



MED•VET•NET NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 1

March 2008

In this month's issue of Med-Vet-Net News we welcome you to join us at our 4th Annual Scientific Meeting in St Malo, France, in June.

We announce the new Med-Vet-Net Project Manager – John Threlfall.

Teresa Belcher gives an overview of Module 1 of the Science Communication Internship.

And Tina Struve interviews a participant in a Med-Vet-Net funded short-term mission on geographical information systems.

We wish you all a Happy Easter!

Med-Vet-Net Communications Unit



4th Annual Scientific Meeting

The 4th Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the Palais du Grand Large conference centre, in the historic town of St Malo, in Brittany, France, from 11 to 14 June 2008.

The previous three meetings have been great successes, with a high standard of science, and a great opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing. For our fourth meeting, we are aiming for high-quality science and the opportunity for collaborating at all levels. We anticipate around 300 participants, with about a third from outside of the Med-Vet-Net Partner Institutes. Previous participants have come from throughout Europe as well as North America, Australia and New Zealand.

Scientific themes

The scientific subjects of the meeting are microbiological aspects of zoonotic diseases. These include viral, bacterial and parasitic microorganisms. Scientific contributions to the following fields are invited:

- Detection and Control
- Epidemiology
- Molecular Epidemiology
- New and Emerging Zoonoses
- Antibiotic Resistance
- Risk Research (including modelling, source attribution)
- Host-Pathogen Interactions (including *in vivo* and *in vitro* models)
- Genomics and Proteomics (including transcriptome analysis)
- Other aspects related to zoonoses.

Cross-disciplinary contributions are encouraged.



MED•VET•NET
ST MALO '08



Abstract submission

Abstracts can be submitted online at: <http://medvetnet.conference-services.net>

Instructions for submission are available from the abstract submission site. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words.

Abstract submission closes on 31 March 2008.

Online registration

Online registration is now open: <http://medvetnet.conference-services.net>

Each Med-Vet-Net Partner Institute will receive Med-Vet-Net funded delegate places: those working for a Med-Vet-Net Partner Institute should contact

their Institute Representative for more information.

External delegates are very welcome: the full conference fee (including registration, all meals and refreshments) is €530. Options for part attendance, accompanying partners etc. are available online.

Registration for the meeting closes on 30 April 2008.

Keynote Speakers

At the time of writing, confirmed keynote speakers include:



Professor Geoffrey Mead, who will speak on 'The use of probiotics and prebiotics in farm animals for prevention and control of food-borne human disease'. Professor Mead was formerly at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, now a consultant, he has an international reputation for his work on the microbial safety and quality of poultry meat.

Dr Mohamed Karmali will speak on 'Pathogenomics in public health'. Dr Karmali is Director General of the Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses, Public Health Agency of Canada.

Dr Karl Brehm will speak on parasite host-pathogen interactions. Dr Brehm is from the Institute of Hygiene and Microbiology, University of Würzburg, Germany.

Dr Pierre Rollin from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA, will present on viral zoonoses: title to be confirmed.

Please check the conference website for further details of keynote speakers: www.medvetnet.org/mvnconf08.

About Saint Malo

St Malo is on the northern coast of France in scenic Brittany. With a huge sandy beach and ancient walled city, St Malo is a delightful place to visit. The meeting will be held at the Palais du Grand Large Convention Centre, situated on the sea front, in the heart of St Malo town.

The citadelle is full of shops, bars and restaurants. St Malo has one of the highest concentrations of sea food restaurants in Europe. It is famous for its

local oysters from the nearby village of Cancale.

More information on travelling to the meeting, hotels and tourist information are available from the conference website: www.medvetnet.org/mvnconf08.

