May 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As we collectively continue to adjust and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated response activities, we hope you are all well.

Over the last few weeks, the InFORM Executive Committee has been discussing options for delivering content that would have been presented during the 2020 InFORM Conference. Over the coming months, we still hope to host webinars for some of the original planned content. However, given the ongoing and intensifying response activities in every State, locale and Agency, we anticipate scheduling these presentations or webinars later in the year.

In the meantime, we want to take a moment to celebrate a few outstanding individuals who would have been recognized at the conference during the Awards Presentations. We are excited and proud to recognize the recipients of the PulseStar and Kati Kelley awards for laboratory sciences, the Bill Keene award for epidemiology, and the Jack Guzewich award for environmental public health.

On behalf of the InFORM Planning Committees and all our partners, please join us in congratulating this year’s award winners:

**PulseStar Awards:** The 2020 PulseStar Award recipients are:

- Matthew Sinn, Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
- Vavara Kozyreva, PhD, California Department of Public Health
- Gina Kline, State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa

**Kati Kelley Award:** The 2020 award recipient is: Peter Gerner-Smidt, MD, DSc, (Retired) Chief, Enteric Diseases Laboratory Branch, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Bill Keene Award:** The 2020 InFORM recipient is: Maritza Cruz Cortes, MS, the Foodborne and Waterborne Surveillance Epidemiologist in the Office of Epidemiology and Investigation at the Puerto Rico Department of Health.

**Jack Guzewich Award:** The 2020 InFORM recipient is: Ernest Julian, Ph.D., the Chief Science Advisor to the Rhode Island Department of Health Academic Institute

**Letter of Commendation from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** The 2020 InFORM recipient is: David Nicholas, the Chief Epidemiologist, Outbreak Investigation and Research of the New York State Health Department

More information about each of the awards and the recipients can be found on the 2020 InFORM Conference website.

Thank you for your continued work on enteric disease surveillance and response and for your collective efforts in the COVID-19 response.

Be safe, stay healthy, and thank you for your efforts,

Robert V. Tauxe, MD, MPH
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National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Scott J. Becker, MS
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