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BACKGROUND

## Information Technology and the World of Medical Microbiology and Infections

### Canada Health Infoway: Application to Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments have launched a unique program, working with Canada Health Infoway, to develop and implement a new generation of public health communicable disease and immunization surveillance systems.

Due to public concern about the ability of public health authorities to deal with emerging communicable disease threats, the program aims at helping health professionals better detect and respond to outbreaks of communicable diseases. It will enhance the capacity to provide health alerts and ensure effective and efficient data and reports are produced. Currently, each province/territory has its own system for tracking and monitoring communicable diseases. Data sharing is compromised due to a lack of interoperable systems. This prevents a national tracking and monitoring network from functioning and moving to prevent outbreaks from spreading.

This program represents a unique opportunity to enhance the scope, quality and consistency of communicable disease analysis and supporting information, by applying the best available information technology tools.

The presentation will summarize the program's overall scope and approach, progress to date, and the salient points of the system, labeled "Panorama", which will be implemented in Canada's provinces and territories.

Tim Beasley, BA MSc  
Program Director, Public Health Surveillance  
Canada Health Infoway/Inforoute santé du Canada

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**About the AMMI Canada – CACMID Annual Conference**

The Annual Conference 'Where Canada's experts in Clinical Microbiology and infectious diseases meet', is a conjoint meeting between the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI) Canada (**[www.ammi.ca](http://www.ammi.ca)**) and the Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CACMID) (**[www.cacmid.ca](http://www.cacmid.ca)**). The meeting is also an approved Accredited Group Learning Activity as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

For more information about the AMMI Canada - CACMID Annual Conference 2007, go to **[www.ammi.ca/annual\\_conference](http://www.ammi.ca/annual_conference)**.

The plenary sessions are open to the media. To attend the conference or to request an interview, please contact:

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