January 2015

Dear Prospective CaliciNet Participants:

We are pleased to announce the **7th CaliciNet training workshop** which will be held **May 4 – 8, 2015** at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA, dependent on sufficient attendance. CaliciNet is a national norovirus laboratory surveillance network for sequence-based genotyping.

The workshop will include two parts:

1. **CaliciNet Database Training**: learn how to install CaliciNet scripts, enter patient, outbreak, and laboratory data, and analyze norovirus sequences. CaliciNet utilizes BioNumerics 5.10 through BioNumerics 6.6 software. Workshop participants will receive hands-on experience with BioNumerics software and CaliciNet scripts.
2. **Laboratory Training**: learn norovirus sequence-based genotyping required for CaliciNet. Both hands-on as well as demonstrations of norovirus real-time RT-PCR, conventional RT-PCR, and DNA sequencing will be provided.

Costs for travel (round-trip airfare), accommodation (up to 4 nights) and meals (breakfast and lunch) will be sponsored by APHL/CDC. No registration fee will be charged for the workshop. Continuing education for this activity will not be provided.

As a follow up to the workshop, CDC will provide the participants with:

1. Assistance to install and work with CaliciNet scripts (BioNumerics software is required).
2. Detailed protocols for norovirus molecular detection and genotyping including DNA sequencing.

The goals and objectives of the course are listed in the enclosed document, "2015 Goals Objectives." Participants of the workshop must be comfortable with computers, understand basic computer terminology, and have some understanding of the principles of DNA sequencing (reading materials available upon request). Of note, experience with working with DNA sequences prior to the workshop is highly recommended.

Due to funding constraints, **requirements for acceptance to this workshop** include:

- Only **one lab-bench employee** per public health laboratory per workshop can participate. [No supervisors will be accepted]
- Laboratory must process more than **10 norovirus outbreaks a year**.
- **Equipment** to run and analyze conventional RT-PCR products, access to a **DNA sequencer** (ABI or Beckman) in-house or contract with sequencing company, and **BioNumerics software** versions 5.10 through 6.6. [Labs that do not have conventional PCR equipment will not be accepted]
- **Commitment to become CaliciNet certified** (both BioNumerics and laboratory certification) **within 12 weeks** after completion of the workshop.

If you are interested in attending this workshop please complete the registration form in the enclosed document, "2015 CaliciNet Workshop Registration" and email it to calicinet1@cdc.gov **by February 7, 2015**. Notification of acceptance will be made by February 15, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jan Vinjé.

Jan Vinjé, PhD
Head, National Calicivirus Laboratory
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Phone: (404) 639-3721
Email: jvinje@cdc.gov

Kirsten Larson
Manager Food Safety
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Phone: (240) 485.2759
Email: Kirsten.larson@aphl.org