

# 2014 ISDS Pre-Conference Trainings Overview

Zachary Faigen, MSPH, REHS  
ISDS Pre-Conference Planning Chair  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

- Track 1: Biosurveillance for Beginners
- Track 2: Biosurveillance and Policy Issues for Experts
- Track 3: Introduction to R for Biosurveillance
- Track 4: Mapping and Biosurveillance: Using ArcGIS

- Biosurveillance for Beginners
  - Overview of key topics and core public health (PH) and surveillance competencies
    - Overview of biosurveillance
    - Data sources
      - Integration in biosurveillance systems
      - Application in daily practice
  - Goal is to “bridge the knowledge gap” to better understand and apply PH data for meaningful decision making and to communicate information
  - Target audience
    - Healthcare and public health professionals new to biosurveillance practice, as well as graduate students and researchers interested in obtaining a better understanding of biosurveillance.

- Biosurveillance and Policy Issues for Experts
  - Will provide experienced public health surveillance professionals with:
    - A forum for learning and discussing current topics and policies essential to biosurveillance
    - An opportunity to collaborate with other experts in the field to develop practical, concrete products and tools
  - Will include the following:
    - A panel discussion on natural disaster surveillance
    - A roundtable discussion on the “Meaningful Use” of electronic health data
    - A panel discussion on the OneHealth initiative
    - Break-out sessions to discuss and summarize current policy topics, such as ICD-10, chronic disease surveillance, animal surveillance, and data sharing.
  - Target audience
    - Healthcare and public health professionals with experience in biosurveillance practice

- Introduction to R for Biosurveillance
  - Overview of the R statistical computing language and environment in the context of biosurveillance.
  - Goal is to introduce participants to several of the core concepts and skills needed in biosurveillance using the R language and environment, specifically data visualization and surveillance algorithms
  - Target audience
    - Healthcare providers, public health practitioners, graduate students, and researchers

- Mapping and Biosurveillance: Using ArcGIS
  - Overview of ESRI's geographic information system, ArcGIS, as well as hands-on training
  - Goal is to provide an introduction to ArcGIS, and several of the core mapping concepts and skills needed for biosurveillance to promote public health and data sharing
  - Target audience
    - Public health practitioners, graduate students, and researchers

- Swap Meet is an informal discussion, Q&A, and demonstration opportunity for biosurveillance topics of interest
  - Open to all 2014 Pre-Conference Training and Conference attendees
  - Previous Swap Meet Tables
    - NACCHO, HealthMap, ESSENCE, ASTHO Informatics, ISDS Committees (Research, Public Health Practice, Global Outreach, Education & Training), Meaningful Use, EARs, Gossamerhealth.org, CSTE Surveillance and Informatics, BioSense Redesign, Data Quality, MIT Lincoln Laboratories, FirstWatch, etc.

# System Showcase at the 2014 Swap Meet

- Highlight unique & innovative public / population health surveillance tools & systems
- Apply to present a system showcase demonstration at the 2014 ISDS Swap Meet
  - Application:  
<http://www.syndromic.org/2014-swap-meet-application>
  - Deadline to apply: October 14<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm ET)
- More information:  
<http://www.syndromic.org/annual-conference/2014-isds-conference/swap-meet>



# Acknowledgements

- Planning Team Members
  - Erin Austin, Virginia Department of Health
  - Kyle Ryff, Puerto Rico Department of Health
  - Aaron Kite-Powell, Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center
  - Julie Pavlin, Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center
  - Eric Lau, University of Hong Kong
  - Anikah Salim, Maryland Department of Health
  - Fernanda Dorea, Swedish National Veterinary Institute
  - Bill Storm, Ohio Department of Health
  - Tera Reynolds, ISDS

# Questions?

- Zachary Faigen, MSPH, REHS  
Zachary.Faigen@maryland.gov  
410-767-6745
- Pre-Conference Information
  - <http://www.syndromic.org/annual-conference/2014-isds-conference/pre-conference-trainings>
- Registration
  - <http://www.syndromic.org/annual-conference/2014-isds-conference/registration>