



2011 GREAT LAKES BORDER HEALTH INITIATIVE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Pan-Border Public Health and Cross-Border Connections



Niagara Falls, New York, May 5, 2011

GLBHI Committee Meetings, May 4, 2011

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GLBHI was formed to meet the requirements of the Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) grant. The GLBHI/EWIDS project is supported through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services - Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (DHHS-ASPR).



WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2011 Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI) Annual Conference! We hope you'll not only hear some excellent presentations, but also find the time useful for networking and collaborating. After all, GLBHI's primary goal is to improve early warning infectious disease surveillance at our international borders, and one of the best ways to do that is by knowing who to call!

The 2011 GLBHI Annual Conference Planning Team:

- Barbara Altman, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
- Morgan Barnes, Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care
- Richard Buck, New York State Dept. of Health
- Calli Citron, Public Health Agency of Canada
- Justine Hartley, Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care
- Diane Krueger, Michigan Dept. of Community Health
- Shirley Madewell, New York State Dept. of Health

- Jenny Pierquet, University of Minnesota
- Val Reed, Michigan Dept. of Community Health
- Mary Rutherford, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Jocelyn Stoate, Canadian Federal Dept. of Justice
- Socrates Tuch, Ohio Department of Health
- Amy Westbrook, Minnesota Dept. of Health



HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

Please keep the following in mind:

- ◆ Please place your **cell phones and pagers** on vibrate or silent, and take urgent calls outside of, and away from, session entry doors.
- ◆ Take a moment to locate the **nearest exits** in case of an emergency.
- ◆ Conference planning team members are designated as such on their name tags. They can assist you with any concerns that you may have.
- ◆ **Speaker biographies** begin on page 5 of this document.
- ◆ Complete the **evaluation form** included in your folder, as each session concludes, and finish with the overall evaluation of the conference. Return to the attendee check-in table or a planning team member before you depart. Your responses are very important to us, and will help ensure that future events are as useful as possible for our partners.
- ◆ Presentations provided to GLBHI by the speakers will be available soon on the GLBHI website at www.michigan.gov/borderhealth.
- ◆ **Thank you** to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response for support of this conference and many GLBHI activities through the Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Grant.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

This one-day conference is an opportunity for public health, clinical, laboratory, legal, food protection and emergency management professionals who work along the international borders of Canada and the United States to gather and discuss ongoing collaborative work on infectious disease surveillance.

The purpose of this conference is to:

- ◆ Introduce individuals to the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative, highlight the group's accomplishments since the 2009 strategic planning workshop and 2010 conference, and share plans for future endeavors.
- ◆ Increase vertical and lateral communications among federal, Tribal/First Nation, state/provincial, and local public health, clinical, laboratory, legal, food protection and emergency management partners in the Great Lakes region.
- ◆ Increase pan-border connections and communications among public health partners and other cross-border initiatives.
- ◆ Identify infectious disease and laboratory surveillance systems of neighboring jurisdictions.
- ◆ Improve collaboration in infectious disease prevention and control in the Great Lakes region.
- ◆ Improve international responses to incidents in the Great Lakes region by strengthening relationships among key staff from public health, food protection, clinicians, laboratory personnel and emergency response agencies.



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday Afternoon, May 4, 2011 – GLBHI Committee Meetings

* All meetings listed on the agenda, including the Social, will be held at The Conference Center Niagara Falls.

12:00 NOON – 1:00 PM	LUNCH	<i>Cataract Room</i>
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For All Steering Committee and Subcommittee Members

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS	<i>(Rooms Listed Below)</i>
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|---|--|
| ▶ Food Protection and Defense – <i>Hennepin</i> | ▶ Laboratory – <i>Tubman</i> |
| ▶ Legal – <i>Tesla</i> | ▶ Surveillance & Communications – <i>Whitney</i> |

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	AFTERNOON BREAK	<i>Hallway Outside Meeting Rooms</i>
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3:15 PM - 5:00 PM	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING	<i>Red Jacket Room</i>
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Wednesday Evening, May 4 – Pre-Conference Arrivals

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	GLBHI SOCIAL EVENT	<i>The Conference Center (Room TBA)</i>
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6:30 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	
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Thursday, May 5, 2011 – Conference

* Presentations are subject to change in the event of an emergency.

