



MED • VET • NET NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2007

Med-Vet-Net Communications Unit

In this issue of Med-Vet-Net News we continue our Workpackage overviews with ZoopNet – Zoonotic Protozoa network.

Kumar Sivam reports back on the Emerging and Neglected Zoonoses Groups' meeting on vector-borne diseases

We give an overview of the first module of the Science Communication Internship.

We have an update on the 3rd Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting and announcements on forthcoming workshops.

ZoopNet overview

Workpackage 22: Zoonotic Protozoa network – ZoopNet – *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*

Cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis represent major public health concerns in both developing and developed countries, and the economic losses, both direct and indirect, caused by these widespread parasitic infections are considerable. The existence of multiple transmission routes (person-to-person, animal-to-person, waterborne, and food-borne transmission), and the difficulties in identifying the different species using conventional criteria, such as oocyst/cyst morphology, have made the epidemiology of infection difficult to unravel. In particular, the role of animals in the zoonotic transmission to humans needs to be carefully evaluated. Infected animals shed large number of oocysts and cysts in their faeces, and, considering the extremely high number of vertebrate species that are infected by these parasites, environmental contamination should be considered inevitable. As a result, numerous outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis due to contaminated food or water (drinking or recreational) have been reported in many

industrialized nations, and studies have identified water as a major route of transmission in areas where the disease is endemic. Validated methods to determine the species, genotype and subgenotype present in heterologous mixtures should be applied to human, animal and environmental samples to permit monitoring and characterization of infection sources, disease tracking and to establish causative links to both waterborne and food-borne outbreaks.

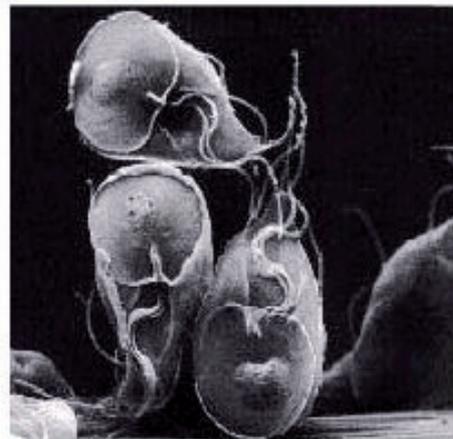
Cryptosporidium and *Giardia* are included in the list B of OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and in list B of the Zoonoses Directive 2003/99/EC. Cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis in humans recently became notifiable diseases in some European countries (Germany, Sweden, Poland), while in others (Netherlands, Spain) only outbreaks must be reported to health authorities. Specific regulations for the control of *Cryptosporidium* in the water, which is an important vehicle of transmission, have been adopted by some countries (United Kingdom) but not by others. It is noteworthy that the new European Directive on quality of water intended

for human consumption (Directive 98/83/CE) states that *Cryptosporidium* has to be determined in drinking water when *Clostridium perfringens* is detected. All the European member states must comply with the provisions of the new Directive.

WP22 (ZoopNet) outline

A network of scientists from both public health and veterinary institutes (12 institutes from 10 European countries) participates in the project. Dr Simone M Cacciò (ISS, Italy) is the Workpackage Leader and Dr Jose Miguel Rubio Munoz (ISCIII, Spain) is Deputy Leader. The project started in March 2006 and will end in August 2007. The overall objectives are:

- to harmonize molecular methods useful to detect these protozoa and to distinguish human from non-human pathogens;
- to establish, for *Giardia*, and to maintain, for both *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, repositories of standards (nucleic acids and cysts/oocysts);
- to perform validation tests for both *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in the participating laboratories using a panel of DNA prepared from isolates collected by all partners during the project;
- to identify an agreed panel of highly discriminatory markers for the analysis of species, genotypes and subtypes;
- to develop online databases to store and analyse the data produced during the project.



Cryptosporidium oocysts (left) and Giardia trophozoites (right) as seen using scanning electron microscopy.