Sponsorship opportunities

With the generous support of industry we plan to maintain and improve upon the high standards of past conferences. Med-Vet-Net are currently seeking sponsors for the meeting. This could prove an ideal opportunity for UK businesses to contact researchers throughout Europe and beyond; we will have numerous delegates from Poland and Hungary as well as other Eastern European countries. Further details of sponsorship packages are available from: http://www.medvetnet.org/pdf/Conferences/stmalo_sponsorship.pdf



Local Organizing Committee:
Email mvnconf08@medvetnet.org or
Tel.: +33-1-49-77-38-68.

Website:
www.medvetnet.org/mvnconf08

Abstract submission and online registration:
<http://medvetnet.conference-services.net>

Applied Bioinformatics & Public Health Microbiology Conference

27-29 April 2008

The Applied Bioinformatics & Public Health Microbiology Conference, will be held at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire, UK, from Sunday 27th to Tuesday 29th April 2008.

This Conference is being organized jointly by the Wellcome Trust and the Health Protection Agency. The aim of this meeting is to provide a multi-disciplinary forum, bringing together those involved in public health (epidemiologists and microbiologists), bioinformaticians, technologists and microbiologists from both applied and research communities to highlight recent advances, identify current issues and consider future needs for public health applications. This is considered the first step in a process of developing further multi-disciplinary groups focusing on the translation of innovation in bioinformatics and microbiology into public health applications.

For more information please see: <http://www.wtconference.org/AppliedBioinformaticsAndPublicHealthMicrobiology.pdf>

Registration: http://firstcontact.hinxton.wellcome.ac.uk/display_info.asp?id=97



Jonathan Green
Head of Bioinformatics Unit, HPA

Med-Vet-Net People

New Med-Vet-Net Project Manager

Professor John Threlfall

John Threlfall has been appointed Med-Vet-Net Project Manager from 1 March.

John has worked in the Health Protection Agency (formerly the Public Health Laboratory Service) for over 30 years, specializing in antimicrobial resistance and molecular epidemiology with particular emphasis on *Salmonella* infections. He is currently the Director of the HPA Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens, which is the national reference facility for enteric bacterial pathogens isolated from humans in England and Wales, and is based at the HPA Centre for Infections at Colindale.

Until September 2007 John was Joint Project Leader on the EU-funded EnterNet project (now subsumed into the ECDC) and prior to this was Principal Investigator on the EU-funded SalmGene project, which was the forerunner of PulseNet Europe. John has responsibility for the HPA for liaison with the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

John has previously been Workpackage Leader of Med-Vet-Net WP4 –PulseNet Europe – and the Med-Vet-Net Institute Representative for the HPA.

John has published over 300 papers in the area of food-borne zoonoses and antimicrobial drug resistance.

John's assistant is Kalpna Lakhani (Email: Kalpna.Lakhani@HPA.org.uk).

Assistant Project Manager

Dr Trudy Wassenaar is appointed from 1 March to 30 June to undertake scientific work on the St Malo Annual Scientific Meeting. From 1 July to 28 March 2009 (end of the JPA4), Trudy will be appointed 50% of her time as Assistant Project Manager.



John Threlfall



Kalpna Lakhani

Goodbye and thanks

We say goodbye to Professor Diane Newell who has resigned her post as Project Manager of the Network. Diane has been Project Manager since the Network started in September 2004, and led the project's inception and planning.

Diane has taken her job as Project Manager very seriously and was fully dedicated to the network. Without her efforts we would not be where we are today, and thanks to her input the Network is well on course and is acknowledged as a flagship for what can be achieved. Her work has not only laid the foundations of our collaboration but Diane was more or less the architect of the Virtual Institute, and as such will continue to be deservedly remembered throughout and beyond the life of the Network.

We thank Diane for her hard work and long hours, and the tireless effort she put in, in her role as Project Manager.

Diane will remain in her post at the VLA working as a senior consultant in food and environmental safety, and will maintain roles in and associations with Med-Vet-Net, in particular as Leader of Med-Vet-Net's Workpackage 34, which will focus on *Campylobacter* in poultry.



