs, and screen for HIV, and hepatitis B and C infections, using a respondent driven sampling approach
- Training of the investigation team (nurses, staff of low-threshold treatment programs and harm-reduction services, medical doctors, data managers)

World Health Organisation

Western Pacific Regional Office, Division of Pacific Technical Support

December 2019 - January 2020, Suva, Fiji

Epidemiologist

Short-term consultant / GOARN (Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network) deployment.

To provide technical and operational assistance to Pacific Ministries of Health, for strengthening measles surveillance and other outbreak response activities, in Pacific Island Countries.

Stichting HIV Monitoring [Dutch HIV Monitoring Foundation]

February 2016 - June 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Epidemiologist & Postdoctoral Researcher

National HIV surveillance and monitoring of HIV treatment and quality of care in the Netherlands.

- Routine epidemiological data analysis of clinical HIV data; periodical reporting of the descriptive epidemiology of the HIV epidemic
- Analysis, dissemination and communication of healthcare performance indicators of all 26 HIV treatment centres in the Netherlands
- Provide technical support, methodological advice, and data analysis support for research proposals submitted by treatment centres
- Advise and support data management and data monitoring in the improvement of data collection protocols, standardisation of data processing, and data quality control.
- Conduct clinical epidemiological and methodological research on the HIV epidemic

- Participate in international collaborations: University College London, Institute for Global Health, International Cohort Consortium of Infectious Diseases (RESPOND); Harvard Program on Causal Inference, HIV-CAUSAL
- Student supervision (MSc and PhD level)

Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development
Department of Global Health, Academic Medical Centre of the University of Amsterdam

February 2013 - January 2016, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

PhD Fellow

- Surveillance and monitoring of HIV treatment in adults and children in sub-Saharan Africa, in 13 public and private clinical sites, from six countries.
- Provide technical support and guidance to strengthen the surveillance system for HIV drug resistance in sub-Saharan Africa
- Expert Consultant for the World Health Organisation (WHO), the global network advising WHO on the control and surveillance of HIV drug resistance:
 - Provide technical assistance for strengthening HIV drug resistance surveillance in resource-limited settings
 - Contributed to the development of the WHO 'Global Action Plan on HIV Drug Resistance, 2017-2021' and the 'HIV Drug Resistance Report 2017'
 - Conducted a WHO commissioned literature-review and meta-analysis (Boender et. al; CID 2015)

VU University Amsterdam,
Department of Health Sciences
Division of Infectious Diseases | Division of Methodology & Applied Biostatistics

April 2012 - February 2013, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Lecturer

- Teaching in lectures and work-groups
- Supervise internal and external research internships
- Support, plan and organise lectures and tutorials, manage and train course assistants

EDUCATION

Charité - Universitätsmedizin & Berlin School of Public Health, Germany

MSc Applied Epidemiology 2021 (expected)

The two-year full time course (120 ECTS) is integrated into the ECDC's European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET)

University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

PhD Global Health 2016

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

PgCert International Public Health 2016 (with distinction)

VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands

MSc Health Sciences - Infectious Diseases and Public Health 2011

BSc General Health Sciences 2010

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Proficient in R, STATA, SAS, SPSS, EpiData, Adobe Pro, GraphPad Prism, MS Office
- Experienced with GIT, EpiInfo, KoboCollect, Nvivo, MS Access, QGIS/ArcGIS, Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator).

CERTIFICATIONS

- Registered Senior Epidemiologist (PhD level), Dutch Society for Epidemiology
- ICH Good clinical practice (GCP) certified

LANGUAGES

English (C2), German (C1), Dutch (C2, mother tongue)