

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

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2007 (2:00pm-3:00pm ET)

A. Administrative

1. Staffing changes
 - a. Xin Tong and Sridevi Wilmore have left FoodNet
 - b. Jim Beebe will be leaving CO FoodNet.
2. Update on manuscripts
 - a. John Crump's manuscript (#22) about *Salmonella* Typhi has been submitted to CID.
 - b. Ruthanne Marcus' manuscript (#642) is a new addition and has been submitted to Current Opinion on Pediatrics.
 - c. Elizabeth Ailes manuscript (#103) about *Campylobacter* infections has been cleared by CDC.
 - d. Lydia Clarkson's manuscript (#600) is currently being revised by the authors based on CDC clearance comments.
3. 2008 Vision Meeting will be March 6th-7th in Denver, CO.
 - a. PI meeting and Coordinators meeting will be on March 5th.
 - b. Website about the VM will be up in December.

B. Working Groups and Special Studies

1. *Campylobacter*
 - a. Group is proceeding with effort to improve speciation data by providing training at CDC.
 - A. Two laboratorians from NM are coming to CDC in December for training.
 - b. Group is working on a one-pager outlining the training process.
 - c. *Campylobacter* study was approved by working group and will be brought to the Retail Foods working group today (11/8) at 3pm EST.
 - d. Group is drafting a proposal on attribution using MLST.
 - e. Next call will be on November 19th.
2. Data Transmission
 - a. Last call was yesterday, November 7th.
 - b. Three sites successfully submitted test files.
 - c. All sites must submit a test file by December 14th.
3. HUS/STEC
 - a. HUS Surveillance Protocol is included on pg. 6 of the packet.
 - A. Protocol has already been approved by working group.
4. Interventions
 - a. Fall issue of FoodNet News featuring *Campylobacter* has been released.
 - A. Newsletter has been posted to the FoodNet website and has been distributed through the Interventions working group.
 - B. Please feel free to distribute the newsletter.
 - C. The next issue of the newsletter will be released in January 2008 and will focus on STEC.
 - b. The next working group call will be on November 27th at 2pm EST.
5. Outbreak
 - a. The contributing factors and the ill food workers supplemental forms will be dropped at the end of 2007. Will have two years of data to analyze.
 - A. Group is drafting a new supplemental form based on PFGE.
 - B. New questions will be added to the main supplemental form that incorporate Tim Jones (TN) proposal that the CIFOR performance standards for outbreaks be adapted to be used as performance indicators for FoodNet.
 - b. The group is working with MN to finalize the FoodNet guidelines to be used to ensure enhanced testing for outbreaks with undetermined etiology

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- A. The guidelines will be distributed to the Steering Committee as soon as they are finalized.
- B. Reminder: MN lab is willing to test specimens with unknown etiologies.

6. Selected *Salmonella* Serotypes

- a. Group conducted projections for Infantis to see if there would be enough power if the study were extended for another year.
 - A. Based on projections the group decided to end the study as planned on December 31st, 2007.
- b. The current enrollment for the study is summarized in a table on pg. 13.

C. Proposal for FoodNet Study

1. Geographic variation in *Campylobacter* incidence (Elizabeth Ailes)

- a. This proposal has been presented previously as Elizabeth's PhD thesis.
 - A. This project will focus on four areas:
 - A. Improving surveillance artifacts
 - B. Assessing differences by state using the recent *Campylobacter* lab survey.
 - C. Identifying potential risk factors by state.
 - D. Examining the seasonal variation by site and by age group.

2. Population survey analysis of arthritis data (Jianming Ou)

- a. This is a proposal to analyze the reactive arthritis questions that were added to the 6th cycle of the Pop Survey.
- b. If the analyses can be performed in time, will be submitted to ICEID.
- c. There were no objections to this proposal.

3. Population survey analysis of diet diversity data (Tim Jones and Marcy McMillan)

- a. This is a proposal to analyze the diet diversity questions on the 6th cycle of the Pop Survey and how they relate to gastrointestinal illness
- b. A question was raised about if the authors of this proposal are going to use the same scale that Mike Hoekstra used previously?
 - A. Not sure yet, but have been talking with Olga about the first four cycles of data.
- c. Elaine noted that this analysis will focus on how the diet diversity questions relate to the risk of foodborne illness as demonstrated by previous case-control studies.
- d. There were no objections to this proposal.