* All presentations and meals listed on the agenda will be held at The Conference Center Niagara Falls.

* Business casual dress; we also suggest layering, as temperature may vary in the session rooms.

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM	ATTENDEE CHECK-IN / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	<i>Reception Area (Grand Foyer) / Cascades Ballroom</i>
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8:45 AM – 9:05 AM	CONFERENCE WELCOME	<i>Cascades Ballroom</i>
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Dr. Greg Young, Associate Commissioner of Health/Director of Western Region Office in Buffalo, New York State Department of Health



2011 GREAT LAKES BORDER HEALTH INITIATIVE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES, CONFERENCE AGENDA, SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

9:05 AM – 9:30 AM

PLENARY SESSION 1

Cascades Ballroom

“GLBHI AND CANADA-U.S. PAN BORDER PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL REVIEW AND UPDATES” – Diane Krueger, PhD; & Richard Buck, Border Health Manager/Tribal Health Liaison, NYSDOH, Office of Health Emergency Preparedness

9:30 AM – 9:35 AM

TRANSITION TIME

9:35 AM – 10:35 AM

BREAKOUT SESSION I

(Rooms Listed Along the Left)

SESSION A
*Governor's
Amphitheater*

“CROSS-BORDER EMS TRANSPORT” - Steve Shakman, JD; & Cathy Francis

SESSION B
*Cascades
Ballroom*

“ZOOSES: CONVERGENCE OF ANIMAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH” - John Tilden, DVM;
& Todd Johnson, DVM

SESSION C
Red Jacket Room

“ONTARIO OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT: WHEN DOES AN OUTBREAK BECOME AN EMERGENCY? THE ONTARIO PERSPECTIVE” - Brian Schwartz, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP

10:35 AM – 10:45 AM

TRANSITION TIME

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

PLENARY SESSION 2

Cascades Ballroom

“CASE STUDIES HIGHLIGHTING UNUSUAL OUTBREAKS AND CROSS-BORDER ALERTING” - Yvonne Whitfield, MPH(c); Christina Hidalgo, MPH; Susan Bohm, MS; & Diane Krueger, PhD

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

LUNCH

Cataract Room

12:45 AM – 1:45 PM

PLENARY SESSION 3

Cascades Ballroom

“THE CROSS-BORDER TRAVELER WITH ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS – PUBLIC HEALTH LAW ISSUES” - Curi Kim, MD, MPH; Melisa Thombley, JD, MPH; Elizabeth Kuruvila, LLB, LLM; & Steve Shakman, JD, Session Moderator

1:45 PM – 1:55 PM

AFTERNOON BREAK / TRANSITION TIME

1:55 PM – 2:55 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION II

(Rooms Listed Along the Left)

SESSION D
Red Jacket Room

“COLLABORATING WITH AMERICAN INDIAN/FIRST NATIONS” - Marilyn Anderson, BA, Seneca Nation of Indians; Matthew Patterson, Tuscarora Indian Nation; & Elaine Roman, BSN



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1:55 PM – 2:55 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION II - *continued*

SESSION E
*Cascades
Ballroom*

“SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE” - Morgan Barnes, MHSc; Linda Cleroux, BSN; Paul J. Edelson, MD [Speaker & Session Moderator]; Adam van Dijk, MSc; Charlene Weng, MS; Brian Winchester, MSc

SESSION F
*Governor’s
Amphitheater*

“THE REGULATION OF RAW MILK IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES” - Paul Kaufman, JD; John Sheehan, ESQ; & Douglas Spanier, JD

