Enhancing Partnerships: Bringing the Biosafety and Infectious Disease Training Initiative (BIDTI) Together

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The Biosafety and Infectious Disease Training Initiative (BIDTI)

A National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program (WTP)
UH4 ES027055-01 (Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Response)
Expansive Geographic Reach

Regions

1. Boston
2. DC
3. Puerto Rico
4. U.S. Virgin Islands
5. Kansas City
6. Dallas
7. Chicago
8. Denver
9. San Francisco
10. Seattle

Hawaii
Partners with Resources, Knowledge, and Experience
• Leadership
• Expertise
• Administration
• Intellectual resources
• Trainers
• Expertise
• Leadership
• Administration
• Intellectual resources
• Trainers
• Intellectual resources
• Expertise
• Faculty & biosafety staff
• Prior work with NIEHS WTP
• Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH)
• Southern Biosafety Association (SBA)
• Intellectual resources
• Trainers
• Medical Expertise

Background on Avian Influenza

- Outbreaks of avian influenza A (H5N1) among poultry are ongoing in several countries, including Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Turkey, and Romania
- The first documented transmission of H5N1 to humans

• Intellectual resources

• Trainers

• Experience with underserved populations
Elements for Our Successful Partnerships

- Trust and respect between partners
- Frequent communication & Transparency
  - Shared Box account with working documents and materials
  - Monthly consortium conference call
  - Regular e-mails with everyone CC-ed
- Clear and agreed upon purpose and objectives
- Explicitly outlined expectations and delegation of responsibilities
- Commitment and ownership of the work
- Systems to monitor, measure, learn and improve
  - Unrecognized or unintended bias
- Mutual benefits and outcomes beyond the partnership
Additional Elements for Successful Partnerships

• External Advisory Committee (EAC) with leaders who represent our target populations
  • Encourage interdisciplinary practice and research
  • Foster new relationships and expand upon existing ones

• Follow through

• Always willing to learn and partner with new collaborators
  • Think and work outside the box
Thank You

Questions?