

**CDC's Emerging Infections Program**  
**CDC/USDA/FDA Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network**  
**Steering Committee Conference Call Minutes**

Role:

Present : CA, CO, CT, GA-MSA, GA-GOA, MD, MN, NY, OR, TN, TX, USDA, EHS-NET, CFSAN, CDC-Parasitic

Not present: NM, UMN, FDA, CDC-Viral

Date: Thursday, August 12th, 2004

Time: 2:00-3:00 EDT

Numbers: Number: 877-601-3546 PassCode: 14349

A. Administrative

1. Personnel

- a. Good-bye to Alison Drake (CDC) - Alison will be leaving FoodNet at the beginning of September
- b. Welcome Dawn Norton (CA), former Branch EIS, now at CA EIP
- c. Welcome Ezra Barzilay (CDC) (EBarzilay@cdc.gov), new FoodNet EIS officer

2. FoodNet organizational

- a. Structure and contact information
  - Drew Voetsch ([AVoetsch@cdc.gov](mailto:AVoetsch@cdc.gov)) is taking over Matt Moore's position as FoodNet Chief
  - CDC FoodNet has reorganized; analytical team led by Elaine Scallan and surveillance team led by Jennifer Nelson
  - Suggestions included having pictures of CDC staff on the organizational chart

3. Status of manuscripts

- a. Active/Published
  - Tim Jones – manuscript was accepted to CID
  - Jay Varma's FoodNet-NARMS manuscript was accepted for publication
  - Laura Green's manuscript was also accepted

4. Vision Meeting 2005

- a. A different location?
  - Had a suggestion from NY to change the location of the Vision Meeting
  - Potentially tack it on to the PulseNet meeting in the spring, which is in Seattle
  - However, MMWR needs to be out by the end of April, so if we want to work on the MMWR during the Vision Meeting, we need to have the meeting in early March
  - We could also clear the MMWR via email instead of at the Vision Meeting
  - Would any sites be willing to host the Vision Meeting? Please email Jennifer Nelson
  - Travel to CDC/Atlanta is easier to justify for some sites than travel to a different location, even if it is a CDC-hosted meeting
  - Travel to the center of the country is easier for our West Coast sites
- b. Proposed dates
  - March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005
  - No ICEID this year for us to schedule around

B. Surveillance

1. Active surveillance data, 2004

- S. Newport down for all sites; declines in most pathogens except for *Yersinia*, *Cryptosporidium*, and *Cyclospora*

2. HUS surveillance data

3. Status of 2003 Annual Report

- Hope to have the data in to clearance by Sept 1st, waiting for the 2003 census numbers

C. Special studies and projects

1. S. Newport, S. Enteritidis, *Listeria*, Infant case-control studies

- a. SE univariate/bivariate analysis tables
  - Almost finalized bivariate tables
  - Pared down list of exposures, egg exposures, homemade mayonnaise, chicken outside the home, lizard exposures are significant
  - Phage type analysis, requires 6 or more cases to support these stratified analyses

- S. Newport case-control study - Jay Varma is working on a draft which will be circulated to co-authors relatively soon

- S. Enteritidis case-control study will be moving into multivariate analysis in the next couple of months

- *Listeria* case-control study – Jay Varma submitted a draft manuscript to CDC and Alison Drake is working closely with lab to obtain serotype and PFGE data

- Infant case-control study – had a call recently; are in the process of cleaning the data and should have a final dataset reasonably soon

2. HUS cohort study

– call today about O157 cohort study led by John Dunn; have a protocol, questionnaires to interview case patients, and data

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abstraction forms for providers and medical records; these will be circulated to CA, MN and OR for comments and at CDC

3. Long-term care facility survey
  - Currently with CDC's IRB and hoping it will be exempt; goal to launch data collection by October
4. FoodNet Population Survey
  - Trying to catalogue the Population Survey questions from all 4 cycles, which will be put on the web; this should give a better idea of what questions have been asked and will help develop the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle; we will receive comments from sites and then submit the document through CDC clearance
5. Summary: Can weather patterns predict disease activity? (MPH student project)
  - This is to highlight some work done by a MPH student at GWU using Maryland's *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* data; used a model to see if precipitation and/or temperature can help predict disease incidence
  - Besides just highlighting a summertime peak, this also captures 1. the secular trend (incidence increasing or decreasing) but also 2. the periodicity of the trend; number of papers out using these type of ARIMA models
  - Interesting, although there isn't much we can do in terms of weather prevention
6. *Campylobacter*-GBS Working Group call
  - A lot of challenges with establishing GBS surveillance, primarily the lack of available data and the resources involved in looking for acute GBS cases; one site may repeat OR's GBS study; this working group will have quarterly calls, the next call being in October

D. Miscellaneous

1. Communications
  - a. NEDSS
    - TN and CDC are pilot testing; working with EIP on ways to give feedback.
    - TN comments have been forwarded along to EIP
    - CDC team is coming to MD Sept 7-9 to do the GAP analysis, will have someone from the MD FoodNet program participating in that 3 day meeting
2. FSIS Initiatives
  - Press release from USDA on July 14 about a number of new initiatives for improving Food Safety and Public Health; FoodNet and the attribution working group are highlighted
  - Also a link to the full length report on the FSIS website
  - The division of Human Health and Sciences has hired a new chief of Medical Affairs and Surveillance, Dr. Reuben Varghese, who is a former EIS officer; Dr. Varghese will be making a visit to CDC FoodNet in the fall of 2004

**Please Note:** Atlas of Exposures that was just sent out has inconsistencies between the tables and figures; the correct denominators were not always used; CDC is drafting a memo which will be sent out and will redo the atlas with the correct numbers next year

