

SPI

SCIENCE
POLICY
INTERFACE 2.0

TAILOR-MADE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME FOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS AND POLICY MAKERS

- Fosters the exchange of evidence and practice at the interface of science and health policy.
- Focuses on new developments and future challenges in the influenza field.
- Puts influenza in the broader context of infectious diseases: What can we learn from the Ebola, MERS and Zika outbreaks?
- Ample time for Q&A and networking.

Organized by
European
Scientific
Working group on
Influenza



THE SIXTH ESWI
INFLUENZA
CONFERENCE
10-13 SEPTEMBER 2017





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Influenza is a serious public health problem. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that annual epidemics of flu globally result in 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness with around 250,000 to 500,000 deaths. Influenza spreads easily through schools, hospitals, nursing homes, towns and businesses, while its impact is the highest in those most at risk, such as the elderly, young infants and pregnant women. In order to reduce the impact of seasonal influenza, efficient prevention and treatment strategies can be implemented. At the same time, seasonal influenza control is the first important preparedness measure for a possible pandemic outbreak of influenza. Such a worldwide outbreak can occur when a bird flu virus mutates and acquires the ability to easily infect the human population. Surveillance of emerging avian influenza viruses and preparedness for a possible outbreak is therefore essential.

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THE FIFTH ESWI
INFLUENZA
CONFERENCE

10-13 SEPTEMBER 2017 | RIGA



Preparedness, prevention and treatment strategies will be at the core of the Sixth ESWI Influenza Conference. This conference is the largest influenza event in 2017 and will have a clearly delineated programme track for public health officials/policy makers, called the 'Science Policy Interface' (SPI).

The separate SPI programme is specifically designed to foster the exchange of knowledge and practice at the interface of science and health policy. In seven sessions, the world's leading experts will address some of the most intriguing issues, while distinguished public health professionals will share their insights and experience.

Why should you attend?

- ↘ Keep track of the latest data on influenza pandemic threats. What is the potential impact of the H5N1, H7N9 and H5N8 bird flu viruses in Europe?
- ↘ Hear the state of Europe's preparedness against pandemic influenza. What can we learn from other disease outbreaks like Zika, MERS and Ebola?
- ↘ Meet with top scientific experts and fellow public health officials from different European countries, ECDC and WHO.
- ↘ Learn all about influenza vaccines and antiviral medicines. Is the influenza vaccine safe for pregnant women? Can and will flu vaccines be improved? Will there ever be a vaccine that protects against all types of flu virus? And what is the future of antiviral flu drugs?
- ↘ Get the latest information on successful strategies to manage yearly influenza epidemics.
- ↘ Be inspired with new ideas and fresh perspectives and join us in helping to reduce the impact of influenza on public health.



From influenza science to influenza policy in seven sessions



SESSION 1:

INFLUENZA IS A MOVING TARGET AND A SECRET KILLER

Influenza viruses change continuously in an attempt to evade human defense mechanisms, which makes the virus unpredictable. So how then can we develop effective vaccines to prevent influenza and antiviral agents to treat the disease? And why do flu epidemics - in our moderate European climates - only occur during the winter periods? One of the more difficult issues in public health policy is the matter of influenza vaccination for at-risk groups. Which parts of the population should receive priority for the administration of vaccines? This session provides the basics of influenza virology, focuses closely on how flu vaccines and antivirals work, while influenza experts at ECDC and WHO Europe will review the scientific base that supports vaccination recommendations for pregnant women, the elderly and the chronically ill.

SESSION 2:

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF INFLUENZA

How good is the flu vaccine at protecting against influenza? What is the impact of repeat vaccinations? What is the difference between nasal and injectable vaccines? What is the role of antiviral agents in the fight against influenza?

Current flu vaccines work well and are safe, but it is that different vaccine types are not equally effective in all target groups. Research is underway to develop a flu shot that provides broader protection for all groups and wouldn't have to be administered every year.

