

Peer Review Plan

Title of Review:	<u>USDA VetNet - Molecular subtyping network for food borne disease surveillance</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Influential Scientific Information
Agency:	<u>USDA, Agricultural Research Service</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
Agency Contact:	<u>Charlene R Jackson, Ph.D., Research Microbiologist (706) 546-3604 950 College Station Road, Athens, GA, 30605</u>	
Subject of Review:	<p>USDA VetNet was established in 2003 and was modeled after PulseNet USA, the national molecular subtyping network for food borne disease surveillance. The objectives of USDA VetNet are to use pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) to subtype zoonotic pathogens submitted to the animal arm of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS), compare USDA VetNet and PulseNet PFGE patterns, and to use the comparative data for surveillance and investigation of food borne illness outbreaks. Whereas PulseNet subtypes seven food borne disease-causing bacteria: Escherichia coli O157:H7, nontyphoidal Salmonella, Shigella, Listeria monocytogenes, Campylobacter, Yersinia pestis, and Vibrio cholera; VetNet, at present, subtypes nontyphoidal Salmonella serotypes and Campylobacter from animals including diagnostic specimens, healthy farm animals, and carcasses of food-producing animals at slaughter. By the end of 2006, VetNet had two functioning databases including the NARMS Salmonella and Campylobacter databases. The Salmonella database contained 11,724 Salmonella isolates and 3582 unique XbaI patterns, while the Campylobacter database contained 321 Campylobacter isolates and 197 unique SmaI patterns. Both databases contain the PFGE Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) images, demographic information, and the antimicrobial resistance profiles assigned by NARMS. The establishment of USDA VetNet enhances the mission of the agriculture and public health communities in the surveillance and investigation of food borne illness outbreaks.</p>	
Purpose of Review:	<p>We anticipate that the external peer reviewers will possess an in-depth knowledge of research conducted. Reviewers will be expected to focus on areas such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The evidence provided and whether the conclusions and inferences are correctly supported by the evidence.2. Evaluate the methodology. Is the approach and process appropriate for the analysis?3. Are there data or other evidence complete? Have any important data or considerations been omitted?4. Are all important assumptions identified and uncertainties clearly stated?5. Identify any relevant data or evidence not contained in the report.6. Evaluate the quality and completeness of the individual components of the analysis.7. Comment on whether/where the document is difficult to read or understand.	
Type of Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Panel Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Reviewers
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Process (Briefly Explain): _____	