Science Communication Internship

From 28 January to 8 February 2008, eight participants from four countries and five of the Med-Vet-Net Partner Institutes, spent an intensive two weeks attending hands-on workshops enhancing and improving their skills in communicating their research to different audiences and stakeholders.

Module 1, 'Science communication – why and how?' – consisted of two weeks of both in-house tuition by the Med-Vet-Net Communications Unit and external expert training.

The interns were first introduced to the basics of communication, exploring their individual communication style and learning some tricks on how to network more effectively.

"I am more confident. I am more aware of the different audiences and the words we have to employ."

They then spent two days examining the relationship between science, media and the public and theories of communication. The interns examined why it is important for scientists to communicate their work and the different ways this can be achieved.

On the Tuesday evening, the interns made their first trip to London to attend an event at the Dana Centre, a café-type atmosphere where scientific issues can be presented to the public in an informal setting. The event for this week was 'Punk Science: Know it All', a rather different approach to looking at life's big questions using comedy, music, live experiments and audience participation. After hearing quite ridiculous views on how birds evolved wings, how the universe will end and whether clouds are wet, the interns left feeling a bit bemused with the lack of scientific answers, but definitely with a more open view of ways of communicating science to the general public.

After an introduction to the work of the Med-Vet-Net and more specifically the tasks of the Communications Unit, the interns were given an overview of the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM) by its Chief Executive Officer,

Phil Wheat. They then examined a spectrum of internal communications tools that are used in the project including WebEx, Moodle (www.medvetnet.org/moodle) and the Med-Vet-Net members' website (<https://www.medvetnet.org/membersite/>). They also looked at some Web 2.0 tools for online collaboration, such as Del.icio.us (<http://del.icio.us/>) and Google Docs (docs.google.com/).

"Lots and lots of food for thought concerning oral presentations, body language and how it affects people and how to target written work for a specific audience. But most importantly, I have learnt something about how I come across when I communicate, and what I need to work on."

For effective communication, the key is to understand who your audience is and what key messages you need to get across. To appreciate this fully, the interns practised writing about their work specifically targeted at four different audiences: another scientist, a policy maker, a non-scientific stakeholder (such as a farmer or a teacher) and a 10-year-old child. They also watched an example of 'scare-mongering' in a television report

"I am sure I have improved my oral and written communication skills."

on European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV) and compared this with a more scientific and balanced overview of research undertaken in the EC.

The second week of Module 1 began with a two-day course in public speaking and presentation skills, in which the interns gained confidence by practising giving impromptu speeches and themed talks.

This was followed by more writing, and examining the different structure when writing for scientific journals and writing news for a 'lay' audience. They learnt that to make writing easily understood, it is essential to avoid jargon and acronyms. Writing tasks included identifying the key questions that should be answered in the first couple of sentences of a news story ('who?', 'where?', 'when?' 'what?', 'why?' and 'how?'), and then finding these in a journal article in order to write 'news' for themselves.

The interns also discussed the value of corporate image and brand in communicating science and then had an introduction to public relations and tools that could be used to engage stakeholders in their research. During this session, the interns created the basis of a communications strategy for their own projects.

As a final exercise, each intern prepared a talk to present to each other on their work. This was filmed and then reviewed back to give feedback on their 'personal impact' and tips on how to improve their presentation style.

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Practising their writing skills.

Med-Vet-Net Interns 2008

Francesca Baldinelli is a PhD student at the Italian Research Institute of Public Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità – ISS), in Rome, Italy. Her project involves producing a simulation of the geographic spread of avian influenza when it is introduced to an area by migrating wild birds. In particular, she will investigate how the characteristics of the environment, the disease and the susceptible birds can affect and modify the spread.

Birgitte Borck works at the National Food Institute (NFI) at the Danish Technical University (DTU) in Denmark. One of her main tasks is to coordinate all activities at the Zoonosis Centre concerning the Community Zoonosis Report published annual by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). She is also the Deputy Workpackage Leader for Med-Vet-Net Workpackage 24 looking at *Campylobacter* risk assessment.

