



MED • VET • NET NEWS

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Med-Vet-Net Communications Unit

This is a special issue of Med-Vet-Net News focusing on the 3rd Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting, held in Italy from 27 to 30 June.

Many of the reviews of the conference have been written by some of the Med-Vet-Net Science Communication interns. This and other training opportunities are outlined on pages 8 and 9.

The Communications Unit would like to wish all readers who are taking a summer holiday a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Conference Overview

Med-Vet-Net held its 3rd Annual Scientific Meeting at the end of June, near Pisa.

The conference, organized in close co-operation with the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Rome, was held in a secluded location in Tuscany; the freshness of the mountains conducive to work and contemplation. More than 200 participants, the majority from Med-Vet-Net Partner Institutes, found themselves, like the previous meeting in Malta, attending a conference which has really found its identity. Also among the delegates were a number of non-Europeans.

The meeting was opened by Valérie Baduel, Assistant Director of Afssa and President of the Med-Vet-Net Governing Board. She emphasized the importance of the multidisciplinary approach of the network to addressing problems of public health, as well as developing increasing connections with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), starting with the adoption of a common approach to answering calls for tenders. In addition, the

President pledged to make sustainability of the network the priority of her mandate in the Governing Board.

The invited keynote speakers covered topics including the effects of climate change, avian influenza and development of vaccines. These presentations, some of the high points of the meeting, once more drew the attention of scientists in the network to the new challenges to be faced in the field of the zoonoses.

The meeting's focus on the future of both zoonoses research and Med-Vet-Net was continued in a panel discussion session with experts from academia, a public health institute, an international advisory body and, as consultant to the animal health industry. The panel were tasked with answering the question: "What are the future challenges for zoonoses research and surveillance in Europe over the next 10 years?". Ideas from these discussions will form the basis of developing strategies for the long-term sustainability of Med-Vet-Net

activities beyond the end of the European Commission funding in September 2009.

This congress was also an occasion for the various groups of Med-Vet-Net to convene and work together. The Workpackage Leaders gave progress reports of their work and on the preparation of the 4th Joint Programme of Activities (JPA), which will start in September 2007. In addition Workpackages and Special Interest Groups were actively working together to develop proposals in response to new EC requirements calls, particularly for Framework Programme 7.

During the closing session, Professor Diane Newell, Project Director, stated that Med-Vet-Net was now more than half way through its timeline (34/60 months), and that this 3rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Network had been an occasion to present the ongoing progress from the collaborations created by Med-Vet-Net. Many of the results presented were generated by the 22 scientific

Workpackages of the Network. These scientific results are the outcomes of successful integration and we must now work hard to make it durable.

The congress was closed Dr Carmen Audera of ISCIII, Vice-Chair of the Governing Board, who thanked all the participants for this excellent conference.

On their way home, participants acknowledged having



Audience questions for the panel discussion on 'What are the future challenges for zoonoses research and surveillance in Europe over the next 10 years?'

experienced a high point at this conference. And, having recognized the scientific element, I feel it necessary to add a feeling of membership to a community; that of Med-Vet-Net.

Next year, the meeting will be organized in Saint Malo, France, from 11 to 14 June 2008. The local organizing team is already working hard to make the next meeting as good as the one in Lucca.

André Jestin
Med-Vet-Net Co-ordinator's
Representative



Dr Franco Ruggeri and Dr Alfredo Caprioli from ISS, Rome, local organizers of the Meeting and members of the Scientific Committee.

Detection and control oral presentations

Review by Pawel Stefanoff, PZH

The Wednesday afternoon session on detection and control contained seven oral presentations. Three presenters from France, two from Germany, and the remaining two from the Netherlands included the recent developments of Med-Vet-Net projects and plans for future work..

We heard about Workpackage (WP) 21 and WP 26 results concerning detection of genetic markers of *Salmonella* isolates positive for Genomic Island 1. Results of ongoing analyses, based on collaboration between six Med-Vet-Net partners, will provide additional insight into the virulence factors of *Salmonella* strains. Two presentations dealt with the problem of standardized diagnosis of *Trichinella* larvae infestation of pork meat products performed routinely by veterinary laboratories. Improvement of methods aimed at standardization of routine procedures is necessary for keeping the food chain free of this dangerous parasite. The above mentioned projects were supported by WP27.

