

Conference for Food Protection 2008-2010
Executive Board Meeting Committee Update – Interdisciplinary Foodborne Illness Training
Committee Report

Date of Committee Report: July 21, 2009

Submitted By: Michèle Samarya-Timm, Chair
Elizabeth Bugden, Co-Chair

Committee Charge(s): To work with the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) and investigate establishing standards for foodborne illness training programs and report back to the 2010 Biennial Meeting.

Committee Membership (Name, Constituency, Employer and email):

No changes to the committee roster have been made.

Progress Report/Committee Activities:

The Interdisciplinary Foodborne Illness Training Committee has created a regular schedule of quarterly conference calls to work in an expeditious manner toward meeting the committee charge. However, our May 5th call was cancelled due to conflicts with H1N1 response by a number of committee members.

Our committee has reviewed the potential synergy between CIFOR Training assessment, and this committee's charge. The CIFOR committee is looking at *gaps* in training (accessibility, content). This CFP committee is looking at establishing a *standard* for programs for voluntary accreditation (more content based.)

This committee challenged members with the following action items:

1. Identify principles that guide how standards are developed and any examples of how standards are developed.
2. Make a list of accreditations and certifications that are highly regarded and make a list of the essential components (what's needed, how often is it renewed, syllabus, etc.)
3. Consider essential components for certification of foodborne illness outbreak investigations

After review of a comprehensive list that addressed action items 1 & 2, the committee is now focusing on item 3; What should accreditation or certification of foodborne illness outbreak investigations include?

The committee will look at the new CIFOR guidelines to help facilitate our efforts, and will also identify and consider what criteria could be used to approve food safety trainings, and how to determine if a program is qualified.

At this time, this committee is working toward building on the information compiled thus far, determining what topics should be included in foodborne illness/foodborne outbreak training programs, including discussion of prerequisites for learning.

The FDA convened a Partners meeting in May, and established a training workgroup to determine essential training needs of state/local health officials. This committee will also explore the possibility of synergy with this FDA group to meet our charge.

Future committee conference calls are scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of each quarter, at 10:00am – 11:30am EST:

- o August 4, 2009
- o November 3, 2009
- o February 2, 2010

Additional calls may be added to meet the deliverables of the Committee Charge in time for the April 2010 CFP conference.

Requested action:

No action required at this time.