Danielle Eelkman Rooda is a manager of business development at the Central Veterinary Institute (CVI) in The Netherlands. She works for a scientific group in the field of non-infectious diseases who specialize in pig research for pre-clinical human drug development and focus on physiology, metabolism and the central nervous system. She works on account management, makes new contacts and helps set the strategy of the group based on market input.

Martina Escher is a veterinarian undertaking a PhD in veterinary epidemiology at the Italian Public Health Institute (ISS) in Rome. Her project is examining the epidemiology of antibiotic resistance in pets (cat and dog) and to study how veterinarians and pet owners use antibiotics according to the principles of prudent use. This will provide a better understanding of how antibiotics are used.

Sophie Granier works at the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) in Paris, participating in the national programme of antimicrobial resistance monitoring of bacteria isolated from animals and food. She is in charge of surveillance of resistance in non-human *Salmonella*, isolated from food, feed, animal health and the natural ecosystem. From time to time, she also works on antimicrobial resistance characterization of batches of specific strains such as *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from a ham factory, or *Listeria* isolated from food in France.

Maïke Koningstein is an epidemiologist, working at the Statens Serum Institute (SSI) in Copenhagen, Denmark. She is working on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria. She is investigating how human use of antimicrobials is a risk factor for contracting a resistant strain of *Salmonella* and also the outcomes of disease after contracting an antimicrobial resistant strain.

Sandrine Lacour is a research engineer at the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) in Paris, working on the nematode *Trichinella*, which is transmitted to humans through consumption of raw or undercooked meat from animals infected with these nematodes. Her specific area of research looks at the identification of new antigens of *Trichinella* and the development of new immunological tests to improve the diagnosis of trichinellosis in animals.

Tina Struve works at the National Food Institute (NFI) at the Danish Technical University (DTU) in Denmark. Her main task is to administer the Med-Vet-Net Workpackage 2a which focuses on all training activities including courses and scientific missions. She is responsible for the budgets and the annual report for this part of the Workpackage. Tina is also involved in a programme called TRAINAU (training risk assessment in non-human antimicrobial usage), handling the annual reporting to the EC, the homepage of the programme, and helping to arrange the annual workshop.



**Back row, left to right: Tina, Francesca, Sandrine, Sophie and Martina.
Front row left to right: Maïke, Danielle and Birgitte.**

On the last evening together, the interns and the Communications Unit celebrated the Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat) by dining at a Chinese restaurant in Milton Keynes.

Whilst the two weeks were very intense and packed with new information, there

“I have learnt a lot of helpful tools on how to give presentations, and really improved my writing skills.”

was still room for some social time. With the interns sharing three apartments, each with a mix of the four nationalities – Danish, Dutch, French and Italian – they enjoyed each other’s cooking and challenges at pool and table football. And, of course, shopping and visits to London!

Teresa Belcher

Med-Vet-Net Short-term missions

My name is Tina Struve, I am a veterinarian, and I work for the Danish Zoonosis Centre, which is a section under the National Food Institute, DTU in Denmark. I am working for Med-Vet-Net in Workpackage 2a, which is concerned with the training activities and scientific exchanges.

My role within Med-Vet-Net is handling the applications for training courses, workshops and scientific missions. One of the most important objectives of Med-Vet-Net is the exchange of knowledge among the European network of which Med-Vet-Net consists. Therefore the exchange of knowledge mediated through scientific missions and participation in the training courses is of great benefit to the scientific work being undertaken in the Workpackages.

To find out the impact of the Short-term Scientific Missions have on participants, I undertook an interview with one of the scientists who has previously been on a mission. The delegate is Martina Escher who is a PhD student from the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Dipartimento di Sanità Alimentare e Animale Reparto Zoonosi Alimentari ed Epidemiologia Veterinaria, in Italy. Martina went on her Short-term Mission to visit the 1st OIE International Conference “Use of GIS in Veterinary activities” for 4 days



Working on presentation skills.

in October 2006, arranged by Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’ abruzzo e del Molise.