Another study related to WP31 and concerned development of a sensitive test for detection of encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV), causing disease in animals, but probably not in humans. Other studies described an overview of developments in animal screening methodologies, assessing the genotype-specific effectiveness of standard cleaning and disinfection in eradicating *Campylobacter* strains, and a multi-centre study of shiga-producing *Escherichia coli* with special focus on assessing the burden of non-O157 serogroups.

The session demonstrated some useful results which came out of Med-Vet-Net workpackages in a broad perspective covering detection of bacteria, viruses, and parasites in view of food safety.



Professor Sir Howard Dalton speaking on 'Effects of climate change on infectious diseases'.

Host–Microbe Interaction oral presentations

Review by Concha Porrero, UCM

During the Host–Microbe Interactions sessions on Wednesday afternoon, we enjoyed seven presentations. The talks covered viruses (Hepatitis E Virus), parasites (*Trichinella spiralis*) and bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* and probiotics). Almost 50 people attended the session and the delegates showed their interest asking the presenters several questions after the speech.

Some of the information we could get from the session was about how mast cells react when *Trichinella spiralis* infects the host; the comparison using molecular techniques between different phagotypes of *E. coli* from animal and human origins, and the level of transmission in relationship with contact and level of excretion; the effect of maternal immunity in *Campylobacter* infection; the host response when *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* infections occur; the expression of *Campylobacter* virulence genes in *in vitro* conditions and the effect of using probiotics to improve the bacterial population in the poultry gut in relationship with the effect of avilamycin.



Dr Alfredo Caprioli welcomes Vice Mayor of Barga, Maria Carla Andreozzi, who opened the meeting.

General interest oral presentations

Review by Elizabeth Marier, VLA

The sun shone for the second day of this Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting for 2007. A full audience attended the first lecture of the day. Despite a short computer black out, Professor Ben van der Zeijst started the day with an interesting conference about zoonoses and the future of vaccine research.

The oral presentations were then divided into two different sessions. The first presentation of the 'General Interest' session in the L'Or di Barga room generated a great deal of interest. It was in front of a full

room that Prof. Scott cheerfully brought some results from America with his presentation on the moral issue of antimicrobial use in animal agriculture and people's attitude towards antimicrobial resistance.

Salmonella was on the spot during the 'Molecular Epidemiology' session in the Pascoli room. Four presentations from four different countries were presented.

We heard about how to detect and characterize *Salmonella* genomic Island-1 in various *Salmonella* strains and in other *Enterobacteriaceae* using a fast and reliable new detection technique: real-time assay based on the Taqman chemistry.

In a second presentation, Dr Huehn from the National Reference Laboratory for *Salmonella* in Germany, talked about a microarray they developed to simultaneously characterize and type *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* isolates. This new tool should facilitate the study of the epidemiology and the pathogenicity of *Salmonella* strains as well as its potential resistance.

The third presentation talked about the characterization of multi-resistant *Salmonella* Virchow phage type 19 isolates to determine its importance and its resistant genotypes in Spain. They found out that a clone of this *Salmonella* strain has spread in most of the Spanish provinces.

In the last presentation, we heard about the presence of virulence-related genes patterns in *Salmonella* associated with some serotypes.



Members of the Panel : [L-R] Chair: Professor Diane Newell, Professor Peter Silley, Dr Katarina Stärk, Dr Mark Eisler, and Dr Carmen Audera.

Epidemiology oral presentations

Review by Concha Porrero, UCM

The Epidemiology session on Thursday morning, brought us some information about different studies performed in Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Spain. Moreover, we had a report about a coordinated project in Europe (Workpackage 6).

The first presentation gave us some data about the relationship between VTEC incidence in humans and the density of cattle in Germany. It seems that except for one serogroup in the study, there is an associated risk with cattle concentration.

Another UK study about VTEC show that visiting open farms could be a risk, especially for young children. It also



suggests that schools should receive enough information to be able to reduce the risk for children.

Salmonella was the next pathogen in the session. In Germany, strains isolated in humans, food and animals were compared to conclude if the same serotypes and phage types were linked to one source.

Mycobacteria avium subsp. *paratuberculosis* was another pathogen we were informed about. The same strains can be found in non-sterilized samples as in the environmental ones. Therefore, it is important to consider the risk of cross contamination when taking samples. Moreover, new characterization techniques have been developed.

Apart from these studies, we had the opportunity to hear some results of the



Coffee breaks on the terrace with views of the Tuscan mountains.

human genes' analysis in relationship with the genetic resistance to infections.

