

## BRIGHTON COLLABORATION NEWSLETTER

### JULY - OCTOBER 2008

#### Results of the 2008 Steering Committee Election

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the 2008 election and special thanks to our five outstanding candidates.

Dr. Hector Izurieta and Dr. Paul Heath were elected as the new Steering Committee member in the Regulatory Seat and Clinical/Academic Seat respectively.

Both Dr. Miles Braun and Dr. Michael Marcy's expertise in vaccine safety and participation on the Steering Committee and working groups have defined the shape of the collaboration and future work of our working groups. The Brighton Collaboration thanks them again and wishes them well on their future endeavors.

The 2008 election is the first Brighton election to include all Brighton Collaboration listserv subscribers as members eligible to vote. A total of 274 out of 1835 (15%) voters participated in this year's elections.

#### Recent Publications

This new evaluation paper about Brighton Collaboration case definitions is in *Vaccine*: Kohl KS, et al. Applicability, reliability, sensitivity, and specificity of six Brighton Collaboration standardized case definitions for adverse events following immunization. *Vaccine* 2008;1-12. doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2008.09.002.

Another article entitled "Selected Major Issues in Vaccine" highlights the work of the Brighton Collaboration: by Iskander J, Gidudu J, et al. *Safety. Ann Nestlé [Engl]* 2008;66:93-102.

#### Evaluation

Evaluation of the Brighton anaphylaxis case definition is under way in the US-Based Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a passive surveillance system. A pilot evaluation was completed successfully.

#### Working Group Progress

**Diarrhea:** The working group has completed discussing the guidelines section. Next they will test the robustness of the case definition by using real case scenarios. A draft will soon be sent to the Steering Committee for review and approval prior to posting a web-based survey.

**Please stay tuned!**

**GBS:** The working group met on June 20<sup>th</sup> to review existing and new assessments and reporting forms for guidance in developing the guidelines. Next, the group will complete discussing the guidelines section and complete the draft.

**Local Reactions:** An overall local reaction term: The Overall Local Reaction document will soon be published in *Vaccine*. Pain at injection site: This is the next topic once a list of interested participants has been reviewed.

**Neonatal:** The Secretariat is currently reviewing the neonatal and maternal guidelines draft and will send the finished document to the Steering Committee for approval prior to posting it on the web-based survey for your review!

**Bells Palsy:** The working group met on March 17<sup>th</sup> to test the case definition with case scenarios from real VAERS reports. The next call will be held after revising the case definition and guidelines.

**Implementation:** On July 23<sup>rd</sup> the working group had its final call on technology in surveillance in various settings. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> working group members discussed creating a journal article on points to consider in improving data quality in areas that are looking to improve their AEFI surveillance.

**Yellow Fever:** On September 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the working group had its introductory conference calls for discussion of the goals of the working group, which are to establish a case definition for Yellow Fever vaccine adverse events beginning with viscerotropic disease and to create an algorithm to establish causality.

**Viral Vector Vaccines Safety:** On October 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> the working group held introductory conference calls to accommodate approximately 100 interested participants and to discuss the goal of the collection, analysis, and presentation of safety data for viral vector vaccines.