

NORTHEASTERN SPOTLIGHT

SPRING 2007

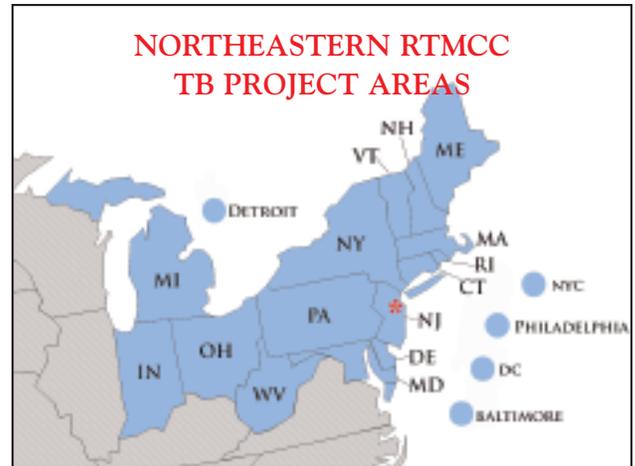
VOLUME 2 · NUMBER 1

Dear Colleague:

Greetings from Geneva. Although I am officially on a 6-month sabbatical at the Stop TB Partnership, I maintain frequent contact with the Global TB Institute (GTBI) and return regularly to Newark for updates and speaking engagements.

As you can see, our email announcement about this issue of the *Northeastern Spotlight* has a new look. We have included a brief summary of feature articles and a list of other sections with a link to the full text in HTML located on our website. This will allow quick access to items of interest. We still provide a PDF version that readers can download and print, if desired. This issue also allows readers to complete a brief, anonymous online survey (through Zoomerang). Your responses will help guide the future content and format of the newsletter.

The GTBI—in conjunction with its partners the



Charles P. Felton National Tuberculosis Center and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health—has planned an ambitious number of training courses for 2007. While stand-up training constitutes the major focus of our training efforts, we are supplementing these courses with a series of web-based seminars in order to reach a wider audience with timely updates. This issue features

continued on next page

On-Line Survey:

**WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK!
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WHAT YOU THINK OF
OUR NEWSLETTER**



The Northeastern Regional Training and Medical Consultation Consortium is a collaborative effort of the Charles P. Felton National Tuberculosis Center at Harlem Hospital, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Tuberculosis Prevention and Control, and the NJ Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute and provides training, technical assistance, and medical consultation to health care professionals throughout the Northeastern United States.

RTMCC Communications Sub-Committee: Bill Bower, MPH • Chris Hayden • Erin Howe, MPH
Newsletter design by Judith Rew

We would like your feedback...please let us know what you think of this newsletter, future newsletter ideas, and/or article contributions you wish to make. Send an email to Chris Hayden, Newsletter Editor at haydench@umdnj.edu. Thanks!

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Web-Based Training Seminars

BASED ON NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The training needs assessment conducted in 2005 by the New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute and its partners in the Northeastern Regional Training and Medical Consultation Consortium—the Charles P. Felton Tuberculosis Center at Harlem Hospital and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health—revealed an interest in utilizing web-based technology to access training. This is increasingly important in the face of travel restrictions and budget cuts. As a result, the Northeastern RTMCC has utilized web-based technology for a number of recent training events. As both the RTMCC and TB Program staff in the region become comfortable with the technology, it is increasingly clear that this is an effective way to reach participants who may not be able to travel to attend traditional stand-up training.



HOW THEY WORK

In 2006 the Northeastern RTMCC sponsored eight web-based seminars, including a national seminar on the use of Quantiferon Gold, which was previously highlighted in [Fall issue](#) this newsletter.

In web-based seminars, participants from throughout the northeastern region connect via telephone and internet. Participants listen to the speakers using the phone while viewing the presentation through the internet. Web-based seminars generally last one and a half hours and include one to three speakers. The format also generally includes case studies, as well as ample time for questions and answers. Continuing education credits are offered, and participants may join individually from their own computers or in groups with coworkers.

2007 WEB-BASED SEMINARS

A total of eight web-based seminars were planned for 2007; three have already taken place. On January 9th 2007 the Northeastern RTMCC hosted ***TB in Correctional Facilities: A Web Based Seminar***. This seminar featured Mark Lobato, MD from the Division of TB Elimination at the CDC, and Maureen Williams, RN from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. There were over 150 participants for this seminar, which covered the newly released “Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis in

Correctional and Detention Facilities: Recommendations from CDC.” Over 90% of respondents indicated that the learning objectives were met and 82% of respondents reported that they would frequently use information from this seminar in the course of their work activities. Further, 97% of respondents stated that they would recommend this training to others.