2:55 PM – 3:05 PM

TRANSITION TIME

3:05 PM – 4:05 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION III

(Rooms Listed Along the Left)

SESSION G
Red Jacket Room

“AMERICAN INDIAN/FIRST NATIONS RESIDING ON THE U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER” - Lynne Thompson, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

SESSION H
*Cascades
Ballroom*

“CROSS-BORDER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN / EXERCISE” - Richard Buck, Border Health Manager/Tribal Health Liaison, NYSDOH, Office of Health Emergency Preparedness; & William Prudhon II, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, Champlain, NY

SESSION I
*Governor’s
Amphitheater*

“FIORP, CIFOR AND FOODBORNE ILLNESS OUTBREAK CASE STUDIES” - Lisa Hainstock, RS; Carrie Rigdon, PhD, MPH; & Karen Jessett, BSc

4:05 PM – 4:15 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Cascades Ballroom

CLOSING REMARKS WITH DISCUSSION FROM ATTENDEES; COMPLETION OF EVALUATIONS

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Marilyn Anderson, BA

Associate Director of Community Health Services, Seneca Nation Health Systems

Ms. Anderson, with a degree in Sociology, has served the Seneca Nation Health Systems in various capacities for over 25 years. She has worked as a Social Worker, Social Services Coordinator, Health Services Administrator, Assistant Health Director, Health Director and currently, as an Associate Director of Community Health Services. She worked on the grassroots project to obtain funding for this program through Indian Health Services, and is pleased to see that program develop over time.



Morgan Barnes, MHS

Public Health Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

Ms. Barnes serves in the Surveillance Section of the Health Prevention & Protection Branch, Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Health and Safety from Ryerson University, and a Master in Health Science in Community Health and Epidemiology.

Susan Bohm, MS

Epidemiologist Manager, Michigan Department of Community Health

Ms. Bohm has held several positions at Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) since 2001. She has served as a Regional Epidemiologist, and a Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Epidemiologist. She is currently the Enteric & Respiratory Illnesses Unit Manager in the Surveillance & Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section. Prior to coming to MDCH, she held several research assistant positions at the Department of Epidemiology of Michigan State University, and had a long career in scientific journal publishing at the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa. She received a Master of Science in Epidemiology from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences from the University of Toronto.

Richard Buck, BSc

Border Health Manager / Tribal Liaison, Office of Health Emergency Preparedness, New York State Department of Health

Mr. Buck serves as Border Health Manager and Tribal Liaison in the Office of Health Emergency Preparedness for the New York State Department of Health, located in Albany, New York. He has worked in the health emergency preparedness field for the past six years. His portfolio includes a focus on disease surveillance and communication projects with emphasis on the Canada-U.S. border region, and health emergency planning and preparedness with eight American Indian Nations across the state. Mr. Buck holds a degree in Public Health Administration.

Paul Edelson, MD

Medical Officer, U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Division of Global Migration & Quarantine, JFK International Airport

Dr. Edelson is the Quarantine Medical Officer at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) JFK Quarantine Station in New York City. He is a graduate of SUNY-Downstate and a specialist in infectious diseases who taught in Boston and New York before joining the CDC.

Linda Cleroux, BSN

Infectious Diseases Program Coordinator, Eastern Ontario Health Unit

Ms. Cleroux, in her current position at the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, is responsible for coordinating the communicable/infectious disease, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, and emergency preparedness programs. Her nursing career has included acute care and community nursing. Ms. Cleroux joined public health in 1996 and began working in infectious diseases in 2001. She graduated from nursing at Algonquin College in 1988, and has just completed her post-RN Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Ottawa.

Cathy Francis

Manager, Education and Patient Care Standards, Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

Ms. Francis is a former paramedic and ambulance communications officer for Ontario. As the Manager of Education and Patient Care Standards with the Emergency Health Services Branch of the Ministry of Health, she



oversees the development and maintenance of standards for paramedic practice, patient care equipment and documentation. Ms. Francis is also the Registrar for the Primary Care Paramedic, Advanced Care Paramedic, Flight Paramedic and Ambulance Communications Officer credentialing programs.

