

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

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2007 (2:00-3:00pm ET)  
Time: 2:00 – 3:00pm ET  
Attendance: CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN, USDA-FSIS, CDC

A. Administrative

1. Funding

- a. Level funding for 2007 from all sponsors, plus a 3% increase for core and retail foods for all sites
- b. Additional funds to MN for novel pathogens project and to NY and CT for *C. difficile*
- c. Funds provided to all 7 sites that requested them to update computer equipment for support of *E. coli* O157 Cohort Study

B. Project

1. Novel pathogens project

- a. Uses case-control studies and outbreaks to enhance foodborne disease etiology
- b. Test for recognized pathogens, possible pathogens, agents with a known name, and unknown agents
- c. Investigated 36 outbreaks from MN, KS, CO, and OR
- d. Working with Outbreak WG to develop a protocol for FoodNet sites to submit specimens on outbreaks of undetermined etiology

C. Surveillance

1. Sending carriers and duplicates

- a. 5 of 10 sites currently include carriers and duplicates in data transmission; FoodNet algorithm applied to identify FoodNet cases
- b. There was discussion about standardizing data collection across site and asking all sites to apply the algorithm to remove carriers and duplicates before sending data to CDC.
- c. This would be more workload for the sites and CDC can accommodate the algorithm into FoodNet 2.0. Any sites wanting to apply the algorithm prior to data transmission should inform the Mary Patrick as FoodNet Coordinator.

2. Case definition – invasive versus first isolation

- a. Change from most invasive to first isolation: Impact on FoodNet data minimal for years and sites where we have information, however missing this information for many sites so cannot assess true impact.
- b. Consistency of case definition is maintained by keeping most invasive isolation.
- c. Capturing both most invasive and first isolation would involve a commitment of IT resources at CDC that are not currently available. We would need to capture information on first isolation back to 1996 for all sites in order to implement.

D. Working Groups and Special Studies

1. Study recruitment tables

- a. Clinical outcomes – Other not enrolled 16%
- b. Select *Salmonella* serotypes – Other not enrolled 35%. Working with sites to improve case enrollment.
- c. Cohort study – on hold for entering cases

2. STEC lab survey

- a. Some states finished and data cleaning and analysis to begin next month

3. Genomics study

- a. Funding for an additional year through the Office of Public Health Genomics
- b. Writing a protocol to be approved by CDC IRB and in place which would allow enrollment of outbreak cases, including non-FN sites
- c. Discussion of providing an incentive for participation

E. Proposals

1. Trends in hospitalizations – Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, 1996 to 2004

- a. Contact Laura Moyer and Olga Henao with the site co-author

F. Surveillance data

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- G. Upcoming FoodNet conference calls, meetings, and deadlines
- |                                     |  |               |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 1. Friday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>    | <i>E.coli</i> cohort study                 | 12:00-1:00pm  |
| 2. Thursday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>  | FoodNet coordinator                        | 2:00-3:00pm   |
| 3. Thursday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>  | Outbreak working group                     | 3:00-4:00pm   |
| 4. Tuesday, June 26 <sup>th</sup>   | Interventions working group                | 2:00-3:00pm   |
| 5. Wednesday, June 27 <sup>th</sup> | Selected <i>Salmonella</i> serotypes study | 3:00-4:00pm   |
| 6. Thursday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Antibiotic resistance working group        | 1:00-2:00pm   |
| 7. Thursday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Attributions working group                 | 11:00-12:00pm |
| 8. Thursday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>  | STEC/HUS working group                     | 12:00-1:00pm  |

[ICEID, March 2008, Atlanta GA – Details and abstract submission timeline on next call](#)