To finish this review, I would like to point out the 'Atlas of *Salmonella* serotypes in

its characterization. This emphasizes the need to join efforts for greater knowledge and to collaborate in making decisions to increase food safety.

Social Events

Having sated their scientific appetites, meeting participants also had the opportunity to relax and have informal discussions while enjoying the panoramic views of the surrounding mountains on the conference-centre terrace or by the pool.

A Tuscan-themed evening was held with a display of *Sbandieratori* – traditional flag wavers – in medieval costume, followed by a dinner of regional dishes and local wines.

On the final evening the Communications Unit hosted a lively quiz night, compered by Peter Silley, which was enjoyed by all, although there were a few disagreements over the answers!



Delegates from ISCIII in Spain

New and Emerging Zoonoses oral presentations

Review by Pawel Stefanoff, PZH

Topics covered in the session on new and emerging zoonoses concerned mostly viral diseases of increasing concern due to their zoonotic potential and rising number of human cases. The presentations demonstrated clearly that only the combined efforts of veterinary and human experts will allow the timely detection of viral strains that can switch from animals to humans through food or direct contact. The Med-Vet-Net Workpackage 31 results were included in five presentations summarizing development of databases comparing hepatitis E virus (HEV) genomes from humans and swine, and seroprevalence surveys of HEV and tick-borne encephalitis virus in different countries. Three studies dealt with new threats related to well-known bacterial strains with established zoonotic potential: verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) and multi-drug resistant *Salmonella enterica* Phage Type U311. The authors stressed the need to develop different surveillance models to integrate epidemiological and advanced bacteriological methods allowing close monitoring of new virulent bacterial clones. This in turn will allow timely



Proud quiz winners: a great example of multi-national collaboration!

planning of efficient interventions to prevent emerging threats.

Papers on novel agents with zoonotic potential – borna-viruses and *Dientamoeba fragilis* – indicated that some proportion of illnesses labelled ‘unknown cause’ may be explained in near future by named pathogens.

The Belgian veterinary epidemiologists reminded the audience of a well-known and neglected pathogen, causing cysticercosis, which is still widespread in industrialized countries and may cause problems to the human population.

Finally, a German study summarizing a hantavirus outbreak investigation from 2005, stressed the need to monitor closely known zoonoses which can re-emerge due to changes in climate and the environment.



A tradition ‘flag waver’ from the local troupe shows off his skills to the meeting participants.



11–14 June 2008
Palais du Grand Large
Saint Malo
France



4th Annual Scientific Meeting on Zoonoses Research in Europe

11–14 June 2008, St Malo, France

The 4th Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at Palais du Grand Large, in the historic town of St Malo, in Brittany, France.

For more information visit: <http://www.medvetnet.org/mvnconf08>
or email: MVNConf08@medvetnet.org

Special Interest Groups

Host-Microbe Interactions workshop 30 June

A workshop of this special interest group (SIG) was organized at Lucca following the 3rd Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting. Unfortunately, a number of interested people could not attend due to early departure flights. Nevertheless, we had a successful meeting.

Roberto La Ragione briefly presented the Special Interest Group and its objectives. He then presented what research could be done at VLA on the subject of Host-Microbe Interactions (HMI), presenting examples of ongoing research. It was stressed that this group was not just interested in host-pathogen interactions, but also the host interactions with the natural flora.

Identifying research gaps

- It was noted that very little work was done on HMI with regard to parasites. We could try to encourage parasitologists on board by active mailing to the various Med-Vet-Net Workpackages. On another line of scientific interest, it was discussed as to whether we should actively support the development of relevant avian cell-lines. It was recognized that there are still no suitable epithelial cell lines available (on the other hand, serological and immunological avian reagents are now well developed) but trying to establish such cell lines is a rather risky adventure that may completely fail.

Communication activities of this SIG

- We plan to produce, on our website, an opportunity to look for partners in specific projects.
- We also want to activate the bulletin board soon.
- We plan to produce a *Med-Vet-Net News* article on our SIG shortly.
- Any suggestions or contributions (text or photographs) are welcome. Pictures to liven up our website are also welcome.

Setting up novel research collaborations

- The current FP7 calls has a number of areas that HMI would fit and Roberto is working with numerous partners to bring together proposals primarily focusing on modulation of the gut flora. Partners are encouraged to contact Roberto if they are interested

in participating in or looking for partners for FP7 projects.

