



30 Years of Pioneering Travel Health

March 2015

2015 marks the 30th Anniversary of TRAVAX®

Welcome to the second edition of our TRAVAX® 30th anniversary newsletter.

This issue takes us on a brief journey through the history of TRAVAX, pays tribute to the late Dr Cameron Lockie, asks you to share your travel medicine tales, and concludes with a testimonial from the chair of the British Global and Travel Health Association, Dr Mike Townend.

The Travax Team.

The TRAVAX Timeline

1985 Country specific travel health information originally captured in wall hanging poly pockets is launched into TRAVAX Ceefax format. There are fewer than 200 users across Scotland and just one consultant physician, Dr Eric Walker working in isolation. However, the demand for advice is evident as around 20 million UK travellers go abroad this year. The film, Back to the Future is released, in which a very different form of travel takes Marty McFly to the weird world of 2015.



**ONCE UPON
A TIME.....→**

1990 A nurse specialist is recruited to help develop services. The first internet version of TRAVAX is launched. A counterpart public information site, fitfortravel, begins development. Health Protection Scotland (HPS) study days and short courses in Travel Medicine are established for primary care, particularly practice nurses and GP's. The expanding nature of travel is demonstrated by the establishment in London of the World Travel and Tourism Council.

1995 A second nurse specialist joins the team with a focus on education. Glasgow University launches Diploma and MSc courses in travel medicine with support from HPS and under the watchful eye of Dr Cameron Lockie. This is a world first. There are now several thousand TRAVAX users. The fitfortravel website gets over a million hits. The BBC reports that mathematicians are working on calculations that appear to show the possibility of faster than light travel.



Glasgow Universities' First Travel Medicine Students.

2000 After ten years, the Travel Medicine short courses move out of NHS Scotland, to cover all of the UK and are rebranded as TREC (www.trectravelhealth.co.uk), under the direction of Sheila Hall. The Diploma and MSc courses are now offered in a collaboration between HPS and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. A move that coincides with nurses and pharmacists being admitted for first time in the college's history. The Millennium Bug fails to cause airliners to plummet to the ground. However, a piece of debris causes a Concorde to crash on take-off from Paris, spelling the end of supersonic passenger travel.

2006 Dr Eric Walker retires and is made MBE for his services to travel medicine. The position of nurse consultant in Travel Medicine is developed and, to meet growing demand, a medical lead is also recruited to the team. HPS become responsible for designating Yellow Fever Vaccination centres in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. The fitfortravel website is given a major redesign and relaunch. In Edinburgh, HPS co-hosts a major international Travel Medicine conference which attracts more than 1000 delegates.

2007 In another world first, the Faculty of Travel Medicine is formed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. The Diploma course is now fully incorporated within the College. TRAVAX spreads its reach from the UK home base and is increasingly seen as an international resource. For the first time, the International Society of Travel Medicine appoints a nurse as President of the Society. The Royal College of Nursing publishes the first career and competency framework for nurses working in travel health. In August, the Pope launches his own airline. Two Boeing 737 jets are repainted in the Vatican colours of yellow and white with a logo saying, 'I'm searching for your face, Lord.'



Dr Eric Walker receiving his MBE for services to travel medicine.

2012 Following extensive customer consultation, a redesigned TRAVAX is launched. The site has many new features including a forum, an outbreak news feature, email updates and a patient suitcase. It is clear that TRAVAX has become embedded in the way that healthcare staff work and is being routinely and extensively used across both the UK and wider world setting with global health issues and new and emerging disease increasingly on the agenda. In the World Travel Awards, Edinburgh takes the crown for Europe's leading travel destination

2014 The public facing site, www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is given a major upgrade and a whole new look to bring it up-to-date with content sharing and mobile device compatibility. The site is now getting over ten million hits per year. HPS links up with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to expand global health surveillance activity for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. With 60 million visits abroad by UK travellers each year, the TRAVAX team numbers nine, including scientists and customer support staff. There are now 17,000 TRAVAX users across 24 countries.

2015 Celebrating 30 years of TRAVAX and Travel Medicine in Scotland. Though we still don't have hoverboards !

**TO BE
CONTINUED.....→**

Dr Cameron Lockie



We were saddened to learn of the recent death of our friend and colleague, Dr Cameron Lockie MBE, who passed away on 24 January, aged 76.

Cameron, born in Glasgow and educated in Edinburgh, was a medic who, following service in the RAF, worked for many years as a GP as well as a ship's doctor. At the same time, he was building an international reputation as an expert and innovator in the field of travel medicine, helping establish the British Travel Health Association and as founder and core tutor of the MSc/diploma in travel medicine at the University of Glasgow (now hosted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow). His immense achievements in the field were recognised with the award of both an MBE and fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society.

In retirement, he continued to be involved in overseas medical charity work through Rotary International, notably helping to provide safe drinking water to disaster areas.

He is survived by Rosemary, his wife, their sons Andrew and Angus, daughter Shona, who followed her father into medicine as a GP, and grandchildren James, Alasdair, Nicholas and Annabel.

Your TRAVAX Tales

There's a great TRAVAX community out there and one of the things we enjoy most is hearing your TRAVAX and travel related stories. What is the strangest question you have been asked in the travel clinic? Can you recall a really unusual traveller or destination you had to advise on?

We'd like to share some of your stories (if printable) so please send to: nss.travaxanniversary@nhs.net





I was first introduced to TRAVAX as a student on the very first Diploma in Travel Medicine course in Glasgow in 1995/6. At that time it was designed for the tiny Viewdata screen, and when eventually I subscribed to it, it occupied only half the width of a blue screen on my practice computer. Since then I have watched it grow and develop into the very user-friendly and comprehensive database that it is now. Its development was an invaluable part of the development of the specialty of travel medicine, and it is no surprise that it was developed first by SCIEH and later by Health Protection Scotland (HPS), as Scotland in general, and Glasgow in particular, have always been at the forefront of the development of travel medicine.

Happy birthday, TRAVAX, and my congratulations to all those involved in your birth, and continuing development.

Dr Mike Townend

Chairman

British Global and Travel Health Association (BGTHA)