

Epidemiology of Clostridium difficile infections in the Netherlands and Europe: implications for surveillance and control

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STELLINGEN

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SOFIE M. VAN DORP

- Diagnostic variability of C. difficile infection among microbiological laboratories in various European countries impedes valid calculation of the total burden of CDI in Europe (this thesis)
- 2. *C. difficile* infection surveillance systems should be standardised and supported by molecular typing to optimise infection control (this thesis)
- 3. The absence of geographical clustering of *C. difficile* infection beyond healthcare facilities indicates the absence of localised sources of CDI in the community, such as pig farms (this thesis)
- 4. Highly discriminatory molecular typing of *C. difficile* isolates from different human, animal and environmental sources is needed to estimate their attributable risks for CDI in humans (this thesis)
- 5. Public health departments will need to develop new analytical techniques to take advantage of evolving public health data sources while protecting patient confidentiality. (Henry Rolka, MMWR Suppl. 2012)
- In the absence of a vaccine, future efforts to prevent C. difficile will cross health care settings and focus more on appropriate antibiotic use. (Fernanda Lessa, N Engl J Med. 2015)
- Due to the inherent complexity and heterogeneity of the human microbiome, cross-sectional, case-control and longitudinal studies may not have enough statistical power to allow causation. (Joëlle Fritz, Microbiome. 2013)
- 8. Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things. (The First Law of Geography. Waldo Tobler, 1930-2018).
- 9. Like our gut benefits from a diverse microbiome, our society benefits from a diverse community.
- Nothing occurs at random, but everything for a reason and by necessity.
 (Leucippus, c. 480-420)
 Het begrijpen van de wetmatigheid van leuke én nare gebeurtenissen geeft de mens gemoedsrust.
- 11. The art of medicine is to cure sometimes, to relieve often, and to comfort always. (attributed to Ambroise Paré, 1510-1590)
 Bij uitstek in de klinische geriatrie voert de rol als arts verder dan genezen en dienen alle mogelijkheden tot verbetering van het welzijn te worden geëxploreerd.