- One very effective way to encourage collaborations is to do a one-day workshop, at VLA, to introduce confocal microscopy. It was decided to aim for such a workshop in early January 2008. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own preparations so that they could look at their 'pet bugs'. We could actively ask for parasitologists to use this opportunity. It was stressed that we are not exclusively looking for veterinary interactions: the 'human side' of Med-Vet-Net is most welcome to join the workshop.
- HMI research is addressing fundamental research questions, but the ultimate goal of the work is to define (better) intervention strategies and thus there is a clear applied research aspect, too. It should be kept in mind that current FP7 calls do not specifically deal with zoonotic infections so it is a good idea to broaden our activities.

Lobbying activities to the EC

- It can't be stressed enough that this summer is our last chance to lobby our research topics of interest to the EC. Suggestions for HMI research topics that could be described in a short white paper are most welcome.

Trudy Wassenaar

Contact directory – Emerging and Neglected Zoonoses

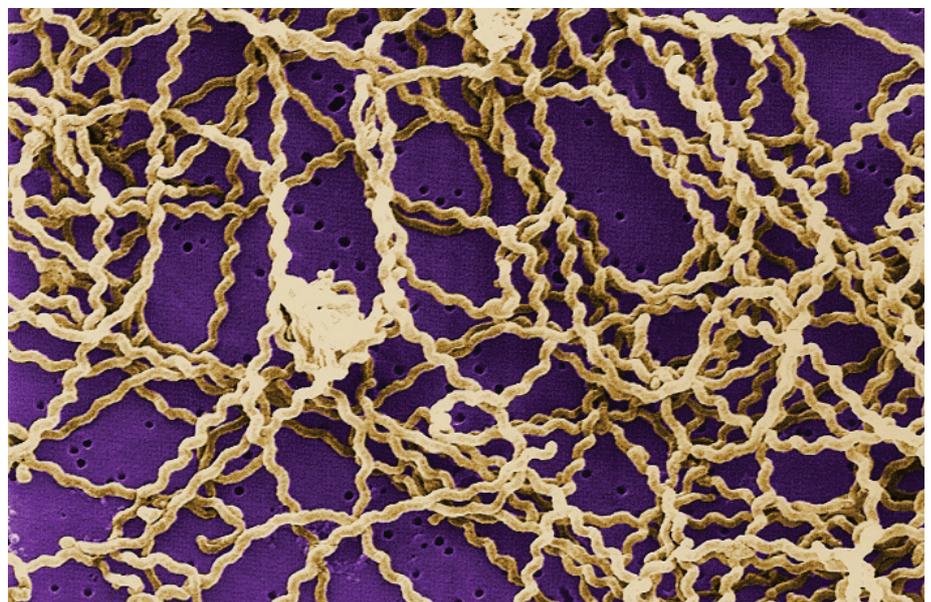
A directory of expertise in a range of zoonoses, which has been built up within the Emerging and Neglected Zoonoses Groups is now available from the Med-Vet-Net membersite: <https://www.medvetnet.org/membersite/templates/doc.php?id=51>

Here you will find a directory of expertise in a range* of zoonoses, which has been built up within the Emerging and Neglected Zoonoses Groups.

There is a wealth of information enclosed and I really hope that you will take the opportunity to extend your scientific network that this Med-Vet-Net activity has given us.

Kumar Sivam

*Viral haemorrhagic fevers, enteric hepatitis viruses, henipavirus, hantavirus, flavivirus, Borna disease, *Strep. suis*, chlamydiosis, MRSA, rickettsiosis, anaplasmosis and erlichiosis, Q- fever, borreliosis, bartonellosis, parasitic diseases, and leptospirosis.



Scanning electron micrograph of *Leptospira sp.* bacteria on a 0.1 µm polycarbonate filter. CDC/R. Weyant

Training opportunities

Med-Vet-Net training course on molecular detection and characterization of multi-drug resistance in *Enterobacteriaceae*

Dates and venue

26–30 November 2007, Health Protection Agency Colindale, Centre for Infections, London UK.

General and scientific qualification of participants

Workpackage 21 members are invited to attend this training course. Because the maximum number of participants is 16, one participant only per partner institute in WP21 can attend this course. **The three extra places are open for participants from other Med-Vet-Net institutes. Participants should be:**

- Microbiologists or molecular biologists with expertise in molecular biology laboratory methods on *Salmonella/E. coli*.
- Research assistants/technicians with expertise in molecular biology laboratory methods on *Salmonella/E. coli*.