Lisa Hainstock, RS

Food Safety Specialist, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Ms. Hainstock began working for the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Food & Dairy Division as Food Safety Specialist and Food Recall Coordinator in 2002. She currently serves as a representative of the Association of Food & Drug Officials on the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR). She is also an adjunct instructor at Michigan State University, lecturing on foodborne illness and recalls at the International Food Safety Course held several times yearly. She received a Bachelor in Science in Biochemistry from Northern Michigan University, and has worked in environmental health at local and state government for over 20 years. She began her career in 1990 as a health sanitarian at the Delta-Menominee District Health Department in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and has been a Registered Sanitarian since 1993.

Christina Hidalgo, MPH

Regional Epidemiologist, New York State Department of Health

Ms. Hidalgo, as a Regional Epidemiologist for the Western Region of the New York State Department of Health, serves 17 counties, playing a role in public health interventions focusing on disease control activities. In this position, she conducts surveillance and provides consultation and control recommendations for emergency infections, nosocomial infections and outbreaks. Ms. Hidalgo received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Buffalo.

Karen Jessett, BSc

Acting Associate Executive Director, Ontario Operations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Ms. Jessett graduated with her degree in Microbiology and has spent 31 years within various Government of Canada department and agencies involved in food safety. She worked for Health Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and currently serves the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Ms. Jessett currently acts as the Associate Executive Director of Ontario Operations. Prior to this position, she was Director of Food Feed and Fertilizer research for their laboratories across Canada.

Todd Johnson, DVM

Area Emergency Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services, U.S.
Department of Agriculture

Dr. Johnson has served as the Area Emergency Coordinator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) for New York and New Jersey since 2008. He was the Vermont State Veterinarian from 1999 to 2003, and served as the U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS VS Veterinary Medical Officer in New York from 1993 to 1999, and in that same role in Vermont from 2003 to 2008. Dr. Johnson was a large animal/dairy practitioner in Vermont from 1987 to 1992, having graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1987.

Paul Kaufman, JD

Counsel, Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

Mr. Kaufman works primarily with the Ministry of Health's public health division and the office of Ontario's Chief



Medical Officer of Health. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degrees from the University of Toronto. He was called to the Ontario Bar in 2005 and has been working with the Ministry of Health legal branch since that time.

Curi Kim, MD, MPH

Medical Officer, U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Detroit Quarantine Station

Dr. Kim holds the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. She is the Quarantine Medical Officer at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Detroit Quarantine Station and has served as the Travel Restriction & Intervention Activity Lead as well as the Surveillance Team Lead for the CDC Division of Global Migration & Quarantine/Quarantine & Border Health Services Branch. Dr. Kim received her Bachelor of Science (1992) and Master in Public Health (1998) from the University of Michigan, and her medical degree (2002) from Wayne State University. She is board certified in both family and preventive medicine.

Elizabeth Kuruvila, LLB, LLM

Legal Counsel, Department of Justice, Business & Regulatory Law Portfolio, Health Canada

Ms. Kuruvila currently serves as Legal Counsel at the Health Legal Services Unit of the Department of Justice, Canada. She advises the Public Health Agency and Health Canada on various issues related to public health, quarantine and emergency preparedness and response. Prior to this, she was a Legal Analyst at the Library of Parliament in Canada, and has assisted parliamentarians and parliamentary committees on a variety of issues related to international trade law and agriculture. Ms. Kuruvila has been called to the Bar in Ontario, Canada and in Kerala, India.