During the Conference, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were discussed as a tool for data analysis. The knowledge that could be obtained with geographic-spatiotemporal statistics is particularly suitable for the study of the complex interactions among host, pathogen, vectors and populations that may participate in a zoonotic cycle. Another issue discussed was the implementation of GIS networks, which could be a useful tool for the exchange of epidemiological information on zoonoses between countries.

The aim of Martina’s attendance in the conference was to improve the GIS skills of the ISS group in Med-Vet-Net Workpackage 6 – Development and Application of Geographical Information Systems. The subjects covered in this conference perfectly reflected the objects of Workpackage 6, and the Short-term Mission has therefore improved the work inside WP6 by exchanging knowledge among the scientists. Martina explains that this mission allowed her to mediate a collaboration between her institute and the institute organizing the

workshop ‘Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’ abruzzo e del Molise’ (TE). These two institutes are now collaborating on the use GIS with data collected by both institutes. It is Martina’s belief that this exchange of knowledge and collaboration would not have been possible without her Short-term Mission funded by Med-Vet-Net. And she therefore wants to take this opportunity to thank Med-Vet-Net for making this possible.

It is possible for members of the Med-Vet-Net network to apply for funding for Short-term Missions, as long as the objective of the mission is of relevance to the Med-Vet-Net Network. If you are interested in hearing more about how to apply for a short-term scientific missions, please have a look on the MedVetNet homepage: www.medvetnet.org and if you have any questions please contact me: tstxx@food.dtu.dk or Tine Hald: tih@food.dtu.dk

**Tine Struve
DTU**



Expert Scientific Exchange Programme

An opportunity for European scientists working in the area of microbial food safety to visit US laboratories.

The Expert Scientific Exchange programme invites up to 20 European food-borne safety scientists from throughout Europe to apply for travel grants to visit research laboratories in the US and Canada in order to ensure technology transfer, and promote collaboration of expertise sharing. The selection of candidates will be based on joint expressed interest between the Med-Vet-Net and FSSRN networks. The programme covers the areas: 'Epidemiology and risk attribution', 'microbial ecology', 'detection' and 'control and intervention'.



Application procedure:

1. Identify a laboratory in the US and Canada and make direct contact with an investigator.
2. Discuss the opportunities for cooperative research and training in the field of food safety pre-harvest.
3. Jointly submit an application (please, see the application form for more details).

The application should be submitted at least three months prior to the first date of the visit. The duration of an expert scientific exchange visit is not restricted but will normally be 3–14 days. The host institution may be able to provide housing, which would provide the opportunity for the exchange programme to be extended; we strongly encourage applicants to search for such opportunities.

EUUS SAFEFOOD can cover the costs of travel and boarding and lodging.

The visit must be relevant to the EUUS SAFEFOOD objectives.

For more information see: <http://euus-safefood.com/exchange.htm> or contact:
Tine Hald, EUUS SAFEFOOD, National Food Institute, Mørkhøj Bygade 19, DK-2860 Søborg, Denmark;
E-mail : tih@food.dtu.dk; Tel : +45 72 34 70 94.

BA Media Fellowship Scheme

The BA Media Fellowships are intended to create a greater awareness and understanding of the workings of the media among practising scientists, social scientists and engineers.

The fellowships provide placements working with a national press, broadcast or internet journalist.

During placements of between 3 and 8 weeks fellows learn to work within the conditions and constraints of the media to produce accurate and well informed pieces about developments in science.



The scheme's impact extends beyond the summer placement. After their placements fellows are better equipped to communicate their research and expertise to the public and their colleagues. Some go on to do freelancing as an add-on to their normal jobs, others incorporate science communication activities into their academic or professional work in science and engineering.