The second web-based seminar ***TB Infection Control in Health Care Settings: A Web-Based Seminar***, took place January 17, 2007 and featured Paul Jensen, PhD from the CDC Division of TB Elimination. The seminar, which had over 120 participants, provided an over view of the CDC recommendations “Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* in Health Care Settings.” The seminar also included a spirited question and answer session. Participants rated this event very highly, with approximately 90% of participants indicating that learning objectives had been met, and 86% of participants stating that they would use the information presented in the course of their work activities.

The Northeastern RTMCC hosted the first in series of web-based seminars on best practices in TB Control coordinated by the Charles P. Felton Tuberculosis Center on March 15th. This event, ***Working with Substance Users and Homeless Populations***

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Dear Colleague

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highlights from three web-based seminars (*Management of TB in Correctional Facilities* and *Infection Control in Health Care Settings*) that were conducted in January and March and briefly summarizes additional web-based updates scheduled for later this year.

This issue also features a profile of the new Acting TB Program Director for Connecticut, Heidi Jenkins. Heidi worked her way up through the ranks of

the STD program from a field worker to state program director and now lends her comprehensive public health experience to address TB problems.

On January 31st we held our second web-based grand rounds—targeted to designated TB program medical consultants—at which two TB cases with drug-induced hepatitis were presented. This generated a spirited discussion among medical consultants around the Region and provided an opportunity to highlight recommendations published in October

2006 by the American Thoracic Society on *Hepatotoxicity of Antituberculosis Therapy*. The next web-based grand rounds are scheduled for April 24 and May 15. TB program medical consultants who would like to present a case should contact Dr. Alfred Lardizabal at 973-972-8452 or lardizaa@umdnj.edu.

*Lee B. Reichman, MD, MPH
Executive Director
Northeastern RTMCC and the Global
Tuberculosis Institute*

Web-based Seminars

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featured Paul Colson, PhD from the Felton Center. Rhonda Hagler, MD from the East Orange Substance Abuse Treatment Center and Suzanne Gunston, RN from the Maine Department of Public Health. Dr. Colson presented an overview of working with these populations, Dr. Hagler shared her experiences in providing treatment for latent TB infection to substance users, and Ms. Gunston described the experiences in working to control an outbreak in the homeless population in Maine, and described a series of tools developed to aid in this investigation. The second web-based seminar in this series, **Best Practices in TB Control (#2): What Works Best In Low Incidence Areas and Rural Settings** is scheduled for May 14th.

The rest of 2007 holds a number of new and exciting web-based training opportunities. The other three RTMCCs have had similar experiences with increasing popularity of web-based training, and all the RTMCCs have frequent applicants from outside of their region. Since some of the web-based seminar topics are applicable to a national audience, the CDC asked the RTMCCs to collaborate on national

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web-based seminars. In 2007 there will be three national web-based seminars, each one hosted by a different RTMCC, but open to participants from throughout the country. The times and topics of these events are still being determined, so check [our website \(http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/courses.htm\)](http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/courses.htm) for additional details, on national web-based seminars, and our complete training schedule. Past web-based seminars can be accessed through the [archive section](http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/audioarchives.htm) of our website (<http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/audioarchives.htm>).

OTHER DISTANCE-BASED TRAINING TECHNOLOGY

The Northeastern RTMCC is continuing to explore other web and distance based technology that can be used to make TB training more accessible. For example, in September

2006, the Northeastern RTMCC partner, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, coordinated with the Maine Department of Public Health to provide Contact Investigation training to several sites in Maine using interactive video conferencing (ITV) technology. ITV allows staff in remote locations to view and interact with presenters at a central location. This course was highlighted in the recent issue of CDC's [TB Notes \(http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/notes/TB_N_1_07/tableofcontents.htm\)](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/notes/TB_N_1_07/tableofcontents.htm). We'll keep you posted on our web-based and distance learning programs, and hope that you'll be able to participate in some of these events over the coming year.

*Submitted By Nisha Ahamed, MPH
Program Director
Education and Training Unit
Global Tuberculosis Institute*

TB Medical Consultation

Medical Consultation Services: NE RTMCC physicians respond to requests from providers seeking medical consultation through:

- Our toll-free TB Infoline: 1-800-4TB-DOCS and
- Email: <http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/emailform.htm>

During each consultation, the NE RTMCC physicians will refer providers to TB Programs with future consultation requests. In addition, TB program will be informed of TB cases with public health implications.