Points of particular relevance

Integration

As zoonoses are diseases of animals that can infect humans, the medical and veterinary communities should work together to control, prevent and understand them. This has been the inspiration of the Med-Vet-Net project and of this Workpackage (WP) as well. All the activities scheduled in WP22 are continuously discussed by partners and the results are presented both at internal meetings and at the Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting. A Workshop on Bioinformatics was organized (December 2006) to discuss those aspects (DNA sequence analysis, PCR design, phylogenetic analysis) that are essential for the achievement of specific WP22 milestones and deliverables.

Web-based resources and dissemination of knowledge

One crucial aspect of WP22 is the dissemination of knowledge, and the development of dedicated web-based resources has been considered as a particularly well suited tool for this purpose.

In a previous project (WP12, CrypNet) of Med-Vet-Net, a database for *Cryptosporidium* was developed (www.cryptosporidium.it/index.php). In the course of WP22, a similar database will be developed for *Giardia*. These databases will convey the following information:

1. A brief overview of the WP22 activities and scope.
2. A 'Background' section with detailed description of the biology, taxonomy, life cycle and epidemiology of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, as well as the treatment options available.
3. Sections on 'Cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis in Europe' where updated information is given for each participating country, allowing comparison of our current knowledge on cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis in humans and animals, on the occurrence of the pathogen in the water and in food, on recorded outbreaks and their origin, and on the existence of specific regulations at the European level.
4. A comprehensive section on 'Detection', where microscopic, immunologic and molecular methodologies are presented, along with graphical illustration of the procedures, the results, and the limitations associated with the various techniques.

Med-Vet-Net People

Dr Simone M Cacciò, Workpackage 22 Leader

Simone is a molecular biologist who works as a researcher in the Department of Infectious, Parasitic and Immunomediated Diseases at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) in Rome. He graduated in Biological Sciences at the University of Pavia in 1985, and obtained a PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology in 1992. He has published about 50 papers in international journals. His main research interests include the molecular epidemiology of intestinal protozoa, particularly *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*.



Further, a dynamic database is also being developed and should act as a common, interactive platform to store and analyse data (mainly DNA sequence data linked with epidemiologic data) from laboratories across Europe. RIVM (The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands) and HPA (Health Protection Agency, UK) are actively collaborating towards this objective.

Harmonization and standardization of methods

The harmonization of methods for the detection and identification of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* has been strongly influenced in the past by the lack of reference material. Further, the lack of consensus on the detection methodologies (microscopic, immunologic, and molecular) makes the results from different laboratories difficult, or impossible, to compare. This is particularly relevant in that these methods should be applied to environmental samples to permit monitoring and characterization of infection sources, disease tracking and to establish causative links to both waterborne and food-borne outbreaks.

To overcome, at least in part, these problems, three main objectives for immediate and future action have been identified. First, the network has produced critical reviews of the molecular methods used in the identification of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in various matrices (human and animal faeces, water, food), and different epidemiologic situations. Second, two repositories have been established, one at ISS (Istituto Superiore di Sanità), Rome, Italy, and the other at DFVF (The National

Veterinary Institute), Copenhagen, Denmark. The essential activity of the repositories is to produce, characterize and distribute DNA of the main human pathogens (*C. hominis* and *C. parvum*, *Giardia duodenalis* assemblages A and B). Third, validation studies are under way with the goal of testing different molecular typing assays in all participating laboratories. The overall goal of these activities is the identification of an agreed panel of highly discriminatory markers for the analysis of species, genotypes and subtypes of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*.

Transfer of knowledge

This is a priority of Med-Vet-Net and of WP22 as well. During the first 12 months of the project, Dr Elzbieta Golab of PZH (National Institute of Hygiene), Poland, Dr Lise Tønner Klank of DFVF, Denmark, and Céline Bahuon of AFSSA (Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments), France, visited Simone Cacciò's laboratory at ISS in Rome. Laboratory training for molecular detection and genotyping of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* was the main objective of these short programmes, which were in all cases supported by Med-Vet-Net.