E. Proposals

- a. The economic cost of diarrheal illness in the United States (Elaine Scallan)
  - A lot of work has been done with using the population survey to describe the prevalence of diarrheal illness and time off work; this proposal would take these analyses one step further and calculate economic cost estimates
  - **Accepted**
- b. Bacterial foodborne illness in the United States (Elaine Scallan)
  - Redoing Paul Mead's bacterial foodborne illness estimates, concentrating on pathogens under FoodNet surveillance
  - Would 1. use more recent surveillance data and 2. can use all 4 cycles of the population survey, increasing the sample size from 9,000 used in the initial paper to 53,000 with the combined surveys
  - Important because allows to create multipliers from much larger sample size
  - Also gives opportunity to create more than 2 illness pyramids using symptom such as fever, and then can hone in on certain pathogens with more accuracy
  - Need to go forward with something like this but still think going to have problems with what percent of various pathogens are foodborne; Paul Mead took a blind guess on a lot of them; also may be a wrong assumption that people who seek care are similar to those who do not; finally, would be important to adjust for age and race/ethnicity since FoodNet is not comparable to the U.S. population in terms of these factors
  - Maybe leave out foodborne question and just look at burden due to those FoodNet bacterial pathogens
  - Steps would include 1. merging 4 cycles of the population survey 2. estimate the multipliers from these data 3. build symptom specific multipliers 4. see how these new multipliers could change estimates of bacterial pathogens
  - Could look at changes over time in population survey but the number seeking care and number submitting stool cultures have remained fairly constant
  - Anyone interested in this analysis can join the burden working group, led by Elaine Scallan
  - **Accepted**

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- c. Use of FoodNet *Listeria* meningitis data for annual report documenting trends in overall meningitis rates for Health People 2010 (Nancy Rosenstein) (pg 36)
  - ABCs group wants to look at meningitis in *Listeria* cases in order to monitor how well they are meeting the Healthy People 2010 objectives for bacterial meningitis in children; would like annual data from 2000 to 2010
  - This is different from what Matt Moore/Drew Voetsch proposed, which was a trend paper of invasive *Listeria* cases
  - If there are any reservations, email Drew and he will forward them on to the ABCs group
  - **Accepted**
  
- d. Substantial decline in the incidence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 infections in FoodNet, 2003 (John Dunn)
  - Wanted to do a companion paper to the one being put out by FSIS about the decline in O157 among USDA samples, which is being submitted to the Journal of Food Protections
  - John wanted to look at variation by site and other variables as well as the decline over time
  - **Accepted**
  
- e. Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network Surveillance Summary, 1996-2003 (Elizabeth Ailes)
  - Follow up to the discussion at the Vision Meeting in 2004 about publishing a surveillance summary; MMWR has reserved space
  - Would like to look in more detail at 7 years trends
  - Will begin with an analysis of *Campylobacter* in order to see how feasible this is; could end up with multiple pathogen-specific surveillance summaries but will submit future proposals if this is the case
  - **Accepted**
  
- f. Health care utilization among persons who have recently experience gastrointestinal illness (Alicia Cronquist)
  - Tiny piece of Elaine's proposal
  - Will examine health care utilization looking at symptoms profiles and potential exposures, although the time frame on exposures is 30 days whereas for symptoms it is 7 days
  - **Accepted**
  
- g. Analysis of FoodNet case-control study of sporadic *Salmonella* infections in infants (Tim Jones)
  - Beginning the analysis phase of this case-control study
  - Tim would lead the *Salmonella* analysis
  - **Accepted**
  
- h. Analysis of FoodNet case-control study of sporadic *Campylobacter* infections in infants (Katie Fullerton)
  - Katie would lead the *Campylobacter* analysis which would run in parallel with the *Salmonella* analysis
  - **Accepted**

- If there are any concerns about the proposals, don't hesitate to write or call

Please note, there is no GBS working group call in August:

F. Upcoming FoodNet conference calls, meetings, and deadlines

1.	Thursday	Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:00-1:00 pm EDT	HUS/STEC Working Group call
2.	Thursday	Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00-2:00 pm EDT	<i>Campylobacter</i> —Regional Differences
<del>3.</del>	<del>Monday</del>	<del>Aug. 16<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>3:00-4:00 pm EDT</del>	<del>GBS Working Group call</del>
4.	Thursday	Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup>	2:00-3:00 pm EDT	FoodNet Coordinators call
5.	Thursday	Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup>	3:00-4:00 pm EDT	Outbreak Working Group call
6.	Tuesday	Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	2:00-3:00 pm EDT	Interventions Working Group call
7.	Wednesday	Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup>	1:00-2:00 pm EDT	<i>Campylobacter</i> —Lab Survey Subcommittee
8.	Thursday	Aug. 26 <sup>th</sup>	1:00-2:00 pm EDT	Antimicrobial Resistant Working Group call
9.	Thursday	Aug. 26 <sup>th</sup>	3:00-4:00 pm EDT	Infant Illness Working Group call
10.	Wednesday	Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	1:00-2:00 pm EDT	<i>Campylobacter</i> —Grocery Store Subcommittee
11.	Wednesday	Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	3:30-4:40 pm EDT	Validation of Multipliers Working Group call
12.	Thursday	Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:00-12:00 pm EDT	Attribution Working Group call
13.	Tuesday	Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	2:00-4:00 pm EDT	September Update meeting
14.	Wednesday	Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	4:00-5:00 pm EDT	Burden Working Group call
15.	Thursday	Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	2:00-3:00 pm EDT	September Steering Committee call

G. Data Submission Deadlines

1. Surveillance data transmission Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>
2. HUS data transmission Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>