Medical Consultant Web-Based Grand Rounds: Every other month, designated TB program medical consultants are invited to participate in a web-based TB case conference (or grand rounds). Consultants are encouraged to present challenging TB cases on which they would like feedback from their colleagues throughout the Region. The next 2 conferences are scheduled for April 24 and May 15 at 4:00 p.m. TB program medical consultants who would like to present a case should contact Dr. Alfred Lardizabal at 973-972-8452 or lardizaa@umdj.edu.

Profiles in TB Prevention & Control: Heidi Jenkins, Connecticut

Heidi Jenkins has worked in a variety of different positions in the field of communicable diseases including field worker, field staff supervisor, assistant director and director. She has worked in both city and state health departments and has served as Director of Connecticut's STD Program since 1996. When veteran TB coordinator, George Raiselis, retired last year, Connecticut called on Heidi to serve as Acting TB Program Director, in addition to her position in STD. In times of shrinking resources, situations like this may become more frequent. Fortunately, Heidi Jenkins

transmitted diseases. Heidi emphasizes that, "Everyone in public health—at every level—needs to spend two weeks in a field staff position. Although not everyone is cut out to do that job, everyone can benefit from observing." Heidi refers to her career in public health as a progression that doesn't happen much today, she started at a grassroots level, working every position along the way until she was promoted to direct a state-wide program (and now a second!).

In her life outside work, Heidi has

applies much of what she has learned directing the STD program to her new position in tuberculosis. So far, what has struck Heidi about tuberculosis is the impact of the length of treatment, as well as the complications of clinical management such as HIV co-infection, drug resistance and the timing of test results. To her, working in TB represents new challenges and she says, "change is always good!"

Heidi's current top priorities in her position as acting TB program director are to learn more about tuberculosis and to continue the process of sitting with Connecticut program staff to learn their job responsibilities. She is already planning to make training opportunities available to staff in the areas of field safety, HIV counseling and testing and phlebotomy. In terms of regionalization, Heidi has participated in the STD/HIV Regional Prevention Training Center of New England planning group as a representative of Connecticut for more than ten years. She appreciates the opportunity STD/HIV training centers provide to bring people to the table for strategic planning. She says that, "getting local involvement is an essential piece of regional planning." She is looking forward to identifying the commonalities between regionalization in the area of STD/HIV and tuberculosis. She will be part of a planning group for a TB training activity sponsored by the Northeastern RTMCC in Connecticut in the fall of 2007.

*Submitted By Erin Howe, MPH
Health Educator
Northeastern RTMCC*

So far, what has struck Heidi about tuberculosis is the impact of the length of treatment, as well as the complications of clinical management such as HIV co-infection, drug resistance and the timing of test results.

has many years of experience at all levels of public health and will bring a fresh perspective to addressing the challenging problems of TB in the state.

Heidi describes her path to public health as a scenic one. After graduating with a business degree from Central Michigan University, she worked as the assistant manager for Magic Pan restaurant. She first considered public health after talking with her sister about her job as a 'VD investigator' in the late seventies and early eighties in Detroit. She found her sister's job fascinating and began to contemplate the real importance of protecting the public's health. Shortly thereafter, Heidi got her first field staff job in sexually

been married for a year and half. Both she and her husband are dog lovers and they have three dogs—two schnauzer-terrier mixes and a poodle mix. All Heidi's dogs were adopted from shelters. Being from Michigan, Heidi is a huge sports fan. She enjoys college basketball this time of year.

In her current position as acting TB program director, Heidi oversees staff, conducts program management activities, updates program needs and operations, and is learning on the job about the medical management of tuberculosis. After spending more than ten years directing the STD program in Connecticut, Heidi is no stranger to the functions and systems that allow a program to run effectively. She currently

What's New

Additional Frequently Asked Questions for Clarification of Recommendations in the "Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health-Care Settings, 2005" have been posted and are available on CDC Division of TB Elimination's website at:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/pubs/mmwrhtml/Maj_guide/faqsGuidelines.htm.

The **initial guidelines and other related documents** may be found on the Infection Control guidelines page at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/pubs/mmwrhtml/Maj_guide/infectioncontrol.htm.

An Official ATS/IDSA Statement: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention of Nontuberculous Mycobacterial

Diseases. This updates the 1997 statement and was published in the February 15, 2007 issue of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. It can be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.thoracic.org/sections/publications/statements/pages/mtpi/nontuberculosis-mycobacterial-diseases.html>

Email notification of DTBE updates: You can now receive email notification of updates to the CDC Division of TB Elimination (DTBE) website by subscribing at DTBE's homepage:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/default.htm>

Treatment Guidelines from The Medical Letter: Drugs for Tuberculosis. 2007;5(55):15-22. The non-profit group The Medical Letter, Inc., publishes a monthly newsletter (*Treatment Guidelines from the Medical Letter*) which presents concise, peer-reviewed recommendations for first choice and alternative drugs for various diseases and conditions. The March 2007 issue features drugs for tuberculosis. Although not a substitute for more comprehensive ATS or CDC recommendations, these guidelines may be used by primary care providers who occasionally serve patients with or at risk for tuberculosis. The guidelines are available by subscription at the following website www.medicalletter.org.

