

Emerging Infectious Diseases Conference

"The Hot Zone—1997: Conference on Emerging Diseases" will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Hyatt Regency on June 27 and 28, 1997. The conference is hosted by the University of Kentucky and the University of Cincinnati. Topics include human immunodeficiency virus infection, vector-borne diseases, viral diseases, tick-borne diseases, prion diseases, and antibiotic resistance. Continuing medical education credit hours (10.5) will be offered. For complete information contact Continuing Medical Education, University of Kentucky, L007 Kentucky Clinic, Lexington, KY 40536-0284 or e-mail sbsize00@pop.uky.edu.

"Emergent Illness and Public Scholarship" Fellowships

Emory University's Center for the Study of Public Scholarship announces four semester-long fellowships for its program on Emergent Illness and Public Scholarship to be held during the 1997-1998 academic year. Emergent Illness and Public Scholarship is the first of a 3-year series of programs funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and organized by the Center for Public Scholarship. The center is directed by Dr. Ivan Karp and is housed in the Institute for Liberal Arts. Emergent Illnesses and Public Scholarship is being coorganized by Emory's Center for the Study of Health, Culture, and Society, which is directed by Dr. Randall M. Packard.

Emergent illnesses, from Legionnaires' disease to AIDS, not only challenge the scientific and medical communities to find new explanations and treatments, but prompt patients and their caretakers and families to challenge the authority and expertise of biomedical specialists. In various settings globally, the formal scholarship of health scientists coexists with, and is frequently challenged by, that of lay persons searching for knowledge and explanations of their own illnesses.

Emergent Illness and Public Scholarship will address the politics of knowledge as well as the mechanics by which information travels between professionals and lay communities that simultaneously produce and consume knowledge. Issues of education, technology, audiences, and the ownership of knowledge will stand alongside more traditionally focused biomedical and epidemiologic concerns as foci of the workshop.

Fellows in the program will spend part of the semester talking across disciplinary and institutional boundaries about emerging illness; help determine the agenda of the workshop series; plan one of its sessions; and interact on a limited basis with Emory graduate students.

Especially welcome to the program are applicants working on health issues outside academia, as the workshop's goal is to transcend the boundaries that often mute discussions between producers of knowledge with differing credentials.

For more information, contact: Michael McGovern, Center for the Study of Public Scholarship, S-412 Callaway Building, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

International Workshop on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics

The 2nd International Workshop on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics of Pathogenic Microorganisms, will be held at ORSTOM, Montpellier, France, May 26-28, 1997. The workshop is organized under the auspices of ORSTOM (French agency for scientific research in developing countries), CNRS (French agency for basic research) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The goal of the workshop is the integration of laboratory science and epidemiology, in using genetic information to study evolution, emergence, reemergence, and dispersal of microorganisms. The objectives of the workshop are to 1) integrate molecular biologic and evolutionary genetics approaches in areas of diagnosis, strain typing, species identification, pathogenesis, antigenic variation, drug and vaccine resistance, and host and vector specificity; 2) foster interaction between scientists working on parasites, yeasts and fungi, bacteria, and viruses; and 3) provide health care providers, public health professionals, and laboratory scientists an opportunity to discuss the joint use of genetic tools and methods needed to meet the challenges of diagnosis and management of emerging, reemerging, and endemic infectious diseases.

The deadline for submitting abstracts to Dr. Michel Tibayrenc by fax (33-467547800) or e-mail (tibayren@orstom.rio.net) is March 15, 1997. For more information about the workshop, please contact Dr. Michel Tibayrenc or Dr. Altaf Lal (aal1@cdc.gov).