

Vibrios in the Environment 2010.

We are pleased to announce Vibrios in the Environment 2010, a conference to be held at the fabulous **Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi**, in the heart of the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Please save the dates of 8-12 November 2010.

In 1980, leading vibrio researchers working in the area of microbial ecology and public health met in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to convene a unique conference entitled “Vibrios in the Environment.” The proceedings were published by John Wiley and Sons Inc., in 1984, and firmly established that a number of human pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. including *V. cholerae*, *V. parahaemolyticus* and *V. vulnificus* were indigenous to marine and estuarine environments where much of the seafood supply is produced and where most recreational exposure occurs. In the following 30 years, vibrio research has increased exponentially and these organisms have often been at the forefront of basic scientific discoveries and the global public health debate. Some prominent issues initiated by vibrio research include discoveries on the viable but nonculturable state, transfer of virulence genes by phages, identification of ballast discharge as vehicle for pandemic spread, and climate change resulting in an expansion of the seasonal and geographical range of diseases. In spite of this increased attention on vibrios and the spectacular discoveries over the past several decades, there has not been another major conference focusing on vibrios in the environment or their implications on public health, especially food safety. There is unprecedented activity in the US and globally to control the risk of vibrios and yet in most countries illnesses are either flat or increasing. Furthermore, the vibrios are still regarded by most marine microbiologists as the dominant culturable bacteria in the ocean and there is good reason to believe that global warming may increase their presence. The science has repeatedly demonstrated that vibrios present public health challenges that were not imagined in 1980.

Therefore, after three decades, revisiting the critical public health issues presented by vibrios, especially food safety, globalization and climate change is long overdue and we look forward to seeing you a year from now in Biloxi at **Vibrios in the Environment 2010**.

Proposed Session Headings:

- Ecology of Vibrios
- Human Disease
- Non-human Disease
- Integrated coastal water quality and seafood safety management
- Epidemiology and Socioeconomics

We will soon open a website with more details and plan to have a portal where you can contribute ideas and suggestions.

Please feel free to pass this announcement on to your vibrio associates not included on this announcement as well as to others who may be interested in the conference.

Please contact Brian Jackson at UCAR (bjackson@ucar.edu) or the steering committee members if you are interested in further information as it becomes available, would like to present your ideas, or be added to our Vibrios in the Environment 2010 email listserve.

Vibrios in the Environment 2010 Steering Committee

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