

EIS Conference 2014
April 28-May 1, 2014

Special Session:

Creative Solutions for Outbreak Data Management and Contact Tracing with Epi Info: Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Outbreaks and Beyond

Speakers: Ilana Schafer, E. Knudsen, A. Islam

Session Overview: In 2012, there were four outbreaks of Ebola and Marburg Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF). During these outbreaks, the investigation team, led by Dr. Ilana Schafer, encountered problems with data management and communication. The team developed the EPI Info VHF tool to help solve data issues and to detect people exposed to the viruses faster. This session will outline the elements of VHF outbreak response, focus on data management needs, and explain how efficient data management can help improve overall outbreak management. Speakers will describe the development process for the EPI info tool, give a brief demonstration of the application, and review the support and feedback received from multiple international organizations involved in the VHF outbreak response. Future applications to epidemiologic investigations of other diseases and plans for the project will also be discussed.