Diane Krueger, PhD

GLBHI/EWIDS Project Coordinator, Michigan Department of Community Health

Dr. Krueger currently serves as the Michigan state lead for GLBHI, co-chair of GLBHI's Steering Committee, and the U.S. GLBHI representative to the Canada-U.S. Pan Border Public Health Preparedness Council. She has served as the GLBHI Project Coordinator at Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) since October 2009. Prior to her current position, she has worked as a county health department emergency preparedness coordinator and environmental sanitarian, a hydrogeologist with an environmental consulting firm, and has 10 years college teaching experience in geological, environmental and earth sciences. Her Ph.D. comes from the University of Missouri in geology, and she also has a background in biology.

Matthew Patterson

Emergency Manager, Tuscarora Indian Nation

Mr. Patterson is the Emergency Manager for the Tuscarora Indian Nation, stationed in Sanborn, New York.

William Prudhon II

Supervisory Officer, Emergency Preparedness/Health & Safety, U.S. Customs & Border Protection

Mr. Prudhon serves as a Supervisory Officer of Emergency Preparedness/Health & Safety with U.S. Customs & Border Protection at the Chaplain Port-of-Entry, Champlain, New York.

Carrie Rigdon, PhD, MPH

Research Scientist, Minnesota Department of Agriculture



Dr. Rigdon is a research scientist and member of the Rapid Response Team at the Dairy & Food Inspection Division of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. She assists in food and feed-related investigations, serves as a liaison with the other state and federal agencies, and consults the Dairy & Food Inspection Division on foodborne illness epidemiology and public health risk assessment issues. Dr. Rigdon earned her Ph.D. in Environmental Health from the University of Minnesota and her Master in Public Health in Epidemiology from San Diego State University.

Elaine Roman, BSN

Director of Public Health Planning & Emergency Preparedness, Niagara County Department of Health

Ms. Roman currently serves as the Division Director for Public Health Planning & Emergency Preparedness, as well as the Public Information Office, at the Niagara County Department of Health. She chairs the regional Buffalo-Erie-Niagara Urban Area Security Initiative Public Health Sector, works as the Niagara County Medical Reserves Corps Coordinator, and chairs the GLBHI Ad Hoc Education and Training Subcommittee. Ms. Roman graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from State University of New York at Buffalo, has taken some Master of Public Health coursework, and is currently enrolled in the Center of Homeland Defense & Security Master degree program. She has worked 20 years for the Niagara County Department of Health.

Brian Schwartz, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP

Director, Emergency Management Support, Ontario Agency for Health Protection & Promotion

Dr. Schwartz serves as Director of Emergency Management Support and is a scientific advisor to the Emergency Management Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care. He is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. He chaired the Ontario Scientific Response Team as part of the provincial pandemic H1N1 2009 response. In 2003 he was Vice-Chair of the SARS Scientific Advisory Committee. Dr. Schwartz practiced emergency medicine for over 30 years in community and academic settings, and in that capacity served as Medical Director for both the Toronto base hospital and special operations and emergency response teams for more than 15 years.

Steve Shakman, JD

Legal Affairs Coordinator (Retired), Minnesota Department of Health

Mr. Shakman is currently completing a post-retirement contract with the Minnesota Department of Health. He served as the Legal Affairs Coordinator for the emergency preparedness program for 9 years, working on legislation, quarantine powers, mutual aid, tribal relations, volunteer issues, and other disaster response planning. Mr. Shakman held the position of Minnesota Assistant Attorney General for 25 years, working in environmental, natural resource and public health areas. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degrees from Harvard University.

John Sheehan, ESQ

Director, Division of Plant & Dairy Food Safety, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Mr. Sheehan has been the Director for the Division of Plant & Dairy Food Safety since its formation in 2006 within the newly-formed Office of Food Safety at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA's) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Prior to that, he was the Director for the Division of Dairy and Egg Safety within the Office of Plant and Dairy Food Safety at that same Center. He has been with FDA since July 2000. Previously, Mr. Sheehan was a mid-level manager within the dairy industry for 17 years. He has worked for some of America's largest and most progressive dairy foods organizations. Mr. Sheehan is also an attorney and an active member of both the California and U.S. Patent Bars. Lastly, since 2002, he has served as the U.S. Alternate Delegate to the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products.



