

## Report on attendance at ESCAIDE 2019 (European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology)

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The 13<sup>th</sup> ESCAIDE was held in the Brewery Conference Centre, Stockholm from 27-29<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Organised by the ECDC, this annual conference is the leading European scientific conference on applied infectious disease epidemiology. This year there was a large focus on two major global challenges, climate change and antimicrobial resistance, and how they impact infectious disease epidemiology on a global scale. I presented my poster “Investigating the occurrence of Verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) in Irish private drinking water wells” on day 1 of the conference in a moderated poster session entitled “Food and waterborne diseases and zoonoses (2): surveillance” (pictured). The poster was well received and precipitated some interesting discussion around why the incidence of human VTEC infection is so high in Ireland versus other member states. I also discussed VTEC with cognate researchers from Sweden and the Czech Republic during this session.

I attended many fascinating talks during the conference, and learned a great deal about epidemiological methodology and the structure of infectious disease epidemiology networks, that will no doubt stand to me in my academic career. Highlights were many, including Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, who delivered a plenary talk on health security and preparedness during the Ebola outbreak in the Congo. Another highlight was a panel discussion on public health research priorities in which the audience voted antimicrobial resistance (national level) and climate change (globally) as the most important research priorities. Alexander Pintara, gave a great talk on virulence differences between Australian and International VTEC strains. The importance of a One Health approach to infectious disease control in the face of climate change was emphasised in the closing session.

I had the opportunity to make many new connections, including surveillance scientists, EPIHET and EUPHEM fellows, veterinary scientists and One Health enthusiasts. I also caught up with old friends and alumni from our research group who were giving talks at the conference. I look forward to attending ESCAIDE 2020 in Warsaw. Many thanks to the Med-Vet-Net Association for funding my travel to this fantastic conference.