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

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2005  
Attendance: CA, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN, TX, FDA, USDA-FSIS, EHS-Net, CDC

A. Administrative
1. EIP Guidance  
   a. Please add additional phrase “…pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) of all isolates submitted to NARMS from the catchment area.”  
      • Before next call, to clarify if this pertains to all Salmonella isolates only.  
   b. *Shigella* interviews  
      • *Shigella* interviews will be conducted through end of December 2005; therefore including the first three months of fiscal year 05/05.

2. Rotavirus Surveillance  
   • To discuss proposal on next months call.

   a. Pre-Vision Meeting – The Pre-Vision meeting will focus on case-control study methodologies, and the agenda is in the planning stage.

B. FoodNet Studies/Projects
1. *Campylobacter* Grocery Store Survey  
   a. The questionnaire, to be completed by corporate office of grocery store chains, was circulated in the packet for comment.

2. E. coli O157 Cohort Study  
   a. “Genetic screening” of saliva  
      A. A proposal to screen the cases participating in the E. coli 0157 cohort study for genetic risk factors was submitted to the group.
      B. Adding an amendment to the protocol will be discussed further on the next HUS working group call.

3. Population Survey  
   a. Comments are being incorporated into the questionnaire, and it will be submitted to CDC clearance mid-September.

C. Working Groups
1. E. coli O157/HUS Working Group
   a. HUS serology testing  
      • CDC is working to resolve issues associated with the completion of serology testing and batching.  
   b. E. coli O157 prospective study  
      • We are aiming to summarize the pilot study in terms of number of cases in the FoodNet catchment area that match the PFGE 47/15 cluster, number of cases interviewed, and number of ground beef specimens tested/collection. Future O157 investigation studies will be discussed on the HUS/STEC working group.

2. Interventions Working Group
   a. FoodNet Objectives  
      A. A draft of the revised FoodNet Objectives, including a fourth target towards interventions, was included in the call materials.  
      B. The revised objectives were accepted.  
   b. Lessons Learned Brochure  
      A. A draft of the FoodNet brochure was also included in the packet. Revisions are being made; if you have any comments, please send them to Heather Bair-Brake.  
      c. *Listeria* activities  
         A. A working group of four individuals has been formed at the CDC to work on *Listeria* intervention projects.  
         B. The FDA recently released a pregnancy toolkit, which is being evaluated by the group before deciding on a plan of action.

D. Proposals
1. ICEID abstract proposals  
   a. Clinical Laboratory Practices for the Identification of *Campylobacter* in FoodNet Sites: Do Differences Explain Variation in Incidence Rates? (Sharon Hurd) – accepted  
   b. Risk Factors for *Shigellosis* among Residents of FoodNet Sites, 2005 (Ruthanne Marcus) – accepted  
   c. Correlates of *Campylobacter* incidence among FoodNet sites (JJ Furuno) – accepted  
   d. TBD – *Shigella* (Melanie Megginson and David Blythe) – requires further discussion  
   e. Association between *Campylobacter* Incidence and the Intensity of the Poultry Industry in Maryland (Stephanie Mickelson) – may to extended to other sites  
   f. Burden of Bacterial Foodborne Illness in the United States (Elaine Scallan) – accepted  
   g. Trends in *Campylobacter* species and accuracy of *Campylobacter* speciation in FoodNet sites, 1997-2003 (Linda Demma) – accepted  
   h. Diet Diversity and Diarrheal Illness as observed in the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) Population Survey, 1996-2003 (Olga Henao) – accepted  
   i. Trends in foodborne outbreak data, FoodNet, 1996-2004 (Katie Fullerton) – accepted
E. coli travel and outbreak data (2005 surveillance data) (Ida Rosenblum) – accepted
k. Comparison of HDD to HUS active surveillance and trends in HUS (Liane Ong) – accepted
l. Food Use and Policies in Long-Term Care Facilities, FoodNet, 2005 (Jennifer Nelson) – accepted
m. Geographic variation and the emergence and decrease of specific Salmonella serotypes in the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) (Fred Angulo) – accepted
n. Comparison of travel-related, outbreak-associated, and sporadic cases of Salmonellosis among residents of FoodNet sites (Dina Hoefer) – accepted
o. Annual multistate clusters of Escherichia coli O157 cases with a common PFGE pattern: getting to the "meat" of the problem (Linda Demma) – accepted
p. Outbreak of Emerging Salmonella Serotype I 4,[5],12:i:- Infections—California, 2004 (Dawn Norton) – accepted
q. Trends in risky food consumption in the general and immunosuppressed populations, FoodNet 1996-2002 (Erica Weis)
r. FYI: Salmonella Javiana in the Southeastern United States: A hypothesis generating study (Melissa Tobin-D’Angelo)
s. FYI: Yersinia pseudotuberculosis infections in FoodNet, 1996-2003 (Cherie Long)
t. FYI: Salmonella outcomes differ by serotype, FoodNet, 1996-2003 (Amanda Ingram)
u. FYI: Epidemiology of Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) Cases in FoodNet Surveillance in CT, MN and NY (Bridget Anderson)