Doug Spanier, JD

Attorney, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Mr. Spanier has been employed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for 16 years, working on everything from legislative issues to enforcement actions. He graduated from St. Johns University with a degree in English, then from William Mitchell College of Law with his Juris Doctorate degree. He was a law clerk in Minnesota for one year, then launched into his career as an attorney with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Melisa (Lisa) Thombley, JD, MPH

Public Health Analyst, U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Ms. Thombley is a Public Health Analyst with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC's) Division of Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination. As such, she provides legal technical assistance to TB programs with state and local health departments. She also serves as a liaison to CDC's Office of the General Counsel and works closely with attorneys in this office on federal legal matters related to TB. Ms. Thombley joined the CDC as a Public Health Law Fellow in the Public Health Law Program in 2006, focusing on legal issues related to TB and other communicable diseases, mutual aid, tribal public health, lead poisoning, and injury prevention. She earned her law degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2006, a Master of Public Health in Health Policy from Emory University in 2008, and is licensed to practice law in the state of Georgia.

Lynne Thompson

Health Educator/Emergency Manager, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services

Ms. Thompson is the Health Educator and Emergency Manager for St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services, working out of Akwesasne, New York.

John Tilden, DVM, MPH

Food Safety Planning & Response Manager, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Dr. Tilden currently works with the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (USDA) as the manager of their Food Safety Planning & Response Unit. He has worked in a variety of positions related to animal and public health since he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University in 1983. He also has a Master of Public Health from John Hopkins. Dr. Tilden has diverse experience working with issues spanning food and agricultural networks. He has worked as a dairy veterinarian, served as an Environmental Health Officer with the U.S. Air Force, worked as a USDA Veterinary Medical Officer, and served as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Adam van Dijk, MSc

Epidemiologist, KFL&A Public Health

Mr. van Dijk currently serves as the communicable disease epidemiologist with Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Public Health. His areas of expertise include infectious diseases and syndromic surveillance with a primary focus on respiratory disease tracking. He also has extensive knowledge of the acute care health system through the monitoring of emergency department data from 50 hospitals across Ontario along with numerous other data sources, which can be combined to give a more complete picture of a community's health status. Mr. van Dijk's partnership with the Queen's University Public Health Informatics Team has given him the opportunity to further delve into issues such as deprivation and health outcomes, and their correlation to the use of primary care. He received his Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences from Brock University (2003) and his Master of Science in Epidemiology from Queen's University (2006).



Charlene Weng, MS

Program Research Specialist, Division of Epidemiology, New York State Department of Health

Ms. Weng is a Program Research Specialist with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Her primary responsibility is to manage and maintain the NYSDOH's Electronic Syndromic Surveillance System and conduct syndromic surveillance research. Prior to her current position, Ms. Weng has worked on infectious disease research and surveillance, and social behavioral research with disadvantaged populations. She received two Master degrees in Community Counseling and Biostatistics from State University of New York at Albany.

Yvonne Whitfield, MPH(c)

Senior Program Consultant, Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

Ms. Whitfield serves as a Senior Program Consultant with the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care in the Health Prevention & Protection Branch, Enteric, Zoonotic and Vectorborne Diseases Unit. She has more than 20 years of combined experience in public health. Ms. Whitfield obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology from York University, and a diploma in Environmental Health from British Columbia Institute of Technology. She is currently near completion of a Master in Public Health at the University of Guelph-Ontario.

Brian Winchester, MSc

Epidemiologist, Public Health Agency of Canada

Mr. Winchester currently serves as an epidemiologist for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). He has worked with PHAC's FluWatch since the 1996-1997 flu season. He handles all their routine data on a weekly basis, because PHAC's Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases produces FluWatch and respiratory virus result reports for Canada weekly. Mr. Winchester studied human physiology, which helps him with his understanding of influenza.