2008 application form now online: BA Media Fellowships website: http://www.the-ba.net/the-ba/scienceinsociety/_Schemes_and_awards/MediaFellowships/

OIE publication catalogue available

The 2008 World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) catalogue of publications is now available and provides access to all title available for sale in English, French and Spanish, published or co-published with the OIE.

OIE publications cover the full spectrum of animal health throughout the world from its international standards and periodicals to important topical issues and world conference proceedings.

Titles that might be of particular interest include: 'History of the surveillance and control of transmissible animal diseases', and 'Epidemiological surveillance in animal health'.

For more information see: www.tiny.cc/oiepubs.



A quantitative microbiological risk assessment on *Salmonella* in meat: Source attribution for human salmonellosis from meat – Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Biological Hazards

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has issued this opinion on the contribution of meat to *Salmonella* infections in humans.

In the present mandate EFSA was asked, by the European Commission, to carry out a quantitative risk assessment and evaluate: the relative contribution of different meat categories to cases of food-borne *Salmonella* infections in humans, taking into account the occurrence of the pathogen in the food chain, risk factors, food production flows and food preparation and consumption habits. Following discussion with the EC, it was clear that QMRA was only one of several methods available for answering the Terms of Reference. In addition it was found that the questions were very broad and that data gaps would limit the possibilities for a complete answer to the questions. The Working Group agreed that the mandate should be



pursued through focusing on different approaches for source attribution of human salmonellosis and the results obtained so far from such studies.

A summary and the full opinion can be found at: www.tiny.cc/efsa

New action plan against *Campylobacter* in Denmark

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries in Denmark has initiated a new five-year action plan to fight campylobacter, the country's most common bacterial cause of human gastrointestinal disease.



The plan stretches over five years and establishes a number of areas in which efforts must be made to reduce the incidence of campylobacter even more. Apart from increasing initiatives on the import side, the plan includes, among other things, insect screens in broiler houses, better methods of allocating meat from *Campylobacter* positive flocks to the production of frozen products, as well as the use of steam and ultra-sound in order to reduce the bacteria incidence.

For more information see: <http://tiny.cc/campy>

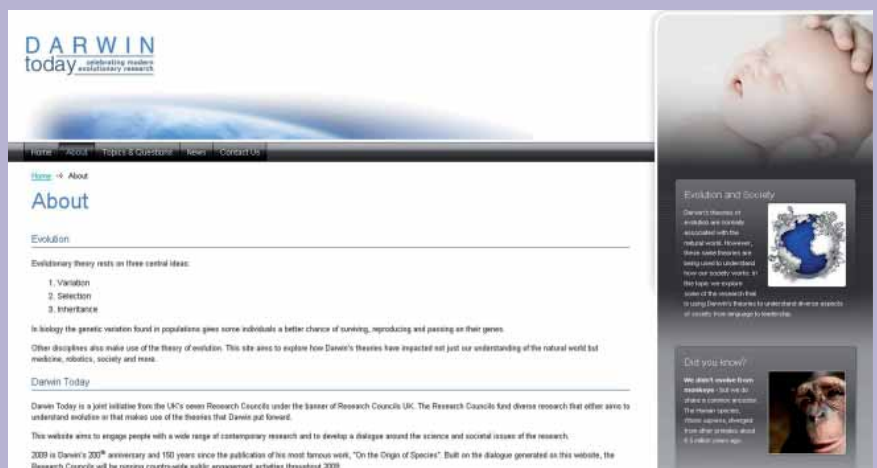
Darwin Today

In preparation for Darwin year, Research Councils UK (RCUK) has launched the new Darwin Today website, www.darwin.rcuk.ac.uk.

The Darwin Today website has been setup to encourage people to discuss the wide range of contemporary research funded by the seven Research Councils that draws on Darwin's theories.

Monthly topic-based video-podcasts and magazine style articles, together with voting and discussion facilities, aim to entice visitors to interact and consider the research that is featured.