2. It was noted that proposals should be kept to the "emerging infectious diseases" theme.

E. Surveillance
1. Active data
   a. Compared to this period last year, Campylobacter rates have increased; Listeria has increased; Salmonella has decreased overall; Shigella has decreased; E. coli O157 has decreased; STEC non-O157 has increased; Vibrio has decreased; Yersenia has increased; Cryptosporidium has decreased; Cyclospora has increased.
2. Outbreak data
   a. As of 2005, 126 outbreaks involving > 2 ill are currently in eFORS. 53% have a known etiology, 18% have a known vehicle, and 63% are restaurant associated.
   b. 53 outbreaks involving >10 ill are currently in eFORS. Of those, 66% have an identified etiology, 25% have a confirmed vehicle, and 62% are restaurant-associated.
3. HUS data
   a. In 2005, 55 cases have been reported, and there were 2 deaths.
   b. 61% of those tested for Shiga toxin were positive.
   c. 67% of those cultured for O157 were positive; 7% of those from which serum was collected were seropositive. Overall 45% of cases tested by culture or serology were positive.

F. Upcoming FoodNet conference calls, meetings, and deadlines
1. Wednesday September 7th 1:00-2:00 Campylobacter Grocery Store Subcommittees call
2. Wednesday September 7th 1:00-2:00 Campylobacter Laboratory Survey call
3. Wednesday September 7th 4:00-5:00 Validation Working Group call
4. Thursday September 8th 10:00-11:00 HUS Subcommittee call
5. Thursday September 8th 2:00-3:00 FoodNet Steering Committee call
6. Tuesday September 13th 2:00-3:00 Emerging Salmonella Serotypes Working Group
7. Wednesday September 14th 7:00-8:00 am Four Country International call
8. Wednesday September 14th 4:00-5:00 Burden Working Group
9. Thursday September 15th 3:00-4:00 Outbreak Working Group
10. Monday September 19th 2:00-3:00 Infant Case-Control Working Group
11. Tuesday September 20th 3:00-4:00 HUS/STEC Working Group
12. Thursday September 22nd 1:00-2:00 Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group
13. Tuesday September 27th 2:00-3:00 Interventions Working Group call
14. Tuesday September 27th 4:00-5:00 Risky Foods Working Group call
15. Thursday September 29th 2:00-3:00 FoodNet Coordinator call
16. Wednesday October 5th 1:00-2:00 Campylobacter Grocery Store Subcommittees call
17. Thursday October 6th 11:00-12:00 Attributions Working Group
18. Tuesday October 11th 2:00-4:30/ B-19 Update Meeting
19. Wednesday October 12th 4:00-5:00 Burden Working Group
20. Thursday October 13th 2:00-3:00 FoodNet Steering Committee call

G. Data Submission Deadlines
1. Surveillance data transmission Friday, September 23rd
2. HUS data transmission Wednesday, October 5th