1. The nucleic acid extraction procedure is a crucial step for obtaining optimal performance when using molecular-based methods for detection of enteropathogens in feces. This thesis.

2. Although the low positive predictive value of real-time PCR hamper the use of these assays as a stand-alone test for diagnosis of Clostridium difficile infection (CDI), the high negative predictive value and speed makes them an excellent choice as a first screening test in a two-step algorithm. This thesis.

3. Use of molecular screening approaches results in significantly increased detection rates of enteropathogens and a considerable decrease in time to reporting of results. This thesis.

4. Policies to reduce the costs of hospitalization due to gastroenteritis should be focused on control measures for prevention of rotavirus infection in both children and adults. This thesis.

5. As currently applied culture protocols for detection of fastidious Campylobacter species perform poorly, molecular-based methods play an important role in determining the clinical relevance of these bacterial species in diarrheal disease. This thesis.

6. The increased frequency of norovirus outbreaks late 2012 and being associated with the emergence of the new variant NoV GII.4.2012 Sydney, is caused by changes in the main blockade epitopes allowing escape from existing herd immunity. Euro Surveill. 2013. 18:8-9.


8. As the emerging pathogen Escherichia albertii possesses the locus of enterocyte effacement (LEE), many strains have been misidentified as enterohemorrhagic (EHEC) or enteropathogenic (EPEC) Escherichia coli. Emerg Infect Dis. 2012. 18:488-92.


10. The detection of human-associated genotypes of Dientamoeba fragilis in pigs confirms their role as natural hosts and suggests the potential for zoonotic transmission of this parasite. Emerg Infect Dis. 2012. 18:838-41.

11. Considering the amount of work involved to complete a PhD, ignorance is truly bliss when commencing one.

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Rotterdam, 24 mei 2013