Antiviral medicines, on the other hand, are an essential tool to treat patients with an influenza infection, especially to reduce complications in at-risk groups. But the number of effective antivirals is quite limited at present. Fortunately, there are a fair number of new promising products on the horizon. Current status and future prospects of influenza vaccines and antivirals: all in one session.

SESSION 3:

ADDRESSING INFLUENZA IN PRACTICE: WHO'S INVOLVED?

Healthcare workers - nurses, family doctors, respiratory physicians and pharmacists - are in the forefront in the fight against flu. As a patient's trusted advisor, they are in a perfect position to inform patients about the risks of influenza and the importance of being vaccinated. At the same time, they are also well placed to refute myths and other misinformation about vaccines. The Science Policy Interface faculty will therefore provide a number of inspiring good practices in order to discuss strategies to strengthen the role of healthcare professionals in influenza prevention.

SESSION 4:

IMPLEMENTATION OF VACCINATION POLICIES: SUCCESS STORIES AND HURDLES...

All European countries have clear recommendations for influenza vaccine priority groups, yet we see an enormous variety of vaccination policies. In this session, influenza experts will discuss some of the most successful strategies and they will present an overview of available tools for the implementation of vaccination policies. We also know that journalists are vital when it comes to informing and educating the public. Attend this session to learn how to communicate effectively with the press about public health issues.

SESSION 5:

INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHER VIRUS OUTBREAKS?

The tragic Ebola epidemic, the outbreak of MERS CoV and the ongoing HIV epidemic should serve as a wake-up call: the world must prepare for future epidemics of diseases that spread much more effectively than these viruses. Influenza, for instance, is far more infectious because it can be spread through the air, rather than requiring direct contact.

This session will identify key lessons from the management of recent disease outbreaks that could inform preparedness for pandemic outbreak of influenza. Special attention will go to the implementation of non-medical interventions and communication with the general public. Since global leadership is of crucial importance to manage any pandemic, the World Health Organization will elaborate on its new pandemic alert system.





SESSION 6:

REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE AT RISK

The World Health Organization has issued clear recommendations regarding priority groups for influenza vaccination: pregnant women, the elderly, young children, people with underlying health conditions and healthcare workers. But how do we make sure these groups really get their annual flu shot? Wouldn't it be better to recommend the flu vaccine for the entire population, for the sake of clarity? And what about healthy individuals travelling to risk areas? This session discusses who should be vaccinated against influenza and why. Faculty will also explore strategies to convey the message effectively. The Programme Committee is particularly proud to announce the results of a brand new review study on the benefits of influenza vaccination for diabetes patients.

SESSION 7:

INFLUENZA PREVENTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Developed countries spend significant resources to prevent and mitigate the impact of influenza outbreaks. Most developing nations are not so fortunate: in many regions, people cannot afford basic health care, such as readily available vaccinations or maternal care. People who are already suffering from malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or other ailments will be more susceptible to complications and death from the flu. The prevention and treatment in developing countries is a global responsibility and this session addresses several challenges, including the question of how to improve surveillance systems to monitor how viruses are spreading, and the inequitable access to medical interventions such as vaccines and antiviral drugs in developing nations.

