

NPHL: Continuing the Focus on Education

by Steven Hinrichs M.D., Director, NPHL

Readers of this issue of the newsletter will see that the focus of our activities continues to be on education. Tony Sambol and Josh Rowland have just returned from a tour of Nebraska where they gave presentations on two of the topics summarized in this issue, the NPHL's expanded chemical terrorism preparedness program and a methodology article from the West Nile Virus testing performed during last summer's outbreak. In addition to the primary information they provide, the take-home message of these two articles is that federal and state money investments in biological and chemical terrorism preparedness have paid a dividend in helping us prepare for events of all types, including natural disasters.

We have received a great deal of positive feedback regarding the laboratory focused articles in past newsletters, therefore we have continued to identify topics that provide important background information for laboratorians. Our web site (www.nphl.org) is capable of monitoring the number of times past articles are accessed and you will be interested to know that educational articles are most frequently accessed. The current article by Bob Wickert continues the emphasis on education by providing key information about an important virus commonly transmitted in food that generates a significant amount of disease every year. People will be interested to know that the name has been changed from Norwalk agent to Norovirus and therefore test order forms and send-out test lists will need to be updated as well.

Finally, this issue will feature Rosa Crook in the "Meet the Laboratorian" article. To learn more about Rosa, please go to page five. If you know someone who should that you would like to be nominated for the feature, please e-mail Josh Rowland (jrowland@unmc.edu) with their names.