GLOBAL INFLUENZA SURVEI LLANCE HOSPITAL NETWORK

Annual meeting

19th and 20th of October, 2015 - Annecy, France

High quality surveillance networks are useful to provide timely burden of disease and vaccine effectiveness data, to better understand influenza epidemics and to assess accurately the public health impact of influenza vaccination.

The Global Influenza Hospital-based Surveillance Network (GIHSN) is a public-private partnership constituted by FISABIO (*Fundación para el Fomento de la Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de la Comunitat Valenciana*), Sanofi Pasteur, Fondation Mérieux and country sites affiliated with health authorities, each one supervising a network of hospitals following the same core protocol. This hospital surveillance network focuses on estimating the incidence of severe influenza disease and the incidence of the disease attributable to each strain. In addition, whenever possible, it provides the framework for estimating effectiveness of seasonal influenza vaccines in prevention of severe cases in various age and risk groups. A yearly pooled analysis of the data collected by the network is performed by the coordinating center (FISABIO) and presented during an annual meeting.

Last season (2013-2014), hospitals in Spain, Russia, Brazil, Turkey, and China participated in the study. The GIHSN covered 5 countries and 24 hospitals, and already collected the largest set of laboratory-confirmed hospitalized cases of influenza for a single season (n=1,214).

This season (2014-2015), Czech Republic has joined the GIHSN and it intends to continue to expand globally and attract new partners. Through this broad geographical coverage, the standardization of data collection and its expected sustainability over sequential influenza seasons, this network will most probably allow a better understanding of the global influenza epidemiology.

This 2015 GIHSN Annual Meeting will take place on 19-20 of October.

This meeting intends to:
1. Discuss the different study sites fieldwork experiences and protocols to analyze and derive best methodological practices
2. Review the data and results generated by the study sites and from data pooling.
3. Discuss way to disseminate the information generated
4. Review the current framework of this global partnership, principles of collaboration and network future prospects.

The meeting will be held in Les Pensières, the conference centre of Fondation Mérieux in Annecy, France.

More information on the Global Influenza Hospital Sirveillance Network can be found at www.gihsn.org and in Puig-Barberà et al. (2015) The Global Influenza Hospital

Surveillance Network (GIHSN): a new platform to describe the epidemiology of severe influenza. Influenza and other Respiratory Viruses DOI: 10.1111/irv.12335.