Objectives

It is the specific intention of this training programme to disseminate and share the knowledge obtained on phenotypic and molecular detection and molecular characterization methods of strains harbouring SGI-1 with WP21 partners. Because the public health risk of epidemic clones, next to their virulence, is related to the potential acquisition of additional resistance determinants of relevance (ESBLs, plasmid mediated quinolone resistance, integrons, plasmids), detection and characterization methods are included in the course. Moreover a nano-array developed for the rapid detection of resistance genes will be demonstrated.

Programme

The training course will be a mixture of lectures of highly qualified internationally well known researchers and practical training of methods used for analysis of MDR *Enterobacteriaceae*.

The training does not focus solely on SGI-1, but on all aspects of relevance when working with MDR *Enterobacteriaceae*. Therefore the topics will be: SGI-1, ESBLs, Plasmids, QNR, Integrons. On each topic top lecturers will be invited: SGI-1 Axel Cloeckert (INRA), ESBLs Neil Woodford (HPA), Plasmids Alessandra Carattoli (ISS),

QNR Laurent Poirel (Hospital de Bicetre, Paris), Integrons John Threlfall (HPA).

Practical training topics will include: classic PCR, Taqman and or Lightcycler RT-PCR, Sequencing, Array techniques, pyrosequencing.

Scientific Training Course Committee

John Threlfall, HPA Colindale, UK

Bela Nagy, VMRI, Budapest, Hungary

Dik Mevius, CIDC, Netherlands

More information

Please contact the Communications Unit for more information and applications for this training course (communications@medvetnet.org). All applicants are requested to send a curriculum vitae to the communications unit before **1 October 2007**. Candidates will be selected by the Scientific Committee.

Science Communication Internship

Module 1 – Science Communication – Why and How? will start again in November.

This module includes training on:

- Presentation Skills
- Why science stories make the News
- Writing effectively
- Communication and Networking skills
- Public relations for science.

Learning objectives:

At the conclusion of the module interns will be able to:

- explain why it is important for scientists to communicate;
- identify different audiences for communicating science with;
- describe some of the issues surrounding communicating science with the public;
- compare and contrast different modes of communicating science;
- write confidently for different audiences;
- give effective public presentations;
- understand the importance of networking;

- appreciate the consequence of good public relations and corporate image;

Scientists and PhD students from all Med-Vet-Net partner institutes are eligible to apply, in addition a limited number of external participants will be considered. Please contact the Communications Unit for more information and application details.

Application deadline is 1 October.

Module 4 – Virtual Communications

This 2-week module begins on 1 October.

Topics include:

- Web design, accessibility, and usability
- Web project management
- Writing for the Web
- Web 2.0 (wikis, blogs, forums etc.)
- Mobile technologies for communicating science
- Digital photography
- Podcasting
- Manipulating images for the Web using Adobe Photoshop
- ‘Electronic’ public relations.

Participants in this module must also complete Module 1 within 12 months of taking the course.

Application deadline is 1 September.

Email: communications@medvetnet.org

Molecular Microbiology Young Microbiologists Minisymposium Prokaryotic Membranes

Friday October 12, Jacques Monod Amphithéâtre; Institut Pasteur, 25 rue du Dr. Roux, Paris 15

Presentations include:

- Cleavage of EspA, an autotransporter produced by *E. coli* O157:H7
- The flexible organization of Neisserial autotransporters
- Multimerization and insertion of secretin in the *E. coli* outer membrane
- Spontaneous folding of outer membrane proteins: new insights from biophysical studies
- Lipoteichoic acid synthesis in *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Membrane protein interactions associated with cell division and cell wall

biosynthesis in *B. subtilis*.

- Periodic focal adhesion complexes in bacterial motility.
- The OmpATb protein of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: characterization of its pore forming activity and regulation of its expression towards its role in pathogenic mycobacteria.
- Activation of the outer membrane transporter FimD requires critical interactions with the N-terminal domain of FimH adhesin during type I fimbria assembly in *E. coli*
- Chaperone antagonism
- Protein-protein interaction between the envelope stress kinase CpxA and its inhibitor CpxP.
- Membrane insertion of mechanosensitive channel protein MscL
- Structure of the heterotrimeric complex that regulates type III secretion needle formation.
- The dynamics and spatial organization of membrane localized phage shock.