The first topic is Evolution and Society and future topics will include: How humans are affecting other species; Evolution of Resistance; and Directed Evolution.



Society for General Microbiology, 162nd Meeting, 31 March – 3 April 2008, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Scotland

For more information see: www.sgm.ac.uk/meetings/MTGPAGES/Edinburgh2008.cfm

Society for Applied Microbiology Spring Meeting, 9 April 2008, Aston University, Birmingham, UK

'Broadening Microbiology Horizons'

For more information see: www.sfam.org.uk

Microarrays: Methods and Applications for Genome Analysis, 6–15 April 2008, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

This course will provide a comprehensive overview and practical experience of the production and uses of DNA microarrays for a broad range of applications. While complete details of microarray fabrication will be covered in theoretical sessions and demonstrations, the main theme of the course will be the applications of DNA microarrays for state-of-the-art transcriptome analysis.

For more information see: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Professional-resources/Courses-and-conferences/Advanced-Courses/Courses/WTX026218.htm>

Applied Bioinformatics & Public Health Microbiology Conference 27–29 April 2008, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

The Applied Bioinformatics & Public Health Microbiology Conference, will be held at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire, UK, from Sunday 27th to Tuesday 29th April 2008.

For more information see: <http://www.wtconference.org/appliedBioinformaticsAndPublicHealthMicrobiology.pdf>

Molecular Basis of bacterial infection: basic and applied research approaches, 11–17 May 2008, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

This course will introduce participants to concepts and techniques currently used in studies on the molecular basis of bacterial infection. Several themes will run throughout the week and these will provide a framework for bench experiments, demonstrations, supporting lectures and discussion groups. Core themes will include mutagenesis, tissue-based assays, reporters, tissue culture assays, and microscopy (fluorescent and scanning/transmission electron microscopy).

Deadline for applications: 25 January 2008

American Society for Microbiology, 108th General Meeting, 1–5 June 2008, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

For more information see: <http://www.gm.asm.org/>

'The need for speed', 2nd Annual Meeting of EPIZONE, 4–6 June 2008, Brescia, Italy

The aim of this meeting is to inform both internal and external delegates about EPIZONE activities and to discuss recent issues and new developments concerning epizootic diseases. Control of animal diseases starts with a global awareness of risks, preparedness on introduction, and prompt actions in order to prevent or reduce economic losses.

There will be plenary lectures by keynote speakers in the fields of the EPIZONE themes: Diagnostics, Intervention strategies, Epidemiology and surveillance, and Risk assessment. Delegates are invited to send in abstracts to present their latest research results in the fields of the EPIZONE Themes. Oral and poster presentations will be selected from the submitted abstracts by the Scientific Committee.

For more information see: www.epizone.eu.net/annualmeeting/default.aspx

EPIZONE, Bluetongue Satellite Symposium, 7 June 2008, Centro Pastorale Paolo VI, Brescia, Italy

'Bluetongue in Europe, back to the future !!'

The Symposium will consist of

lectures by invited keynote speakers, oral presentations as well as poster presentations. Abstracts will be divided into four topics:

- Intervention strategy and policy: Treatment of animals, control measures, and economic aspects
- Diagnostics: Detection of disease, antigen, RNA, and antibodies
- Epidemiology/surveillance/risk assessment: Field and molecular epidemiology, monitoring, etc.
- Entomology/vectors: Culicoides research, insecticides and repellents

For more information see: www.epizone.eu.net/bluetongue/default.aspx

Future challenges to microbial food safety, an in-depth expert meeting to explore ways to address future challenges to microbial food safety, 9–12 June 2008, Bilderberg Hotel 'Buunderkamp', Wolfheze, Netherlands

The conference will be sponsored by the Dutch Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (VWA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Those interested in attending the conference are invited to E-mail their application to: VWAfoodmicrobiology2008@vwa.nl



Contact us

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Contributions and suggestions are welcome. Deadline for publication is 1st of each month.

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Visit <http://www.medvetnet.org>