PROGRAMME AT GLANCE

10 SEPTEMBER 2017		14:00 -15:45	
13:15-14:45	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM: PREPARE CONSORTIUM	SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE 2 Prevention and treatment of influenza	
15:00-16:30	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	CHAIR: Jonathan Van-Tam , University of Nottingham, UK	
16:45- 18:15	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	1. Vaccines: current and novel approaches Guus Rimmelzwaan , Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands	
18:30-19:30	OPENING CEREMONY	2. Safety of seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines Michael McNeil , CDC Immunization Safety Office, USA	
19:30-23:00	WELCOME RECEPTION	3. Effectiveness of seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines Jonathan Van-Tam , University of Nottingham, UK	
11 SEPTEMBER 2017		4. Antiviral medicines against influenza: current and novel approaches Lieve Naesens , Rega Institute KU Leuven, Belgium	
7:30-9:00	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	5. Safety and effectiveness of influenza antivirals Nicole Bouvier , Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA	
9:15-10:15	PLENARY SESSION	15:45-16:15	
10:15-10:45	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45-12:30	SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE 1 All you need to know about influenza viruses	16:15 18:00	
	CHAIR: Ab Osterhaus , RIZ Tiho Hannover, Germany	SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE 3 Addressing influenza in practice: who's involved?	
	1. All you need to know about influenza viruses Ab Osterhaus , RIZ Tiho Hannover, Germany	CHAIR: Susanne Herold , University of Giessen, Germany	
	2. How flu viruses travel around the world Colin Russell , University of Cambridge, UK	1. Respiratory physicians tackling influenza Susanne Herold , University of Giessen, Germany	
	3. Close focus: vaccines and antivirals Florian Krammer , Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA	2. Nurses and midwives: in the forefront in the fight against flu <i>tbc</i>	
	4. Who is at risk of flu infections and are these risk groups well-protected? ECDC informs Pasi Penttinen , ECDC	3. Family doctors: our trusted advisors Ted van Essen , general practitioner, The Netherlands	
	5. The economic impact of flu: WHO informs Caroline Brown , WHO Europe	4. Protecting healthcare workers and patients in hospital settings Roman Prymula , University Hospital Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic	
12:30-14:00	LUNCH/ SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	5. The new role of pharmacists in flu prevention Isabel Jacinto , National Association of Pharmacies, Portugal	
		18:00-19:30	
		SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	

12 SEPTEMBER 2017	
7:30-9:00	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM - COMPANY LECTURES
9:15-10:15	PLENARY SESSION
10:15-10:45	COFFEE BREAK
10:45-12:30	SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE 4 Implementation of vaccination policies: success stories and hurdles
	CHAIR: <i>Peter Openshaw, Imperial College London, UK</i>
	1. How does NHS England manage to achieve one of the highest seasonal Influenza vaccination rates in Europe? <i>George Kassianos, Immunisation Lead for the Royal College of General Practitioners, UK</i>
	2. Influenza vaccination in Mexico <i>Jose Angel Cordova Villalobos, Mexico, former Minister of Health (2006 - 2011)</i>
	3. The role of 'experts' in guiding policy: the immunologist's perspective <i>Peter Openshaw, Imperial College London, UK</i>
	5. A journalist's opinion on vaccination policies and the role of scientists <i>Debora McKenzie, New Scientist Magazine</i>
12:30-14:00	LUNCH/ SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM - PREMIUM
14:00 -15:45	SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE 5 Influenza preparedness: what can we learn from other virus outbreaks?
	CHAIR: <i>tbc</i>
	1. HIV and Ebola: what went wrong and where do we go now? <i>Guido van der Groen, Prof. Em. Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium</i>
	2. How to successfully prevent a major disease outbreak: from SARS to MERS <i>Ab Osterhaus, RIZ Tiho Hannover, Germany</i>
	3. The H1N1 health crisis: how did we cope and are we prepared for a new outbreak? <i>Marc Van Ranst, University of Leuven, Belgium</i>
	4. Zika virus as a global public health emergency <i>Herve Zeller, head of disease programme for Emerging and vector-borne diseases, ECDC</i>
	5. Revised pandemic preparedness plans and global update on PIP Framework <i>Wenqing Zhang, Global Influenza Programme, World Health Organization, Switzerland</i>
15:45-16:15	COFFEE BREAK