Simone Cacciò

Online abstract submission now open

 **LUCCA '07**



MED•VET•NET

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3rd Annual Scientific Meeting on Zoonoses Research in Europe 27–30 June 2007, Lucca, Italy

The 3rd Med-Vet-Net Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the 'Il Ciocco' conference centre near the beautiful Tuscan town of Barga in Lucca, Italy.

Themes for the meeting are:
Epidemiology and Risk Research
New and Emerging Zoonoses
Detection and Control
Host-Microbe Interactions and Microbial Ecology

Online abstract submission is now open (see the conference website). Deadline 2 April 2007.

Online registration closes 1 May 2007.

Keynote Speeches include:

'Effects of climate change on infectious disease' – Professor Sir Howard Dalton

'Mathematical modelling in infection control' – Professor Nigel French

'Avian flu' – Dr Ilaria Capua

'The future of vaccine research' – Professor Ben van der Zeijst

'The impact of systematic reviews and quality criteria on publications regarding food safety and food-borne zoonoses' – Professor Jan Sargeant

For more information visit: <http://www.medvetnet.org/mvnconf07>

New & emerging zoonoses

Vector-borne diseases bring experts together in Weybridge at Med-Vet-Net Emerging and Neglected Zoonoses Groups meeting.

At the Med-Vet-Net *Emerging and Neglected Zoonoses Groups*' meeting in November 2006 we decided to bring together groups of people from both inside and outside Med-Vet-Net to pursue projects in the EU's new Seventh Framework Programme (FP 7).

FP 7 was launched in January 2007 and one of the proposed projects was 'Emerging vector-borne diseases, in particular: West Nile fever, Rift Valley fever and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever' (KBBE-2007-1-3-06). This generated considerable interest among several Med-Vet-Net partners. To build on this we held a meeting at the end of January in Weybridge, England to explore the proposal. Colleagues from eight institutes (four from Med-Vet-Net) got together in a locked room and no one was allowed out until a result was achieved. [Editor: not really!]

We met on the evening of 23 January for dinner, which was important in getting to know one another, and a really key part of making the following day's work so successful. At dawn on 24 January, we went on a group run through the grounds of the hotel (another good team-building exercise); through the snow that had fallen during the night. (NB Not all of the preceding sentence is truthful.)

The meeting started with an overview of the EU's policy. We started by reviewing the EU's ambition to build a *knowledge-based bio-economy*. Whilst this term is not widely loved it is very important in demonstrating the EU's policy angle and we ignore this degree of clarity at our peril. On a personal angle, having spent a great deal of time trying to explain why the management of knowledge is important to incredulous audiences, I was rather pleased to have the backing of the Commission at last.

We went on from this to look at the criteria that Commission experts would use in evaluating a proposal and then to examine the scope of the actual call and the types of activity that might be included. This was just the background, and anyone who thought they had come



Vector-borne disease experts brave the cold weather in Weybridge for the Emerging and Neglected Zoonoses Groups' meeting in January.

for an easy meeting was already having regrets.

In the second half, we went on to look at what activities might usefully be in such a proposal. This proved to be hard work moving from the generalities to specifics, and all the more so when put against tight budgetary limits that forced us to prioritize and seek the greatest value for the investment on offer.

By evening, the snow had melted allowing the group to disperse.

We are following up the meeting by using a Web-based collaborative space to share ideas on the developing set of workpackages. In parallel to this we are also talking to other consortia taking an interest in this proposal to maximize the chance of a substantial and successful collaborative effort. This will demonstrate how Med-Vet-Net has taken a leading role reaching out beyond the limits of the membership and looking for opportunities in a broad subject area to the benefit of all.

Kumar Sivam

Postdoctoral position in molecular epidemiology

An opportunity is offered for a 2-year postdoctoral position to work within Med-Vet-Net.

The candidate will be based at the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA), Sophia Antipolis, France, and will work on Q-fever in a European context. He/She will be prepared to travel within Europe in the different institutes participating in this project, and to work in a multidisciplinary environment. The Q-fever team at Sophia Antipolis includes 2 researchers, 2 technicians and 1 PhD student. Information is available from www.afssa.fr

The candidate should have a proven background in microbiology, molecular epidemiological methods used in bacteriology, and ideally in cell culture of intracellular bacteria. The candidate should have a good training in bioinformatic applications, especially in sequence analysis and phylogeny. The Q-fever infectious agent, *Coxiella burnetii*, requires working in containment level 3 facilities. Specific training on *C. burnetii* techniques will be given. The main objective of the candidate will be developing and applying molecular methods for the typing of *C. burnetii* on biological samples, and to participate in the development of an international database.

Informal enquiries to Dr Richard Thiéry (r.thier@afssa.fr), or to Dr Véronique Duquesne (v.duquesne@afssa.fr).

Closing date for applications: 15 March 2007. The post is available as soon as possible.

Science Communication Internship

From 22 January to 2 February 2007, five participants undertook the newly designed Module One of the Med-Vet-Net Science Communication Internship at the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM) offices in Bedford, UK.

Pawel Stefanoff from PZH (Institute of Hygiene) in Poland, Concepción Porrero from UCM (a Universidad Complutense de Madrid) in Spain, Elizabeth Marier from VLA (Veterinary Laboratories Agency) in UK, Nadia Inglese from ISS (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) in Italy and Anne-Mette Kirkemo from the Norwegian Zoonosis Institute took time out from their current positions in scientific institutions to gain some essential skills in the communication of science to different audiences.

The two week course, 'Communication – why and how?', was devised by the Med-Vet-Net Communications Unit, Teresa Belcher and Jennie Drew. The course involved a mixture of in-house



Anne-Mette, Elizabeth and Concepción (Concha) practise their news writing skills.

tuition as well as external companies providing expert training.

The interns were first introduced to the basics of communication and learnt some tricks on how to network more effectively. They then spent two days examining the relationship between science, media and the public and considered why it is important for scientists to communicate their work and the different ways this can be achieved.

Mid-week we made our first trip down to London to attend Dinner@Dana, part of the Café Scientifique network. The meetings aim to stay outside of the traditional academic context by

creating a relaxed and informal atmosphere in which to discuss scientific issues and explore the latest ideas in science, technology and medicine. The presentation for the evening was about stress, and it gave us all quite a bit to discuss about presenting scientific issues to the public in different fora.

It is also very important to understand who your audience is when you are communicating and what key messages you want to get across. Along this vein, back in the office the interns practiced writing for different

audiences, from scientists, policy makers, farmers and the general public. They were also given an overview of public relations and examined the value of corporate image and brand.

The second week began with a two-day course in public speaking and presentation skills, in which the interns gained confidence by practising impromptu speeches and themed talks. They also learnt about how to structure a news story, and compared this to the way of writing scientific papers. Mid-week we had another trip to London to The Media Trust to learn some practical skills and insight into 'pitching to journalists'. There were five presentations from key journalists who gave us their opinion on how to gain more coverage in the media. The final course was on interviewing skills, and gave participants key tips on researching and conducting an interview and writing a news article from this.

While the two weeks were very intense and packed with new information, there was still room for some social time. During the weekend, Pawel, Concha and Nadia went with Teresa to visit the famous English town of Cambridge. This included a punt ride up the River Cam, lunch in the pub that Watson and Crick used to frequent, and a walking tour which took them through Trinity College and King's College Chapel.

With such a wide range of nationalities (between the seven of us there were representatives from Poland, Spain, French Canada, Italy, Norway, Australia and Britain), we found discussions about food and customs very interesting. It was the first time that Nadia and Concha had visited England so we were keen to let them try typical British dinners such as 'Sunday roast', and 'fish and chips', as well as to sample some of the English beers.

Teresa Belcher



Nadia, Pawel and Concha explore Cambridge on a weekend trip.

Med-Vet-Net People – Governing Board

In this issue of Med-Vet-Net News we continue introducing members of our Governing Board.

Professor Steve Edwards, Med-Vet-Net Governing Board Member – VLA

Steve qualified as a veterinarian from Cambridge University, England, in 1972. He spent four years in clinical farm animal practice in the Welsh border country before returning to university at Edinburgh to study for an MSc in Tropical Animal Science. This stimulated his continuing passion for laboratory-based diagnostic investigation work. He then spent two years working in the UK Government's overseas aid programme in El Salvador, Central America, working alongside local counterparts to identify the disease constraints to animal production. The big problems were related to nutrition and to tick-borne parasitic diseases, but there was also plenty of other work related to brucellosis, leptospirosis and rabies.

After a short tour of duty in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Steve joined the Central Veterinary Laboratory (now VLA) at Weybridge in 1980. He led a series of projects on infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) which at that time was causing major disease outbreaks in the UK, and submitted the work as a dissertation to Edinburgh to gain his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (DVM&S).

In 1986, at the tail end of an outbreak of classical swine fever in England, he moved into pestivirus studies and subsequently became recognized as an international expert on classical swine fever, bovine viral diarrhoea and other pestivirus infections.



Dr Joaquin Goyache, Med-Vet-Net Governing Board Member – UCM



Joaquin was born in Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. He has a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Veterinary Faculty of the Complutense University of Madrid where he also completed his PhD in Veterinary Medicine in 1991.

Joaquin is currently Dean of the Veterinary Faculty of the Complutense University of Madrid. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE); Vice-president of the Spanish Conference of Deans of Veterinary Faculties; a member of the Committee for Animal Welfare of the Autonomous Community of Madrid; and president of numerous honorific and scientific committees

Joaquin has more than 50 scientific papers published in indexed international journals and has written more than 30 papers and book chapters devoted to scientific reviews and veterinary education (in Spanish).

Dr Carmen Audera López, Med-Vet-Net Governing Board Member – ISCIII

Carmen was born in Spain. She studied Medicine at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid and graduated in 1979.

After some time as general practitioner in rural Spain, she went to Equatorial Guinea, Africa, working for the Spanish Red Cross as part of the Spanish Official aid to that country. After 18 months she moved with her husband to the USA where she worked as a researcher in Allergy and Immunology for 5 years, first in Philadelphia and then in Boston in both cases at the university.

After returning to Spain she continued working in Allergy research this time in a pharmaceutical company for 5 more years.

At this time her personal life made a turn when her husband, who was also a medical doctor, decided to become a diplomat and was posted to Côte d'Ivoire. She went back to what she really liked, that is, international health issues and development aid. She did a Masters in International Public Health and since then she has worked in different parts of the world: in Australia as lecturer and tutor for a Masters Program of Applied Immunology for Indigenous students at the Australian National University, in Madrid at the National AIDS Program, in charge of AIDS in migrant populations and ethnic minorities, in Geneva, at WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative as medical officer of the capacity-building team, and currently in Spain as Director of the Office for European and International Research Projects.



Workshops

Three workshops will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May:

Workshop 1: Source attribution of human zoonotic infections
6–7 May

Workshop 2: Foodborne disease outbreaks
8–9 May

Workshop 3: GIS in epidemiology
10–11 May

Workshop 1

Learning objectives

The aim of the workshop is to introduce participants to the currently available tools for attributing human Salmonella and Campylobacter infections to the sources responsible.

By the end of the workshop participants should have enhanced their theoretical knowledge and their practical and analytical skills in the following areas:

- Methods for risk attribution
 - * Attribution models based on microbial subtyping
 - * Exposure assessment
 - * Analytical epidemiology (case-control studies)
 - * Outbreak investigations
- Knowledge of the data requirements for the different methods
- Strength and weaknesses of the different approach

Participant profile

Participants should be:

- Epidemiologists with an interest in foodborne disease and foodborne pathogen outbreak investigation, or
- Microbiologists from national reference laboratories (veterinary, food or public health), preferably with practical experience and knowledge on isolation and typing of foodborne pathogens.

All participants should have good English skills and good knowledge of personal computers.

Workshop 2

Learning objectives

The aim of the workshop is to provide training in epidemiology of foodborne disease outbreaks, to provide standardized methods and concepts for detection, investigation, trace-back and response.

By the end of the workshop participants should have enhanced their theoretical knowledge and their practical and analytical skills in the following areas:

- Principles and elements of laboratory based surveillance systems in detection, investigation and control of foodborne disease outbreaks
 - * Epidemiological methods
 - * Descriptive epidemiology
 - * Analytical epidemiology
- Investigation of foodborne disease outbreaks and intervention
- Outbreak data entry, retrieval, analysis and interpretation using the EpiInfo software
- Communication with stakeholders (e.g. government, industry, media)

Participant profile

Participants should be experienced epidemiologists or microbiologists with knowledge of:

- Methods for probabilistic modelling (incl. use of probability distributions, Monte Carlo simulation, etc.) and/or
- Methods for analysing case-control studies (e.g. logistic regression analysis) and/or knowledge on microbial typing of Salmonella and/or Campylobacter (e.g. serotyping, phage typing, susceptibility typing, PFGE)
- Use of microbial subtyping for tracking sources of human infections
- Principles of microbial risk assessment

All participants should have good English skills and good knowledge of personal computers.

Workshop 3

Learning objectives

The aim of the course would be to allow the participants to go back and perform simple analyses on their own.

After the course the participants should be able to:

- Structure, geo-code and display data using GIS
- Analyse the spatial pattern formed by data using spatial statistics

Participant profile

Participants should be trained epidemiologists at Med-Vet-Net Institutions with experience in:

- Working with zoonotic disease datasets
- Foodborne pathogens surveillance
- Data management in spreadsheets or databases

All participants should have good English skills and good knowledge of personal computers.



As this will be an introductory course in GIS with special emphasis on epidemiological aspects, the participants do not need special GIS qualifications. However, it would be helpful if participants had access to GIS software (preferably ESRI software which will be taught at the course) at their home institutions.

Selection criteria

Each workshop will be open to 20 participants. Therefore there is room for one trainee per Med-Vet-Net partner institution per workshop. As these are three individual workshops, each MVN partner can send between one person (to participate in all three workshops) and three different people to participate in each workshop. In addition a few additional seats will be available.

Convenors

Dr Tine Hald
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Dr Danilo Lo Fo Wong
Dept. of Microbiology and Risk Assessment, DFVF
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Dr Steen Ethelberg
Dept. of Epidemiology and Dept of Bacteriology, Statens Serum Institut
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Venue

The venue is the computer laboratory at the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research, 27 Bulowsvej, 1790 Copenhagen, Denmark, and the GIS laboratory at the Department of Geography, University of Copenhagen, Øster Voldgade 10, DK-1350 Copenhagen K.

For more information please contact the Communications Unit (communications@medvetnet.org)

Announcements

Information platform on agri-food research in Europe

AgriFoodResearch.net is an information platform designed for scientists from the agricultural and food sector.

This web site provides a selection of information on the European research programmes in the area of food, agriculture and biotechnology.

Agrifoodresearch.net contains:

- A directory of researchers in the New Member States and in the Candidate Countries. The directory contains more than 2000 researchers.
- A library of FP6 projects: the web site provides detailed information on the 31 Integrated Projects and 12 Network of Excellence financed under the thematic priority Food Quality and Safety of FP6.
- Links to 8 European Technology Platforms related to food, agriculture and biotechnology. The Strategic Research Agendas of each ETP can be downloaded from the web site.
- General information and contact details of key research players in 33 European countries (country profiles).
- Information on 15 ERA-Net relevant to the sector.
- The announcements of meetings, conferences or workshops as well as latest news on the FP7 and on activities of running FP6 projects.
- A database of FP7 calls for proposals.

See: www.agrifoodresearch.net



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.

2007 application form now online:
http://www.the-ba.net/the-ba/scienceinsociety/_Schemes_and_awards/MediaFellowships/index.html

EADGENE Workshop

Interpreting animal health and disease data workshop From Infection to Inference: Interpreting animal health and disease data, 4-5 June 2007, Utrecht, Netherlands

Animal disease data present many challenges. Specialists with expertise in both animal health and data analysis are needed to design experiments and interpret the data, and to translate the results to industry. The challenges become even greater with complex and specialized epidemiological or genetic analyses.

This Workshop aims to facilitate the dialogue between disease experts and specialists in data analysis in order to identify common ground, as well as caveats. This workshop will focus on three contrasting disease categories: mastitis, gut health (e.g. *E. coli* or *Salmonella* infections) and nematodes. The aim of the workshop is to attract both people with a background in animal diseases and those with a background in statistical analyses.

For each topic we have invited disease experts, who will describe the nature of the traits resulting from the disease, as well as specialists in data analysis who will consider issues arising from the disease data and present potential state-of-the-art solutions. Interactive group discussions will probe the issue and come up with research questions and recommendations. This will be a truly cross-fostering workshop in which experts from different fields will learn from each others experiences.

We would particularly welcome participation from disease specialists associated with Med-Vet-Net. You can register for this event and the Genomics for Animal Health Conference, to which it is satellite, at www.sabre-eu.eu.



Caroline Channing
EADGENE Scientific Co-ordinator
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EADGENE is the European Animal Disease Genomics Network of Excellence

ISAAR 2007

Sixth International Symposium on Antimicrobial Agents and Resistance Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore, 7–9 March, 2007

Since 1997, ISAAR has been contributing to gather the relevant data and information on various issues of antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases with regard to the updated epidemiology, mechanism of resistance, new diagnostic methods, therapeutic strategies, and preventive measures. ISAAR became the most representative international meeting on infectious diseases and antimicrobial agents/resistance in the Asian-Pacific region. ISAAR 2007 is hosted by the Asian-Pacific Research Foundation for Infectious Diseases (ARFID) and co-organized by Society of Infectious Diseases, Singapore and many international organizations and academic societies will support ISAAR 2007 as in 2005.

Please visit ISAAR 2007 official website www.isaar.org for more information.

Society for Applied Microbiology, Spring Meeting, A one day meeting on: Broadening Microbiology Horizons Manchester Metropolitan University, 11 April 2007

For more information see: www.sfam.org.uk or contact: Sally Cryer (sally@sfam.org.uk)

SafePork 2007, 7th International Symposium Verona, Italy, 9–11 May 2007.

Epidemiology and control of foodborne pathogens in pork.

Symposium Topics

Potential hazards to public health from pig and pork production:

- Epidemiology in primary production and human disease related to foodborne pathogens from pigs.
 - Interventions/control actions at primary production
 - Epidemiology/control during slaughter and processing.
 - Food contamination (microbes, chemical residues, physical defects)
 - Detection methods (microbes, chemical residues, physical defects)
- Public health policy, economics and trade issues

- Risk analysis (assessment, communication, management)
- Antimicrobial resistance (animal, pork products environment)

For more information see: www.safepork.sistemacongressi.com

American Society of Microbiology Conference, Toronto, Canada, 21–25 May

The scientific program will feature nearly 300 individual colloquia, symposia, roundtable discussions, award lectures, and poster sessions.

See www.gm.asm.org for more information and registration.

Society for Applied Microbiology, Summer Meeting, 'Microbiology of Fresh Produce', Park Plaza Hotel, Cardiff, UK, 2–5 July 2007

For more information see www.sfam.org.uk or contact Sally Cryer (sally@sfam.org.uk)

IAFP 2007, Disney's Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA, 8–11 July 2007

The International Association for Food Protection's Annual Meeting features over 500 technical papers, posters and symposia, detailing current information on a variety of topics relating to food safety.

For more information see <http://www.foodprotection.org/meetingsEducation/2007ammmain.asp>

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

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

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

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

Surviving as a woman in science, EuroSciCon meeting 2 November 2007

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@euoscicon.com

Bioinformatics Workshop – Postponed

The bioinformatics workshop planned for 22 and 23 February has been postponed until 23 and 24 May.

More information on the programme and participants' profile will be available in the next newsletter.



Contact us

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

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