



CSTE UPDATE

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

CSTE RECEIVES FIRST CDC/ASTDR AUXILIARY MISSION SUPPORT AWARD

On June 27, 1990, CSTE was awarded the first CDC/ATSDR Auxiliary Mission Support Award at CDC's Honor Awards Ceremony (see copy on page 3). This award is bestowed upon outside groups or agencies whose services are in support of CDC's mission and which are deserving of special recognition. The award was given "in recognition of State Epidemiologists and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, who have for many years supported and collaborated with CDC in making tremendous strides in disease control and prevention."

Congratulations! The award was possible only through the hard work of CSTE members and our predecessors. Keep up the good work! (P.S. It was a special honor to have received the first award, but perhaps we can ask CDC to consider changing the name to "Primary" rather than "Auxiliary.")

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR CSTE'S 1991 ANNUAL MEETING (LARRY FOSTER - OREGON)

The 1991 CSTE Annual Meeting will be held in San Diego from May 20-23. The meeting will begin early on May 20th, so most of you will want to arrive on May 19.

ASTHO has responded favorably to our wishes to meet together, so this will be a joint meeting with ASTHO. The exact details of what that means are still being worked out, but it probably means sharing a plenary session all morning of the first day and an evening social event.

The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn On The Bay, and George Degnon of ASHTO has negotiated room rates that are quite reasonable. More details, a formal meeting notice and resolutions will follow this fall.

REMEMBER - WE WANT TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT THIS YEAR TO GET ENVIRONMENTAL, OCCUPATIONAL, INJURY, AND CHRONIC DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGISTS TO THE MEETING, SO PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL YOUR COLLEAGUES MARK THE DATE ON THEIR CALENDARS AND START MAKING A LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS AND RESOLUTIONS.

CHAPMAN AMENDMENT DEFEATED

Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Jeff Davis, CSTE prepared a response expressing our concern regarding the inclusion of the Chapman amendment in the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Some key points addressed in CSTE's response included:

"The inclusion of the Chapman amendment in the version of the ADA passed by the House based on arguments related to the fear of transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by mechanisms not grounded in the scientific fact or sound public health practice is extremely disconcerting."

"As I am sure all members of the House and Senate know, at this point in time there is no evidence of transmission of HIV through food or beverage, or in the workplace via casual contact. This amendment is based on public ignorance. It is critical to educate the public regarding this important misconception rather than discriminate against those infected with HIV."

"As probably already apparent to the Conferees, there are existing state and local laws or regulations regarding food handlers ill with infectious diseases transmissible through food. These existing laws make any potentially relevant features of the Chapman amendment totally unnecessary . . . "

"We are concerned that the inclusion of the Chapman amendment will serve to discourage employed individuals who are at high risk of HIV infection from seeking appropriate testing, counseling and the consequent benefits of early intervention because of fear of disclosure of an HIV infection to an employer with attendant loss of a job or profession. Since the Chapman amendment does not add to existing state or local laws or regulations regarding food handlers with an infectious illness transmissible through food, the Chapman amendment only reflects a discriminatory attitude."

P.S. The Chapman amendment was removed and the ADA passed.

MORRIS POTTER, DVM, APPOINTED TO POSITION OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR
FOODBORNE DISEASES, CENTER FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
(MITCH COHEN - CDC)

Dr. Morris Potter has been appointed to serve as the Assistant Director for Foodborne Diseases within the Division of Bacterial Diseases, Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC. In this position, Dr. Potter will coordinate Divisional foodborne activities and be a liaison between other state and federal, academic and industry organizations.

This appointment should help address CSTE's position statement #10 calling for coordination between federal and state health agencies on outbreak investigations involving products in interstate commerce. Dr. Potter has extensive contacts with persons in these agencies; has extensive experience in the foodborne area; has served on four National Academy of Science Committees involving meat poultry and seafood inspection; and is the current chairman of the Food and Waterborne Diseases working group. Dr. Potter's phone number is 404-639-3191.



**CDC AND ATSDR
GROUP HONOR AWARD**

**AUXILIARY MISSION
SUPPORT**

*In Recognition Of
State Epidemiologists And The Council Of
State And Territorial Epidemiologists,
Who Have For Many Years Supported And
Collaborated With CDC In Making
Tremendous Strides In Disease Control And
Prevention.*

JUNE 27, 1990

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR SYSTEM ISSUES
(KATHLEEN GENSHEIMER - MAINE)

On June 29, 1990, representatives from the Influenza Branch, Centers for Disease Control; CSTE (Nancy Cox, PhD, and Margaret Tipple, MD); Mathew Cartter, MD (CT); Kathleen Gensheimer, MD (ME); Richard Vogt, MD (VT); and Industry (Cathy Akiyama; Michael Carter, MD; Yolanda Mauriz, MS; and Alan Leahigh) met to review and to discuss influenza surveillance issues, including the need to coordinate surveillance systems in order to disseminate accurate and consistent information to the public and to the medical community. Hoffman-La Roche presented their efforts to inaugurate their Flu-Track '89-'90 system. They in turn heard Centers for Disease Control's concerns regarding quality laboratory issues as well as the states' perspective on influenza surveillance activities and public health education.

It was agreed that the initial influenza isolate, particularly the first influenza A isolate in a state, generated the most activity and concern. The initial influenza isolate is a trigger for both public health issues and industry action. Hence, it was felt necessary to work closely together when the initial influenza isolate is identified in order to assure collaboration with the public dissemination of information. Hoffman-La Roche agreed to continue submitting laboratory confirmed reports of influenza to the respective states throughout the influenza season and will publicly release such information by metropolitan area. The Centers for Disease Control will commit resources to review issues concerning laboratory quality concerns such as methodology, monoclonal agents, etc.

Hoffman-La Roche and CDC/CSTE have a common interest in educating the public about influenza. The public health approach to influenza has been to target high-risk persons in the fall, before the start of the influenza season, for education and vaccine. The Hoffman-La Roche representatives were urged to refocus their education efforts and join the public health activities in the fall.

In order for CDC/CSTE and Hoffman-La Roche to better coordinate an informational exchange for the 1990-91 influenza season, CDC requests each state to submit the names of the influenza surveillance coordinator, as well as the individual responsible for releasing influenza information to the public. Please send the names, addresses and telephone/fax numbers to Margaret Tipple, MD, Division of Viral Diseases, Centers for Disease Control (404-639-3091).

In addition, CSTE members inquired about the possibility for states to augment local areas where influenza surveillance may be poorly served or even lacking. Names of physician contacts in these areas could be accepted by Hoffman-La Roche into their Flu-Track system. In areas hit hard by diminishing resources for surveillance activities, this opportunity might be well worth pursuing.

Please continue discussion of this issue at your fall regional meetings

Send your articles or ideas for articles for the Newsletter to:

Dale L. Morse, M.D., M.S.
State Epidemiologist
New York State Department of Health
E.S.P., Tower Building, Room 651
Albany, NY 12237-0627