

International Emerging Infections Program Central America and Panama (IEIP-CAP) Quarterly Newsletter

4TH QUARTER, 2007

What is the mission of IEIP-CAP?

Assure a rapid and effective response to emerging infectious disease threats in Central America and Panama by contributing to the capacity of the ministries of health and academic institutions of the region to recognize emerging infections and prevent, control, and treat important infectious diseases.

Introduction to IEIP-CAP

Welcome colleagues, partners, and other interested parties! We hope this bulletin will provide regular, brief updates of IEIP activities in Central America and Panama and allow us to keep in closer contact with stakeholders. For some of you, this newsletter may serve as your introduction to the IEIP program. Briefly, IEIP is a program of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, conducted in conjunction with ministries of health and other academic and research partners, located in five countries around the world: Thailand (2001), Kenya (2004), Guatemala (2006), Egypt (2006), and China (2006). IEIP is part of

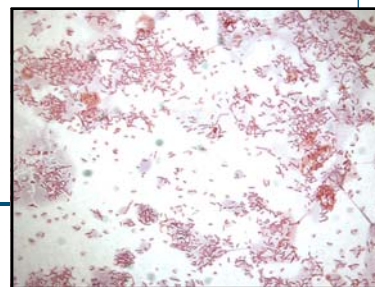
the centers for Global Disease Detection (GDD) in each of these sites, along with the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) and the Influenza program. IEIPs conduct laboratory-enhanced, population-based surveillance for diseases of international and local importance, develop sites for evaluation of public health programs, conduct research on emerging infections, provide training opportunities, and assist in outbreak investigations. The IEIP-CAP mission statement is noted in the upper left, and we are proud to be partnering closely with the Guatemala Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG).

Lest we let our guard down, it is important to remember: "Pathogenic microbes can be resilient, dangerous foes. Although it is impossible to predict their individual emergence in time and place, we can be confident that new microbial diseases will emerge," Institute of Medicine, 1992.

Please pass this newsletter or the Internet address for our website (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/global/ieip) to your colleagues or contacts who may be interested in learning more about our program.

Warm regards,

Kim Lindblade, MPH, PhD
Chief, IEIP-CAP



Campylobacter jejuni, isolated from a 6-year-old female diarrhea patient from rural Santa Rosa.

Report from the First Calendar Year of Population-Based Surveillance in the Department of Santa Rosa

Activities Currently Underway:

- ❖ Diarrhea surveillance
- ❖ Pneumonia surveillance
- ❖ Influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance
- ❖ Meningitis, encephalitis, and acute flaccid paralysis surveillance
- ❖ Diagnostics for diarrhea
- ❖ Blood cultures for pneumonia
- ❖ PCR-based testing for viral and bacterial causes of pneumonia
- ❖ Real-time data collection via personal digital assistants

Syndrome	Date surveillance began	No. screened	No. eligible	No. agreed to participate	No. provided samples
Meningitis	February 2007	293	28	14	14
Encephalitis	February 2007			9	9
Acute flaccid paralysis	February 2007			3	3
Diarrhea	June 2007	895	320	304	286
Pneumonia	November 2007	49	41	37	32
Influenza-like illness	November 2007	332	24	23	22

Updates from the IEIP-CAP Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social de Guatemala (MSPAS) Working Groups

The IEIP-CAP MSPAS working groups, composed of scientists from the CDC, UVG, National Center for Epidemiology, and the National Health Laboratory, met twice in the last quarter of 2007 to share the IEIP mission and develop joint working plans. Initial ideas generated include:

- ❖ Establishment of the Regional Hospital of Cuilapa in Santa Rosa as a sentinel site for influenza, with the addition of capacity to perform immunofluorescence.
- ❖ Identify the reasons for low use of oral rehydration solution for diarrhea and develop a pilot public health program to increase usage.
- ❖ Support viral cultures in the National Lab for positive samples from the population-based surveillance and quality control for a percentage of the negatives.



Meeting of IEIP-CAP and the Guatemala National Center for Epidemiology.

Program Highlights

Abstracts and Presentations

CDC's conference for the Epidemic Intelligence Service (April, Atlanta):

- ❖ *Access to healthcare for pneumonia in Santa Rosa, Guatemala—2006.*
Presented by Dr. Hannah Jordan, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Disease, CDC, Atlanta.
- ❖ *Community household survey to describe healthcare utilization practices and risk factors for diarrheal diseases in the Department of Santa Rosa, Guatemala—2006.*
Presented by Dr. Wences Arvelo, IEIP-CAP, Guatemala.

Infectious Disease Society of America (October, San Diego):

- ❖ *Community household survey to describe healthcare utilization practices and risk factors for diarrheal diseases in the Department of Santa Rosa, Guatemala—2006.*
Presented by Dr. Wences Arvelo, IEIP-CAP, Guatemala.

V Congreso Nacional de Epidemiología (November, Guatemala):

- ❖ *Utilización de servicios de salud para enfermedades tipo influenza e infecciones respiratorias agudas en Guatemala e implicaciones par la vigilancia de influenza.*
Presented by Dr. Kim Lindblade, IEIP-CAP, Guatemala.
- ❖ *Uso de la terapia de rehidratación oral para personas con diarrea en el área rural de Guatemala, 2006.*
Presented by Dr. Wences Arvelo, IEIP-CAP, Guatemala.

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (November, Philadelphia):

- ❖ *Clinical assessment of reported acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in a community-based setting in the Department of Santa Rosa, Guatemala.*
Presented by Dr. Jim Sejvar, National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases, CDC, Atlanta.

Meetings

- ❖ Drs. Lindblade and Arvelo attended the first IEIP Steering Committee meeting in November. Dr. Francisco Ardón, Director of Surveillance for the Guatemalan National Center for Epidemiology, represented the Central American region as IEIP Steering Committee Member. The meeting was held in Atlanta and the committee will provide overall direction for the 5 IEIP sites around the world.
- ❖ The IEIP informatics group (Gerard Lopez and Fredy Muñoz) attended the first annual PDA conference in Atlanta to share ideas and technology and develop norms and guidelines for data collection via PDAs.
- ❖ In September, Dr. Alejandra Estevez and Licda. Laura Grajeda, along with colleagues from the National Health Laboratory (Lic. Jorge Matheu and Licda. Miriam Barrera), attended a workshop on laboratory diagnostics for respiratory diseases at the CDC in Atlanta.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ March 12–14, 2008, Atlanta, GA USA: IEIP Workshop on population-based pneumonia surveillance
- ❖ March 16–19, 2008, Atlanta, GA USA: International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases
- ❖ March 20, 2008, Atlanta, GA USA: Second meeting of the IEIP Steering Group
- ❖ Dr. Francisco Ardón will attend the 2008 International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases in Atlanta as part of the ICEID 2008 Leaders Program sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The ICEID 2008 Leaders Program is designed to bring to the conference leaders from a number of regions of the world, including Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Central America & the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe.



The Nueva Santa Rosa health center, where IEIP-CAP is conducting surveillance for diarrhea and influenza-like illness.

Editorial Board:

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