World TB Day, March 24, 2007 TB ELIMINATION: NOW IS THE TIME!

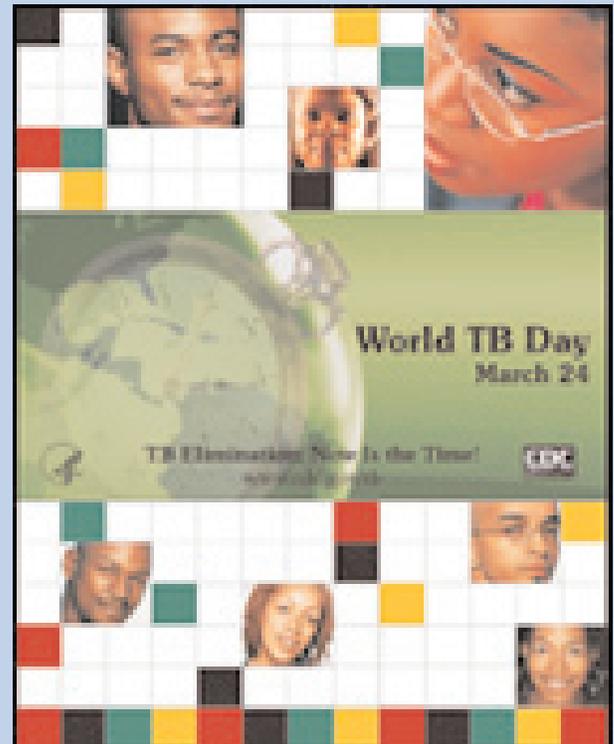
World TB Day, held on March 24 each year, is an occasion for people around the world to raise awareness about the international health threat presented by tuberculosis (TB). It is a day to recognize the collaborative efforts of all countries involved in fighting TB. TB can be cured, controlled, and, with diligent efforts and sufficient resources, eventually eliminated.

U.S. Resources and Activities: For World TB Day resources and activities planned around the country, click on:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/WorldTBDay/default.htm>

Stop TB Partnership: For a global perspective on TB Elimination efforts, click on:

<http://www.stoptb.org/default.asp>



Match the Movie with the Storyline

MOVIE

The Constant Gardener (2005)

theconstantgardener.com/

Finding Neverland (2004)

miramax.com/findingneverland/

Infinity (1996)

imdb.com/title/tt0116635/

Moulin Rouge (2001)

imdb.com/title/tt0203009/combined

Map of the Human Heart (1993)

rottentomatoes.com/m/map_of_the_human_heart/

The Others (2001)

rottentomatoes.com/m/1109257-others/

STORYLINE

This film tells the story of the early life of genius and Nobel Prize-winning physicist, Richard Feynman who work on the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos. His wife, Arline, suffered from TB.

A young Bohemian poet, living in 1899 Paris, falls for a beautiful courtesan (who is suffering from TB) whom a jealous duke covets in this musical, with familiar 20th music drawn.

A woman who lives in a darkened old house with her two photosensitive children becomes convinced that her family home is haunted (TB epidemic).

The story of J. M. Barrie's friendship with a family who inspired him to create Peter Pan. His wife suffers from "consumption"

A widower is determined to get to the bottom of a potentially explosive secret involving his wife's murder, big business (HIV and TB drug trials) and corporate corruption in Africa.

This story crosses years, oceans and ravages of WWII as a young Inuit man (TB as a child) locates his childhood love, a Metis girl, but finds their cultures most difficult spaces to gap.

Adapted from a list created by Eileen Lowery, RN from the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago



NE RTMCC Training Courses Planned for 2007

(Click on Name of Course for Details)

[Judith – Can you embed the link, if available, in the Name of Course?]

