International Society for Disease Surveillance
Research Committee

Date: September 10, 2014
Description: 2014 Research Committee Meeting
Attendance: Judy Akkina, Katie Suda, Fernanda Dórea, Céline Dupuy, Howard Burkom, Amy Blatt, Sylvia Halasz, Elizabeth Humes, Raymond Hamoonga, Michael Conway, Steve Rigdon, Semoy Legall, Sabine Jacques

Notes:

New ISDS Staff Liaison – Lauren Johnson
- Email: ljohnson@syndromic.org
- Phone: 617-779-0880

Webinar Update
  - Total Attended: 50
  - Received really productive feedback with 63% saying this was directly relevant to their work and 32% saying they will change how they do something in response to the webinar
- Do not have a Webinar topic for September due to Awards
- Next:
  - October: Animal Health Surveillance
  - Data source Integration/Fusion (November?)
    - Howard wrote 3 potential people from Sweden
    - Analytic Methods – Public health users and research
  - Syndromic Surveillance
    - Mike spoke with Annette – January?
    - Also open to other Countries!
  - NC DETECT use case – Amy is organizing for Spring

Literature Review Update
- Special Literature Review conducted on August 12, 2014
- 15 Attended
- Still doing Friday Literature Review calls and continuing with maintenance of Zotero Database

Awards Update
- Two Awardees for conference have confirmed
- Two Awardees have still not confirmed on whether they will be attending the conference

Survey Update
- Survey sent out on 9/8/2014 – to all ISDS Members and to Research Committee
- Survey has received 68 responses so far

Possible New Group: Surveillance Oriented R-Programming
- Looking into forming new interest group in R-Programming
R is available at no cost and has a growing user community

General Interest:
- Amy Blat: Yes, there is a growing group of people using R
- Mike Conway: concerned with problems with the scale of R
  - may not be the best for large data sets
- Nanda: R can be coded in C++ and this would be very supported

**People can email Lauren or Howard with interest in the R-Programming Group**

Technical Conventions Update
- IDSD has received 2-year funding from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- Invited session given at Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston to generate interest among statistician developers
- 2 Abstracts have been submitted for the ISDS Conference
  - New Cases
  - Effective relationships of public health with statisticians
- Committee Call planned for after abstract decisions

Upcoming Annual Conference
- Abstract Submission has closed: 265 Abstracts submitted
- Lit Review committee submitted an abstract about process of searching Scopus and entering into Zotero
- Face to Face committee meeting will happen at the conference
  - Committee will have table at Swap Meet
    - Volunteers to man table needed
    - Add info about new interest group for R
  - Looking into a networking night/event for Students
    - Get student more involved
    - Let students know who main people are
    - Something for Abstract Awardees?

Other Topics/Ideas

Next steps:
- Judy will follow up on networking event for students at conference
- Webinars: Mike will follow up with Annette Hulth on topic of Syndromic Surveillance in Sweden, Howard will follow up with webinar on analytic methods, Judy will fix a date for the webinar on Animal Health Surveillance in the U.S.
- Lauren will compile the survey results