Reviewer's report

Title: Molecular and Epidemiologic Analysis of a County-Wide Outbreak Caused by Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica serovar Enteritidis Traced to a Bakery

Version: 4 Date: 18 August 2004

Reviewer: Anja Siitonen

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript is mostly descriptive and does not contain much new, as stated previously. It is also lengthy; this has also been stated previously by both reviewers. Therefore, the authors should have at least tried to shorten the text. However, no attempts to do that cannot be seen; the results section in this third version is even longer than in the former version. In addition, it was frustrating that when the authors had corrected a mistake in one point of the manuscript the same mistake still emerged in some other point of the manuscript.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Patients 1.1. Page 10, line 15. The last part of the sentence can be deleted; the data that 16 patients were female can be derived from the first part of the sentence. 1.2. Page 10, lines 14 – 19. Use the word “patient(s)” instead of “case(s)”. 1.3. Page 11, first paragraph. The data concerning clinical chemistry can be deleted.

2. Bacterial strains (starting from page 12)
2.1. This section of the results was more concisely written in the previous version of this manuscript. Now, some of the sentences are not understandable. For example, by Among 34 patients receiving blood culture, two patients’ blood samples grew S. Enteritidis, the authors probably mean that S. Enteritidis grew in two of the 34 patients’ blood cultures.

2.2. Page 12. The first sentence in the last paragraph does not belong to results of this study; the authors may use this data for example in the Background section.

3. English language of the manuscript needs to be revised.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. The correct use of italics in the name of Salmonella Enteritidis should be checked throughout the manuscript, also in figures. This is now the third complaint about the same issue!
2. Figure 2. The authors have removed the markers from the figure, as
suggested. They should also delete the corresponding text from the figure legend.

3. The misspellings, for example - In page 5, twp should be two
   - In page 5, Salmonlla should be Salmonella
   - In page 16, Enteritidis should be Enteritidis should be corrected throughout the manuscript, also in references.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)