

PulseNet International / WHO Global Salm-Surv Collaboration & Partnership Guidance Document (2007-08)

PulseNet International and WHO Global Salm-Surv are two separate global programs with a common goal: to build and strengthen laboratory-based capacities for foodborne disease surveillance internationally. To have a more sustainable impact in the area of foodborne disease surveillance and response, both global programs have agreed to enter into a collaborative partnership. This mutually beneficial partnership will facilitate capacity building through: 1) the use of complimentary laboratory characterization skills to detect and investigate national and international foodborne clusters, which may represent common source outbreaks; 2) the sharing of foodborne pathogens data across countries and regions; and 3) creating opportunities to develop and harmonize subtyping methodologies. The partnership includes full agreement on all activities between the International Steering Committee Members of both programs and is guided by the actions below.

The collaborative partnership of PulseNet International and WHO Global Salm-Surv should:

1. **Identify** the WHO Global Salm-Surv country members in each PulseNet International region to determine:
 - A) WHO-Global Salm-Surv countries that possess Pulse Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) capacity AND are participating in PulseNet by supplying PulseNet data to national and regional databases, or
 - B) WHO Global Salm-Surv countries that possess PFGE capacity, but have not established PulseNet in their country, or
 - C) WHO Global Salm-Surv countries that do not possess PFGE capacity but are willing to establish PulseNet in their country
2. **Assess** the current PulseNet International activities in countries that are members of both PulseNet International and WHO Global Salm-Surv. Also, conduct a laboratory capacity and needs assessment of those WHO Global Salm-Surv country members that are not members of PulseNet International.
3. **Create** and test pilot training modules that can strengthen the PulseNet capacity of WHO Global Salm-Surv country members. Modules will be introduced at a joint PulseNet International/WHO Global Salm-Surv Advanced Training Workshop to microbiologists and epidemiologists and will be tailored to the specific needs of each region. The training modules will focus on the collaborative use of PulseNet data between microbiologists and epidemiologists in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak investigations.
4. **Assist** country participants of the joint PulseNet International/WHO Global Salm-Surv Advanced Workshop in the development of regional or national enhanced foodborne disease surveillance projects. These projects will focus on strengthening communication and collaboration between epidemiologists and microbiologists to produce a more effective foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response system using PulseNet data. They will also focus on applying the technical skills training participants receive from PulseNet International, WHO Global Salm-Surv, and the joint Advanced Workshop.
5. **Encourage** country participants, who have successfully completed the joint PulseNet International/WHO Global Salm-Surv Advanced Workshop, to seek funding from possible donors for national and/or regional projects. The projects will include skills received and/or strengthened from both PulseNet International and WHO Global Salm-Surv.