

Robert STEFFEN, M.D.

Robert Steffen, Professor Emeritus at the University of Zurich was the Head of the Division of Communicable Diseases in the Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute and Director of a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Traveller's Health. He is Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston.

In the 1970's he started systematic research in morbidity and mortality of illnesses and accidents related to international travel to be able to conclude on evidence based preventive strategies. In 1988 he organized the first international conference of travel medicine and subsequently became Co-founder and President of the International Society of Travel Medicine. He has (co-)authored over 400 publications and was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Travel Medicine, the International Journal of Public Health and Section Editor for Clinical Infectious Diseases. He presided the Swiss Federal Commission for Influenza and was Vice-President of the Federal Commission on Vaccination and of the Swiss Bioterrorism Committee. The WHO often invited him to advisory boards, such as on the revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR), malaria, vaccine preventable diseases, or epidemiological preparedness at airports. He served as Chair of the IHR Ebola Emergency Committee until 2020.