2007 GLBHI Conference Draws Largest Audience Yet

LANSING, MI, June 16, 2007 -- The fourth annual Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI) Conference was held on June 13-15, 2007 in Niagara Falls, New York and received rave reviews from its more than 200 attendees. This marked the first time since its inception that the conference was held outside of Michigan.

GLBHI is comprised of six US states and one Canadian province (Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin) in the Great Lakes region that share a common goal: enhancing early warning infectious disease surveillance at our international borders. GLBHI is funded through the Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) cooperative agreement provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Each year, GLBHI organizes a conference inviting local, state and federal representatives from both Canada and the United States to participate as a means of introducing and further cementing relationships established across the borders. This year's conference, *Partnerships to Improve Identification of International Infectious Disease Issues*, was held with a focus on international food safety and defense. It featured many high profile speakers from the governmental and private sectors in topics ranging from the keynote addresses on food safety and regulation, the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations and the European Union's Early Warning Response System to breakout sessions on topics such as norovirus and botulism, cross-border communications, the role of the laboratory, plus an in-depth facilitated discussion about applying isolation and quarantine scenarios involving local tribes and First Nations.

A tabletop exercise, facilitated by Donald Tillery and the University of Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness, was also held, featuring deliberate E. coli contamination by self-proclaimed terrorists at a produce distribution center servicing Canadian and American food retailers.

Overall, the 2007 Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference was a great success thanks to presenters and participants that contributed a wealth of 'in the field' expertise and represented over twenty jurisdictions in both the United States and Canada.

If you did not attend this year and would like to be notified regarding the GLBHI conference next year, please contact Kathy Allen-Bridson (517/335-8199 or allen-bridsonk@michigan.gov) or Michelle Bruneau (517/335-6533 or bruneaum@michigan.gov).

Photos are now available of the plenary and tabletop sessions.

The Food Safety & Defense Conference Summary is also available.

Slides from numerous presentations from this year's conference are below for you to download and peruse at your convenience. Thank you for your interest!

Presentations*:

Plenary Session - Surveillance Internationale - Dr. Wolf Maier

Plenary Session - Food Network - Joseph Corby

Plenary Session - Food Network - Jay Holmes

Plenary Session - International Health Regulations - Introduction

Plenary Session - International Health Regulations - Andre LaPrairie

Plenary Session - International Health Regulations - Heather Horton

Plenary Session - International Health Regulations - Dennis Brodie

Plenary Session - International Health Regulations - Judith W Munson

Plenary Session - International Health Regulations - Dr. Kumanan Wilson

Session 102 - Norovirus: A Modern Day Scourge - Dr. Nadine Sicard & Jerome Latreille

Session 103 - International Food Trade - Robert Hart

Session 103 - International Food Trade - Howard Stanley

Session 104 - Education & Training: Discussion - Patricia Anders & Lorna Will

Session 201 - Leveraging Cross-Border Alerting Systems: CIOSC & Epi X - Amanda Evanson

Session 201 - Leveraging Cross-Border Alerting Systems: CIOSC & Epi X - Stephen Parker

Session 203 - The (Food)Borne Identity - Joan Trankle

Session 203 - The (Food)Borne Identity - Dr. Vinita Dubey

Session 204 & 304 - Applying Isolation & Quarantine Scenarios Involving Tribes/First Nations - Denise Chrysler & Steve Shakman

Session 204 & 304 - Applying Isolation & Quarantine Scenarios - Mutual Aid Agreement

Session 204 & 304 - Applying Isolation & Quarantine Scenarios - Data Sharing Agreement

Session 301 - Laboratorian to the Rescue! - Maureen Sullivan

Session 301 - Laboratorian to the Rescue! - Dr. Abdul Chagla, Bruce Ciebin, John Jessop, and Peter McEwan

Session 302 - The Western New York Public Health Alliance - Kristina Young & Dr. Anthony Billittier

Session 303 - Connecting the Dots - Dr. Andrea Ellis

**Some presentations were not able to be distributed. We apologize for the inconvenience.*

For more information regarding the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative and for a list of the participating state/provincial project leaders and their contact information, please visit http://www.michigan.gov/borderhealth.