International Society for Disease Surveillance
Research Committee

Date: March 12, 2014
Description: Research Committee Meeting

Notes:

• Announcements
  o New meeting schedule is quarterly instead of monthly
  o Leadership news:
    ▪ Al Ozonoff stepped down as co-chair for analysis and statistics
    ▪ Sylvia Halasz has accepted the open position.

• New collaboration: INFORMS
  o Sylvia introduced us to the organization INFORMS, which does operations and management research applied to health problems
  o INFORMS has chapters in other countries, as well as student chapters in many states in the U.S.
  o See: www.informs.org
  o Some overlap between INFORMS (Health application section) and ISDS missions – may be opportunities to collaborate
  o INFORMS is organized into ‘Sections,’ this might be a good model for Research Committee (e.g., Animal Health Surveillance section)
  o INFORMS 2013: Videos on website of interviews with poster presenters – consider for 2014 ISDS Conference

• Review of recent committee activities
  o Webinars:
    ▪ Analytic Decision Support for Public Health Emergencies
      • 107 attended
      • Favorable responses to the evaluation survey
    ▪ in Silico Surveillance: Informing Surveillance with Simulation
      • 64 attended
      • Favorable responses to the evaluation survey
  o Literature Review
    ▪ January: Animal Health Surveillance
      • 34 registered
      • 18 attended
      • 8 articles summarized

• Upcoming Committee Activities
  o Webinars
    ▪ Project Tycho – April 23rd (Details TBA)
    ▪ Tobacco surveillance – June 24th (Details TBA)
    ▪ Ideas for future webinars:
      • Data integration
Broad topic
- Multi-stream analysis methods
- Possibly a panel including:
  - Howard
  - David Buckeridge
  - Others?

- Non-syndromic processing of chief complaint data
  - Based on Amy Ising’s Technical Convention Committee Use Case
  - Data mining – Text string frequency analysis
  - Interest in topic
  - Try for a panel in August

- Economic utility of surveillance
- Animal surveillance

- Literature reviews
  - Quantitative methods for system-level biosurveillance
    - March 26th, 12-1:30pm ET
    - Register: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/135543594
  - Ideas for future:
    - Vaccine effectiveness, impacts and benefits
    - Evaluation of syndromic surveillance systems
    - Drinking water quality/systems and surveillance

- Award for Outstanding Research Articles in Biosurveillance
  - Discussion of 2013 Process:
    - Presented 1st and 2nd prizes awarded in 2 categories
    - Awardees in the ‘Impact on Field’ category were:
    - Awardees in the ‘Scientific Achievement’ category were:

- Input on 2014 process:
  - Process for developing initial pool
    - Literature Review summaries: Since moved to focused topics for literature review – seems problematic
    - If pull from Zotero – too large of an initial pool
      - How to narrow this down?
        - Break into categorize
- Have a bigger Award Committee to assist
  - Anyone can nominate a paper, which helps bring in broader topics than those covered on the focused literature reviews.

- Some articles are freely available and others are not
  - It seems like the freely available articles have an advantage
  - Perhaps we could contact authors:
    - Could we ask the authors to send their articles?
    - Do authors have the right to authorize redistribution?
    - Even if authors authorized is the person redistributing liable?
    - Better to err on the side of caution

• **Update from Technical Conventions Committee**
  - Organizing additional use cases
    - Seasonal influenza or dengue fever prediction from early ILI or other syndromic or diagnostic data
    - Formation and/or validation of proposed (sub)syndromic classification based on ICD-10 codes.
    - Post-disaster or severe weather event surveillance
    - Surveillance for norovirus, rotavirus, or other specific GI infections
    - Mental health or suicidal ideation surveillance
  - Ideas for increasing engagement?
    - Sharing data: Provide guidance on the ways people could simulate/modify/truncate

• **Student involvement update**
  - Lower student rates
    - Looking into lowering student rate for the ISDS conference
    - Have lowered student membership rate from $35 to $30
  - Social Media evaluation
    - At in-person meeting, there was a suggestion to post events on Face Book (FB) to reach students
    - We have done this for the last few events
    - Tera will be looking at student participation in the events posted on FB compared to previous events that were not
  - Pre-Conference Workshop for beginners
    - Usually have something along these lines, and is well attended
    - ½ day workshop developed for students, and then have a ‘mixer’ in the afternoon
      - Talk to 2014 Pre-Conference Chair about idea
  - Clearinghouse for internships
    - Put a webpage up for public health practice to submit if have internship available
    - Keep as simple as possible

• **Recent Research Committee member publications**
• **Other items**
  - None

**Next steps:**

• Sylvia will continue to build connections with INFORMS
• Register for the March Literature Review: [https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/135543594](https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/135543594)
• If you have input on the Award for Outstanding Research Articles process, please e-mail Al Ozonoff (al.ozonoff@childrens.harvard.edu) and Tera Reynolds (treynolds@syndromic.org).
• Tera will evaluate efforts to post events to FB and student involvement
• Submit your recent publication(s) to be highlighted on the next committee call: [http://www.syndromic.org/publication-submission-form](http://www.syndromic.org/publication-submission-form)
• Next Committee meeting – Wednesday, June 11\(^\text{th}\) at 1pm ET