

Learning about Avian Influenza from the other Perspective: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Training on Avian Influenza

at the University of Minnesota Public Health Institute

Presenter: Marguerite Pappaioanou, University of Minnesota

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Session: Oral

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Controlling avian influenza (?A?) and preventing the emergence of a pandemic influenza virus requires a shared understanding by both human and animal health practitioners of the biology, epidemiology, prevention and control of AI and the relationship between AI and pandemic influenza. Typically, human and animal health students and practitioners learn about influenza in humans (human health students), birds and swine (animal health students), in public health, medical or veterinary courses, respectively. The University of Minnesota Public Health Institute offers an integrated course on Avian Influenza: Emerging Infectious Disease to both human and animal health students and practitioners. The course covers the biology, epidemiology, diagnosis, economics, risk analysis and communication, methods for prevention and control, and global implications of avian influenza, in poultry, swine and humans, and of human seasonal and pandemic influenza. Material is presented through lectures, a field trip to a local live bird market, and multi-sectoral scenario-based problem-solving case studies. Instructors in University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine poultry and swine specialists, Minnesota Board of Animal Health poultry disease surveillance and control experts, Minnesota Department of Agriculture live bird market practice experts, Minnesota Department of Health and University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy human seasonal and pandemic influenza experts, and University of Minnesota School of Public Health global health experts. Course evaluations document value perceived by students of learning about avian influenza from an integrated human-animal health perspective. This presentation will provide an overview of the integrated course objectives, curricula and interaction among students from different disciplines.

Biography:

Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou is an epidemiologist with over 25 years experience in domestic and international public health. She currently is Professor, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, with the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, in the School of Public Health, at the University of Minnesota. She holds a joint appointment with the College of Veterinary Medicine. Her research interests include emerging zoonotic diseases, particularly influenza, and in linking the human, domestic animal, and wildlife health sectors to solve important human and animal health problems. She moved to Minnesota from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where over a 21-year career she conducted applied research in malaria prevention and control in Africa, designed and led the implementation of the family of HIV seroprevalence surveillance surveys, directed a capacity building project to strengthen skills of health officials in developing countries to use data for program and policy decision making more effectively, led a research synthesis program supporting the development of the US Guide to Community Preventive Services: Systematic Reviews and Evidence-based Recommendations, and served as Associate Director for Science and Policy in the Office of Global Health, also coordinating CDC's programs in Asia. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University in 1972, Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of California, Davis, in 1976 and 1982, respectively. She was an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at CDC from 1983-1985. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.