4. Evaluation of *Listeria* case report forms (Shelley Zansky)

- a. The authors of this proposal will work closely with the National Surveillance Team to look at the actual questions asked on the *Listeria* case report form.
 - A. The analysis is intended to assess the degree of missing information on the interview forms.
- b. Will be presented to CSTE.
 - A. It was noted that it is CSTE intended for this to be a national initiative, but the majority of forms received are from FoodNet sites.
- c. Anyone who is interested in working on this project should let Shelley know.
- d. There were no objections to this proposal.

D. Special study tables

1. Clinical outcomes

- a. Laura Moyer will now be the contact person for this study.
- b. The current enrollment for this study is on pg. 17 of the packet.

2. *E.coli* Cohort study

- a. The current enrollment for this study is on pg. 18.
 - A. As of October 22nd, there are 962 eligible cases, 610 of which have been interviewed.
 - B. If there are any questions about this study, please contact Liane Ong.

E. Surveillance data

1. Active

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- a. 2006 FoodNet data is closed out.
- b. The next Trends working group call will be on Wednesday, November 14th at 3pm EST.
 - A. The group will discuss the 2008 MMWR.
- c. p. 19 provides a summary of FoodNet data through August 2007.
 - A. Points of interest:
 - A. Significant decreases in *Salmonella* Typhimurium, Enteritidis, and Javiana.
 - B. Significant increase in *Salmonella* "all others".
 - C. Increase in *Shigella*, all species, especially *Shigella sonnei*.
 - D. Decrease in *Vibrio*, all species, especially *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*.

2. Outbreak

- a. As of November 1st, 150 outbreaks with two or more persons ill have been reported to eFORS.
 - A. Median number ill is 20.
 - B. 75% have a known etiology.
 - C. 41% have a known vehicle.
 - D. 59% were restaurant associated.
- b. As of November 1st, 63 outbreaks with 10 or more people ill have been reported to eFORS.
 - A. Median number ill 34.
 - B. 76% have a known etiology.
 - C. 57% have a known vehicle.
 - D. 49% were restaurant-associated.

3. HUS

- a. pg. 45 indicates the number of HUS cases in 2006 and 2007.
 - A. In 2006 there were 104 cases reported.
 - B. In 2007 there have been 66 cases reported.
- b. pgs. 46 and 47 include a new table that indicated the number of cases with diarrhea in the three weeks prior to HUS diagnosis.
- c. Please contact Liane with any questions that you might have.

4. FoodNet/NARMS linking data

- a. There is now enough 2006 NARMS data to update the linking tables.
 - A. The 2006 NARMS data is not complete but there is approximately 75% included.
 - B. The top table on pg. 48 indicates the number of NARMS submissions by site.
 - C. The bottom table on pg. 28 indicates the actual linking data which is derived from NARMS cases linked to FoodNet cases divided by the total NARMS isolates in FoodNet catchment.
 - D. Kathryn is very confident in the linking data thus far.

F. Upcoming FoodNet conference calls, meetings, and deadlines

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| 1. Thursday, November 8 th | STEC Diagnostics working group | 1:00-2:00pm |
| 2. Wednesday, November 14 th | Trends working group | 3:00-4:00pm |
| 3. Thursday, November 15 th | HUS/STEC working group | 12:00-1:00pm |
| 4. Thursday, November 15 th | Outbreak working group | 3:00-4:00pm |
| 5. Monday, November 19 th | <i>Campylobacter</i> working group | 2:00-3:00pm |
| **6. Thursday, November 22 nd | Antibiotic Resistance working group | 1:00-2:00pm |
| 7. Wednesday, November 28 th | Selected <i>Salmonella</i> Serotypes working group | 3:00-4:00pm |
| 8. Thursday, November 29 th | STEC Diagnostics working group | 1:00-2:00pm |
| 9. Thursday, November 29 th | FoodNet Coordinators working group | 2:00-3:00pm |
| 10. Friday, November 30 th | <i>E. coli</i> cohort working group | 12:00-1:00pm |
| 11. Wednesday, December 5 th | Data Transmission working group call | 3:15-4:15pm |
| 12. Thursday, December 6 th | Attribution working group | 11:00am-12:00pm |
| 13. Friday, November 16 th | FoodNet Active Surveillance Data Due | |
| 14. Wednesday, November 28 th | HUS data transmission | |
| 15. March 6-7, 2008 | Vision Meeting (Denver, Colorado) | |

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**It was noted that the ARWG that is scheduled for Thursday, November 22nd will not take place due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**The next Interventions working group will be on Tuesday, November 27th at 2pm EST.

- G. The next Steering Committee Call will take place on Thursday, December 13th at 2pm EST. Call information, agenda, and packet to follow.