Registration is obligatory but free. For more information and a registration form contact:

Armelle Lavenir
Institut Pasteur,
Unité de Génétique Moléculaire
28 rue du Dr Roux
75724 Paris cedex 15, France
Email: alavenir@pasteur.fr
Fax 0145688960; Tel 0144389129

Call for applications for an in-service training period at the European Food Safety Authority

Deadline for applications: 15 September 2007.

In-service training is a period spent at the European Food Safety Authority, in accordance with the rules set out in the Decision of the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority on the acceptance of trainees for an in-service training period. In-service training enables trainees to acquire practical experience by means of their work and to put into practice the knowledge they have acquired during their academic studies or professional careers in the areas of science, communication or administration.

From the publication of this call, EFSA envisages 5–10 trainees.

In-service training takes place within the fields of activity of the European Food Safety Authority. Detailed information related to the activities and structure of the European Food Safety Authority can

be found by visiting the EFSA website at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu>

The call is open to trainees from all EU Member States and Acceding countries. The duration is normally five months.

Trainees will be awarded a grant of €963 per month for traineeship periods starting in 2007.

Candidates should complete and sign the in-service training application form available from: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/opportunities/traineeship.html> Then send it, together with their CV (Europass format) and a motivation letter, to the following email address: laura.perati@efsa.europa.eu. Only applications using this form will be accepted.



Med-Vet-Net training course proposals

Dear Med-Vet-Net Institute Representatives and Workpackage Leaders

This is a call for Med-Vet-Net training course proposals to be held during the JPA-4 period. The proposal: Molecular detection and characterization of multi-drug resistance in Enterobacteriaceae from the JPA-3 period was postponed and will be held in this period.

New proposals can be submitted before the deadline 1 September 2007 by replying to: tstxx@food.dtu.dk

We encourage you to submit proposals for training courses with the objective of disseminating information and technical competences between Med-Vet-Net partners.

The proposals should ideally contain:

1. Learning objectives
2. Participant profiles
3. Selection criteria
4. Programme
5. Budget
6. Dates and venue
7. Plan for making training material available on the Med-Vet-Net homepage
8. Plan for continued training or networking

However if you only have time to put down a title at this stage, don't let that keep you from submitting a proposal. We will work with you to develop a more comprehensive plan later. You can reply to me (tstxx@food.dtu.dk) or to Tine Hald (tih@food.dtu.dk)

Best regards

Tina Struve

Notices

FOOD-FRENZ

FOOD-FRENZ is a co-ordinated collaboration project between the EU and New Zealand with two key objectives:

(1) To strengthen relationships between consumers, knowledge providers and industry in the EU and New Zealand.

(2) To develop best practice for delivery and production of safe, sustainable, traceable and high quality food in the EU and NZ. There Much more detail about the FOOD-FRENZ project, its aims, objectives and the key themes driving it can be found at: <http://www.foodfrenz.com>

As part of the FOOD-FRENZ project we will be awarding 20 expenses paid fellowships to New Zealand for EU researchers from industry and research-based organizations. These study visits represent a unique opportunity for researchers to work alongside and build strong collaborative links for future research, with their New Zealand host. The hosts represent all of the New Zealand Crown Research Institutes, some of the countries leading universities in this field, together with one of the leading multinational dairy companies. FOOD-FRENZ invite you to click on the link below to discover more information about the study visits and encourage you to consider this opportunity for both the development of your researchers and also as a means of building strong collaborative links for future research

<http://www.foodfrenz.com/act3.htm>

Post-doctoral Position

Post doctoral position in food microbiology

An opportunity is offered for a 12–24 month post-doctoral position at Afssa (France).

As part of the 7th framework Programme (Marie Curie Actions People), The French Food Safety Agency -France, propose a post-doctoral position based at Maisons-Alfort (suburbs of Paris), at the Laboratory for Research and Studies on Agro-food and Processes. The research topic will deal with *Listeria monocytogenes* inoculum size effect on growth in food, notably the final level of contamination.

Start : end 2008 to beginning 2009. Duration: 12 to 24 months.

The candidate should have a proven background in food microbiology, molecular methods used in bacteriology, predictive microbiology, challenge tests and notions of bioinformatics.

Closing date for application: August 2007.

