

The National Center For Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense

Investigators bring avian flu school to trainees in Texas

FAZD Center investigators led a September training program designed to prepare government extension agents, veterinarians, researchers and farmers for a potential outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in the United States.



Dr. Carol Cardona instructs trainees during the avian flu school.

long-term goal is to distribute the training on a national scale. Dr. Carol Cardona, DVM, of the University of California, Davis, led the training. Dr. John El-Attrache coordinated the event. About 35 instructors, trainees and observers attended the

Held at Texas A&M University, the avian influenza school was the fourth session in a series held by the FAZD Center team as investigators field-tested their training modules. Previous sessions were held in Tanzania, California and Minnesota. The

event, which was jointly sponsored by the FAZD Center and the Global Livestock Cooperative Research Support Project of USAID.

'From Science ... Security' exhibits FAZD Center products on Capitol Hill

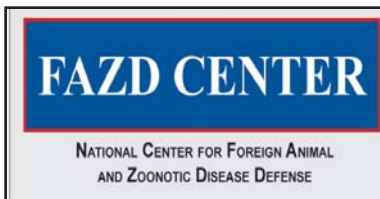
Leadership from the FAZD Center joined peers from the five other Department of Homeland Security National Center of Excellence in producing "From Science ... Security," a Sept. 14 exhibition of the COEs' products held at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

Valley fever, and on the FAZD Center products that address those threats.

The FAZD Center's director, Dr. Neville P. Clarke, and its assistant director for external affairs, Dr. Thomas Powdrill, represented the center.

Jay M. Cohen, DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology, provided the keynote address. More than 300 people attended the exhibition and reception.

The FAZD Center's exhibit focused on the threats posed to public health and the U.S. economy by foot and mouth disease, avian influenza H5N1 and Rift



**A Department of Homeland Security
National Center of Excellence**

Lead institution
Texas A&M University

Core members
The University of California, Davis,
The University of Southern California
and The University of Texas Medical Branch

Leadership

FAZD Center names Powdrill as its assistant director for external affairs

Dr. Thomas Powdrill, MS and DVM, has joined the FAZD Center as its new assistant director for external affairs.



Powdrill molecular virology and immunology, and has contributed as an author to several publications and patents.

Dr. Powdrill comes to the FAZD Center after five years as the president and founder of Vitruvius Biosciences in The Woodlands, Texas.

His primary responsibility is to promote and facilitate the development of external grants and contracts by members of the FAZD Center. He brings experience in applied genomics, proteomics,

Investigators

Internal Advisory Committee meets to review FAZD Center's progress

The Internal Advisory Committee of the FAZD Center held its semi-annual meeting at Texas A&M University on Aug. 21-25. Thirty-three researchers from across the nation attended the event, which provided a forum for the investigators to update the group on the progress of their projects and to receive comments directly from their peers.

The meeting opened with a general session, during which each team leader presented an overview of progress made since the IAC's last meeting in February 2006. The FAZD Center's investigation teams are divided into three thematic categories: Biological Systems (led by Dr. Garry Adams of Texas A&M); Informatics, Modeling and Analysis (led in the interim by Dr. Neville P. Clarke, director of the FAZD Center); and Education and Analysis (led by Dr. Don Klingborg of the University of California, Davis. The investigators represented UC Davis, Texas A&M, The University

of Texas Medical Branch, The University of Southern California, The University of Maryland, and The University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The general assembly then divided into groups, where the investigators met with their team leaders and their peers to discuss progress on individual projects and to chart the path for accomplishments in the coming year and for the long term. The IAC event closed with the leaders presenting each team's report on anticipated progress.

Outreach

Workshop will focus on emergency management of mass animal mortality

A science and policy workshop produced by the FAZD Center will address the impact of animal mortality on a mass scale. The event is scheduled for Nov. 13-14 at the Austin Airport Hilton in Austin, Texas.

'Emergency Management of Mass Animal Mortality: A Science and Policy Workshop for Carcass Meta-Disposal in Texas' will build on the experiences of the FAZD Center's California Carcass Disposal Conference and conferences held in other states.

To learn more or to register, visit:
<http://fazd.tamu.edu/workshop.html>

News Media

National Geographic interviews FAZD Center investigator Cardona

Dr. Carol Cardona, a FAZD Center investigator with the University of California, Davis, is quoted in the latest issue of National Geographic magazine.

Dr. Cardona is the lone authority in avian influenza quoted in the article, "Keeping Bird Flu Off the Menu," in the magazine's October 2006 edition.

The article illustrates the threat of H5N1 to the nation's poultry industry.

In late September, Dr. Cardona was featured in an article in the San Francisco Examiner. A link to the article is located at fazd.tamu.edu/inthenews.

Dr. Cardona, a UC Davis Cooperative Extension poultry veterinarian and associate professor, was honored in late September with the Golden Rooster Award from the California Poultry Federation for her work on preventing avian influenza.

The FAZD Center

1500 Research Parkway, Suite 100A,
College Station, TX 77843-2129
Phone: 979.845.2855 Web: fazd.tamu.edu
News media: Rusty Cawley,
(469) 338-9478, rcawley@vprmail.tamu.edu