

Dear Colleague:

We would like to invite you to participate in a consultation on cross border syndromic surveillance, held on June 11th & 12th, 2007 in Kingston, Ontario. This consultation has been funded by the International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The objective of the consultation is to develop expert, consensus-based recommendations that address specific, unsettled problems or unanswered questions that hinder advances in cross border syndromic surveillance. In addition, we hope to strengthen the collaborative links between relevant partners from both sides of the Canadian (Ontario) and United States borders, with representatives from Michigan, New York, Vermont and Maine.

The consultation will include a discussion of the specifics of existing Can/U.S. syndromic surveillance systems and the opportunities and challenges of new developments particularly focused on the ability to detect and respond to a bioterrorism event or infectious disease outbreak. Much of the work of existing program such as the Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) program has focused on data sharing of notifiable/reportable disease reports. We hope to build upon this work while focusing specifically on the research and practice of syndromic surveillance. Discussions will address alert /data sharing, spatial analysis and mapping, representativeness of systems, and emergency preparedness and response protocols for cross border syndromic surveillance.

We have made arrangements for all participants to stay at Queen's University conference centre with transportation provided to the meeting location, KFL&A Public Health. You will be reimbursed for travel and accommodation costs and all meals are included (details and agenda attached). We would be honoured to have you participate and contribute your expertise towards making this a truly successful consultation. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to confirm your availability.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kieran M. Moore, MD
 Project Director
 QUESST (Queen's University Emergency Syndromic Surveillance Team) www.quesst.ca

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Details:

- **Lodging**

Donald Gordon Conference Centre
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario

Reserved for Sunday June 10th and Monday June 11th. A hot breakfast is included.
*additional lodging may be available for those who need to stay one day on either side of the consultation dates (please check with us for availability)

Transportation to and from the lodging and consultation venue (KFL&A Public Health approx 5-10 minutes away) will be provided.

- **Travel**

Please arrange the most economical means of travel to Kingston.
Air Canada offers several daily flights from Toronto, Ontario
For more information on Kingston tourism see:
<http://tourism.kingstoncanada.com/home.aspx> (Getting Around Kingston) or
<http://www.cityofkingston.ca/visitors/city-info.asp>

[Please keep all receipts for travel reimbursement]

- **Meals**

All meals are included in the consultation with a special dinner event planned for Monday June 11th, 2007.
*please inform us of any dietary restrictions in advance

If you require assistance with travel planning or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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