Contact : Nathalie Gnanou-Besse; Email: n.besse@afssa.fr or n.gnanou-besse@afssa.fr; Tel: + 33 1 49 77 28 32

First overarching report on antimicrobial usage and bacterial resistance published

The UK Government has just published a new report that combines for the first time a range of information on antimicrobial resistance in bacteria in farmed animals, humans, and food.

The report includes information from Defra, the Department of Health, Health Protection Agency, Food Standards Agency and other UK Government agencies.

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, Debby Reynolds, said:

"This report underlines the Government's commitment to understanding

antimicrobial resistance in the veterinary and human fields, and the relationship between the two. The UK is one of only a few countries worldwide to prepare such a report.

"We will use this information to help develop future policy and preventative measures in this area. We already support a precautionary approach in the use of antimicrobials, including promoting responsible use across all sectors."

Chief Medical Officer Liam Donaldson said:

"Antimicrobials, especially antibiotics, are important in ensuring good health in both humans and animals and for the first time this report brings together data from both sectors. This is an important report which will help stakeholders see the whole picture of antimicrobial usage, including the level of resistance of microbes to specific antimicrobial agents used in the treatment of both animals and humans."

The findings of the report will be used to monitor trends in patterns of resistance, identify new resistant organisms, and identify the risk factors that can lead to the development of resistance.

The report can be found at:

www.vmd.gov.uk/publications/antibiotic/antipubs.htm

Bacterial pathogenomics

Just published!

Editor in Chief: Mark J. Pallen, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
Editors: Karen E. Nelson, Howard University; Gail M. Preston, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

The availability of genome sequences pervades every aspect of bacteriology. Bacteriologists now can examine the genomic sequence for every significant bacterial pathogen of humans, plants, and animals. With chapters from more than 40 scientists from around the world, *Bacterial Pathogenomics* explains the scientific advances that have resulted from the application of bacterial genome sequencing to the study of how bacterial pathogens have evolved and how these bacteria cause disease.

ISBN: 978-1-55581-451-9
Hardcover, 472 pages, full colour insert, illustrations, index.
List price: US\$139.95

WorldWideScience portal goes online

In parallel with the European Commission's efforts to boost access to science, WorldWideScience.org, an internet portal providing a single entry point to several national and international scientific databases, has been launched by the US and UK.

The site was launched in June 2007 to offer a gateway to science information, with 15 national portals in nine countries contributing to date.

The site developers – the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the British Library – are now inviting more national and international science databases to join the venture and make their collections accessible.

'Scientific research results are archived globally in a plethora of sources, many unknown and unreachable through usual search engines. This international partnership will open up this vast reservoir of knowledge in a rapid and convenient manner, something that will add great value to our existing knowledge,' said DOE Under-Secretary for Science Dr Raymond L. Orbach.

The WorldWideScience.org portal relies on a novel technology called 'federated search', which allows users to search with a single query for parallel international and national science portals, allowing for access to databases that are not available through commercial search engines such as Google.

WorldWideScience.org is a global science gateway—accelerating scientific discovery and progress through a multilateral partnership to enable federated searching of national and international scientific databases. Subsequent versions of **WorldWideScience.org** will offer access to additional sources as well as enhanced features.

Please contact webmaster@worldwidescience.org if you represent a national or international science database and would

On 14 February 2007, the Commission adopted a Communication on access, dissemination and preservation of science information in the digital age. It gives an overview of the present situation in Europe, including organisational, legal, technical and financial issues, and announces a series of proposed EU-level measures to support new ways of promoting better access to information online and to preserve research results in digital format for future generations.

The Portuguese Presidency has indicated that it will, based on this Communication, encourage debate on a European policy for publishing science and technical information.

Zoonoses: From Science to Policy International Conference

Thistle Hotel, Glasgow, Scotland, 5–7 November 2007

Med-Vet-Net members are encouraged to present at this conference. For people attending and presenting Med-Vet-Net Workpackage outputs some assistance for travel and accommodation may be available; please contact Diane Newell (dnewell@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk).

The deadline for abstract submission to be considered for oral presentation is 31 July. To submit an abstract to be considered as a poster only, the deadline is 31 August.

To submit an abstract, register for the conference or find out more information visit the conference web site: www.zoonoses.co.uk

Med-Vet-Net People

Dr Jean-Charles Cavitte – EC Project Officer for Med-Vet-Net

Jean-Charles holds a doctorate in Veterinary Science from Ecole Nationale des Services Vétérinaires, Maison-Alfort, France. He is a Senior Administrator at the European Commission.