NAME OF COURSE	TARGET AUDIENCE	DATE(S)	LOCATION
Effective TB Interviewing and Contact Investigation http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/courses/effectivetbinterviewing.htm	Health care workers who conduct TB interviews	March 28-30	Newark
TB Case Management & Contact Investigation for Nurses http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/courses/tbcasemgmt.htm	Nurse Case Managers	April 16-17 April 18-19	Indianapolis, IN Indianapolis, IN
TB In Correctional Settings Updates http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/courses/corrections.htm	Physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals providing healthcare services in a correctional setting	April 26 April 27 May 11	Westboro, MA Westboro, MA Westboro, MA
TB Clinician's Update	Physicians and/or TB medical consultants	April 28	Mystic, CT
Best Practices in TB Control Series (#2): What works best in low-incidence areas and rural settings http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/courses/bestpractices2.htm	TB Control Staff from low-incidence areas in the Northeastern Region	May 14	Web-Based Seminar
Tuberculin Skin Test Train-the-Trainer Workshop	Nurses who train HCWs to perform skin testing	July 25-26	Newark, NJ
TB Update (#3): Medical Management of MDR TB	Physicians and nurses	August 15	Web-Based Seminar
Best Practices in TB Control (#3): Legal Intervention in TB Control	TB control staff	September 11	Web-Based Seminar
Cultural Competency and TB: General Principles and Case Studies with Ecuadorian Migrants	Nurses, disease investigators, and translators serving Ecuadorian migrants	October 2	New York State
Lab Tools for Diagnosing TB and LTBI: A Primer for TB Control Staff	Health care workers in TB programs	Fall	Web-Based Seminar
Effective TB Interviewing & Contact Investigation Workshops (2 Workshops)	Disease investigators and public health nurses	Fall Fall	New York State New York State
TB Field Investigation	Disease investigators	Fall	Newark, NJ
TB Intensive Workshop	Physicians and nurses	Fall	Newark, NJ

NE RTMCC Training Courses Planned for 2007

NAME OF COURSE	TARGET AUDIENCE	DATES	LOCATION
TB Case Management and Contact Investigation for Nurses Course	Nurse case managers	Fall	Newark, NJ
Program Manager's Workshop for Regional and Local Staff	New TB Managers	Fall	Newark, NJ
TB Update	Physicians and clinic/ public health nurses	Fall	Connecticut
TB Outreach Workers Update	Disease investigators	Fall	Massachusetts
Effective TB Interviewing and Contact Investigation Workshop	Disease investigators and public health nurses	November 15	Eastern Shore, MD
TB Update (#4): TB in the Elderly	Physicians and nurses	December 5	Web-Based Seminar

TB Program Training Courses Planned for 2007

TB PROGRAM SPONSOR	NAME OF COURSE	TARGET AUDIENCE	TARGET AREA	DATES	LOCATION	CONTACT PERSON
NY City	Tuberculin Skin Test Administration	Non-NYC HD staff	NYC & Vicinity	TBD	253 Broadway, NYC	Elvy Barroso 212-676-2914 ebarroso@health.nyc.gov
MI	Tuberculin Skin Test -Train the Trainer	TST Trainers	MI & Vicinity	June 8 Aug. 7 Nov. 6	Lansing	Gail Denkins Denkinsg@michigan.gov www.michigantb.org (train scheduling)
MD	TB Skin Testing	Licensed Clinicians	MD	Apr 10 May 24	Salisbury Columbia	Arlene Hudak 410-767-6698

Other TB Resources

Division of Tuberculosis Elimination

The mission of the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) is to promote health and quality of life by preventing, controlling, and eventually eliminating tuberculosis from the United States, and by collaborating with other countries and international partners in controlling tuberculosis worldwide.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/default.htm>

TB Education and Training Resources Website

This website is a service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. It is intended for use by TB and other healthcare professionals, patients, and the general public and can be used to locate or share TB education and training materials and to find out about other TB resources.

<http://www.findtbresources.org/scripts/index.cfm>

TB Education & Training Network (TB ETN)

The TB Education and Training Network (TB ETN) was formed to bring TB professionals together to network, share resources, and build education and training skills.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/TBETN/default.htm>

TB-Related News and Journal Items Weekly Update

Provided by the CDC as a public service, subscribers receive:

- A weekly update of TB-related news items
- Citations and abstracts to new scientific TB journal articles
- TB conference announcements
- TB job announcements
- To subscribe to this service, visit:

http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/listserv/tb_update.asp

TB Behavioral and Social Science Listserv

Sponsored by the DTBE of the CDC and the CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN), this Listserv provides subscribers the opportunity to exchange information and engage in ongoing discussions about behavioral and social science issues as they relate to tuberculosis prevention and control.

http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/listserv/tb_behavioral_science.asp

Other RTMCCs

The Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center serves: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Federated State of Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Republic of Palau. <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu>

The Heartland National Tuberculosis Center serves: Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. <http://www.heartlandntbc.org>

The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center serves: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu>