



CSTE UPDATE

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

CSTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Approximately 110 epidemiologists from 33 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, Canada, England, USDA and CDC attended the April 9-12, 1990, annual conference at the Sagamore Resort on Lake George in New York. Guest speakers included Dr. William Roper, Director, CDC; Dr. Denny Scott, President, ASHTO; and Dr. David Axelrod, Commissioner, New York State Health Department.

The meeting was a busy and productive one, with lots of discussions and work groups which resulted in completion of 19 position statements which are summarized below. A new work group of assistant state epidemiologists was formed and will be working on a CSTE hepatitis B surveillance and control plan during the coming year. There were continuing discussions on the role of CSTE and how to maintain its core infectious disease strength while expanding to include epidemiologists from other disciplines (see position statement #19).

NEW CSTE OFFICERS

Dr. Larry Foster (OR) was elected to the office of President-Elect and will serve as Program Chair for next year's annual meeting. Dr. Dennis Perrotta (TX) was elected to the Executive Committee for a three-year term. Executive Committee members for the coming year are as follow:

President	Dr. Dale Morse (NY)
Vice-President	Dr. Gregory Istre (OK)
President-Elect	Dr. Larry Foster (OR)
Secretary-Treasurer	Dr. Charles Woernle (AL)
Members-at-Large	Dr. Edgar Thompson (MS)
	Dr. Kathleen Gensheimer (ME)
	Dr. Dennis Perrotta (TX)

DR. JEFF DAVIS FIRST RECIPIENT OF "PUMP HANDLE AWARD" (GREG ISTRE - OKLAHOMA)

The inaugural National Epidemiology Award (the Pump Handle Award) of the CSTE, which is given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of Applied Epidemiology, was given to Dr. Jeff Davis, State Epidemiologist in Wisconsin. There was a clear consensus that no one is more deserving of the inaugural Pump Handle Award than Jeff. His achievements in epidemiology have been exemplary, and we are indeed proud to have Jeff among our ranks.

Dr. Rick Vogt (VT) was also awarded the Iron Man Award for his endurance as the longest standing member of the Executive Committee and for his contributions to CSTE as Surveillance Committee Chair.

1990 POSITION STATEMENT SUMMARIES

Lyme Disease ---

Recommends that Lyme disease be made a nationally notifiable disease and that states adopt the CSTE approved revised CDC case definition.

2. Electronic Surveillance ---

Recommends a single system be used for all routine electronic communication between CDC/ATSDR and state and local health departments.

3. Embargo of Cynomologus Monkeys ---

Recommends a temporary embargo be placed on importation of cynomologus monkeys until more data is obtained on the risks of filovirus infection and until improved quarantine regulations are developed.

4. Restrict Animal Rabies Vaccines ---

Recommends that the USDA restrict animal rabies vaccine to use by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

5. Coordination of Electronic Surveillance ---

Recommends that CDC further coordinate and consolidate electronic surveillance systems for reporting of nationally notifiable disease data.

6. Approval and Publication of Surveillance Case Definitions ---

Approves the revised case definitions and recommends their publication in the MMWR.

7. Timely Publications of National Disease Surveillance Reports ---

Recommends that CDC review its current policies and establish a timely schedule for publication of summaries for each health event.

8. Extramural Funds for General Communicable Disease ---

Recommends that additional funds be allocated to CID and to state health departments for general communicable disease surveillance and control activities.

9. Surveillance of Elevated Blood Leads ---

Encourages member agencies to institute surveillance for elevated blood lead levels as a notifiable condition and requests CEHIC and NIOSH to actively support lead surveillance and control activities.

10. Coordination Between Federal and State Health Agencies on Outbreak Investigations Involving Products in Interstate Commerce ---
Recommends that CDC take the lead role in organizing a group of interagency representatives from CSTE, FDA, and USDA to develop a plan for coordination of outbreak investigations involving interstate commerce.
11. Increasing the Number of EIS Officers ---
Requests CDC to increase the number of EIS officers to 120 over five years, to give priority to state EIS assignments and to create a plan to retain qualified officers in public health agencies.
12. Funding for Two-Dose Measles ---
Recommends new federal funding to help pay for the recommended second dose of MMR.
13. TB-HIV Surveillance and Control ---
Encourages each state and local healthagency to conduct joint surveillance for HIV and TB infection.
14. Animal Rabies Vaccine ---
Recommends that the American Veterinary Medical Association make every effort to advise veterinarians and animal owners of the inadvisability of administering rabies vaccines to animals other than those that are indicated on the label of the vaccine.
15. Support for State Health Department Epidemiologic Services ---
Recommends that CDC allocate funding to help support the infrastructure of epidemiologic services, including surveillance, in state health departments.
16. Varicella Surveillance --
Recommends that CDC convene a work group to define objectives for varicella surveillance, and to design a model sentinel surveillance system.
17. CSTE Comments on USDA's Interim Salmonella enteritidis Regulations ---
Recommends seven points for which USDA should amend its interim S.E. regulations.
18. Syphilis Control Strategies ---
Recommends that CDC conduct formal evaluations of syphilis control strategies with increased state funding for such activities.
19. Increased Attention by CDC to Non-Infectious Disease Epidemiology Issues ---
Requests the Executive Committee to develop a multifaceted strategy for increasing the CSTE involvement of state-based non-infectious disease epidemiologists.

CSTE CONSULTANT TO ASTHO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SOUGHT

A state epidemiologist is needed to represent CSTE on ASHTO's Management Committee which meets (in exotic places) about three times a year. Call Dr. Dale Morse (518-474-3187) if you are interested.

KAPOSI'S SARCOMA IN HIV-NEGATIVE HOMOSEXUAL/BISEXUAL MEN (TOM PETERMAN - CDC)

Two recent reports suggest that Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) may be caused by a sexually transmitted agent. A study of the epidemiology of AIDS-associated KS reveals associations with: women who had sex with bisexual men vs women whose partners were from other HIV transmission groups: heterosexual men and women from central Africa and Haiti vs other heterosexuals; and persons from areas in the United States where HIV is most prevalent vs persons from other areas--even after controlling for other associations (Lancet 1990;335:123-28). A letter to the editor reported six young homosexual/bisexual men who had biopsy proven KS with no evidence of HIV infection (Lancet 1990;335:168-9). This suggests that the KS agent may have become widespread among homosexual men at about the same time as the HIV. The agent remains a mystery.

Further reports of KS in homosexual/bisexual men who are not infected with HIV are being sought. Please call reports to Tom Peterman, Chief, Viral Studies Section, Division of STD/HIV Prevention, CDC (404-639-2570).

SEND YOUR ARTICLES OR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO:

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