Following positions with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belgium and the French Veterinary Services, Jean-Charles began working for the European Commission in Brussels in 1994. He has held posts for DG 'Agriculture' – Office of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection and Control; DG 'Health and Consumer Protection' – Food and Veterinary Office, and Directorate on Food Safety: Production and Distribution Chain, in the Biological Risks Unit; and DG 'Research' – Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food, in the Safety of Food Productions Systems Unit.

Jean-Charles currently manages 15 EU-funded projects including 2 Networks of Excellence, one of which is Med-Vet-Net, 1 Integrated Project, and a Technology Platform. In addition to being involved in evaluating the science within projects, he is responsible for coordination of certain activities in the Unit and in management aspects such as proposal evaluation and selection, negotiation of work to be carried out, and supervision of projects. He is the technical and scientific (and to a lesser extent, financial) contact at the EC for these projects.



10th ASEAN Food Conference 2007 August 21–23, 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Premier Food Science and
Technology Conference in ASEAN

<http://www.afc07.upm.edu.my/>

14th International Workshop on Campylobacter, Helicobacter and Related Organisms, 2–5 September 2007, Beurs World Trade Center Rotterdam The Netherlands

For more information see <http://www.chro2007.nl/>

Society for General Microbiology 161st Meeting, 3–6 September 2007, University of Edinburgh, UK

For more information see: <http://www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings/MTGPAGES/Edinburgh07.cfm>

Epidemiology & Control of Infectious Diseases, 3–14 September 2007, Imperial College, London, UK

Epidemiology & control of infectious
diseases - Introduction to mathematical
models of global and emerging
infections. A ten-day short course.
Contact Ulrika Wernmark on +44
(0)20 7594 6886; email: cpd@imperial.ac.uk;
website www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/epidemiology

World Rabies Day, 8 September 2007

World Rabies Day has several campaigns
all with one objective – to end people
dying from rabies.

For more information see:
www.worldrabiesday.org/

13th International Bioinformatics Workshop on Virus Evolution and Molecular Epidemiology, 9–14 September 2007, Lisbon, Portugal

For more information see:
www.kuleuven.ac.be/aidslab/veme.htm

XXX International Congress on Microbial Ecology and Disease (SOMED) - 4th Probiotics, Prebiotics and New Foods International Congress, 16–18 September 2007, Rome, Italy

For more information see:

www.probiotics-prebiotics-newfood.org/meeting.htm

XXI Congress of the Spanish Society of Microbiology, 17–20 September 2007: Seville, Spain

For more information see:
<http://www.congreso.us.es/microSEM2007/>

Prion 2007, 26–28 September 2007: Edinburgh International Conference Centre, UK

For more information see: www.prion2007.com

4th Congress of the European Society for Emerging Infections, 30 September to 3 October, Lisbon, Portugal

Information regarding registration and
abstract submission can be obtained from
www.essei2007.com

European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE), 18–20 October, Stockholm, Sweden

Conference jointly organized by ECDC,
EPIET, EAN and TEPHINET Europe.

Call for late breaker abstracts now open.

For more information see:

www.escaide.eu

Surviving as a woman in science, EuroSciCon meeting, 2 November 2007, BioPark Hertfordshire, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, UK

Confirmed talks include:

- Creating Cultures of Success for women in science
- What does it take to get women back into SET work after a career break?
- Fellowship opportunities for women in science
- Scientific Publishing: A female dominated field

For more information see www.euroscicon.com or email enquiries@euroscicon.com

Zoonoses: From Science to Policy International Conference, Thistle Hotel, 5–7 November, Glasgow, Scotland

Deadline for abstract submission for
oral presentation is 31 July. To submit an

abstract to be considered as a poster only,
the deadline is 31st August.

For more information see: www.zoonoses.co.uk

Health Safety Agencies Between Technocracy and Democracy, 15–16 November 2007, University of Liege, Belgium

The conference will gather social
scientists as well as practitioners to
investigate the role of independent
agencies in the management of health
risks.

This two-day conference will be
organized around four issues: the
creation of agencies; agencies as strategic
actors; the Europeanization of agencies;
agencies and democratisation. It will
bring together academics, actors and
stakeholders interested in health safety
agencies.



Contact us

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