16:15 18:00	SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE 6 Reaching out to people at risk
	CHAIR: <i>Marc Van Ranst, University of Leuven, Belgium</i>
	1. Should travellers be vaccinated against flu? <i>Marco Goeijenbier, Harbour Hospital Rotterdam, The Netherlands</i>
	2. The benefits of a universal vaccination recommendation: the US case <i>Litjen Tan, Immunization Action Coalition, USA</i>
	3. Should children be vaccinated against influenza? <i>Adam Finn, University of Bristol, UK and president ESPID</i>
	4. Protecting diabetes patients against flu <i>tbc</i>
	5. Reaching out to the elderly: why and how <i>Janet McElhaney, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Canada</i>
	6. Should pregnant women be vaccinated against the flu? <i>Justin Ortiz, WHO</i>
18:00-19:30	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
13 SEPTEMBER 2017	
7:30-9:00	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
9:00-10:00	PLENARY SESSION DEDICATED TO THE WORK OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS
10:00-10:30	COFFEE BREAK
10:30-12:15	SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE 7 Influenza prevention in developing countries: a global responsibility
	CHAIR: <i>Malik Peiris, University of Hong Kong</i>
	1. How to protect mother and child <i>Abdullah Brooks, Infectious Diseases Unit at Kamalapur Field Site, Bangladesh</i>
	2. Improving influenza surveillance <i>tbc</i>
	3. Can we prevent infectious disease outbreaks in developing countries? <i>tbd</i>
	4. Logistical challenges in low income countries <i>tbd</i>
12:15-13:45	PLENARY SESSION LATE BREAKERS AND CLOSING CEREMONY
13:45-14:30	LUNCH BUFFET

TOP FIVE REASONS

TO ATTEND THE ESWI SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACE PROGRAMME as heard from attendees of the 2014 conference

“The Science Policy Interface was a very good and valuable experience, it was great to meet other public health leaders.”

“I have the feeling I’m almost an expert in influenza now.”

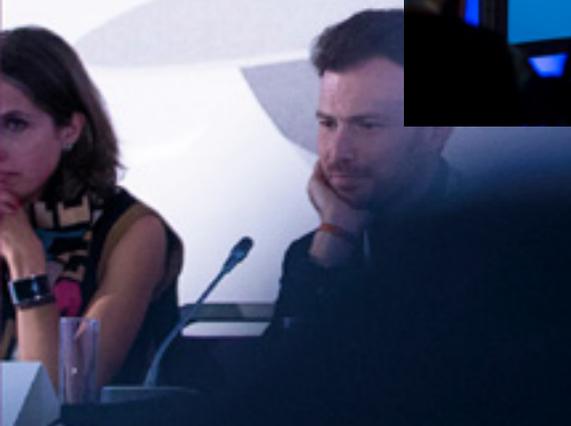
“SPI was excellent - very nice presentations and great to see that young scientists get opportunities.”

“ECDC en WHO provided illuminating insights and updates on their most recent recommendations.”

“There is good space in the programs for discussion/interaction.”

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THE VENUE

The Sixth ESWI Influenza Conference will take place at the Radisson Blu Hotel Latvija in Riga, the capital of Latvia. Accommodation for the conference is not included in the registration fee and should hence be booked separately. The accommodation booking tool on www.eswiconference.org allows you to browse through a list of preferred hotels and to book & pay your hotel room in just a few clicks.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The official language of the Sixth ESWI Influenza Conference will be English.

REGISTRATION FEES

- *Early*: €880
- *Full*: €1,080

REGISTRATION RATE CUT-OFF DATES

- Early registration rates are applicable to registrations made **prior to or on 31 May 2017**.
- Full registration rates are applicable to registrations made **as of 1 June 2017**.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION RATE?

- Airport Transfer (on 10 and 13 September)
- Opening Ceremony on 10 September 2017
- Welcome Reception on 10 September 2017
- Access to all Conference Sessions
- Coffee Break - Refreshments
- Conference Lunches
- Farewell Dinner on 12 September 2017

ABOUT ESWI

The European Scientific Working group on Influenza (ESWI) is a network of independent influenza experts and organizations of public health officials, healthcare professionals, at-risk patients and the elderly. Together, we aim to reduce the burden of influenza in Europe.

www.eswi.org

Information and registration at www.eswiconference.org

If you have any questions about the Sixth ESWI Influenza Conference, please contact:
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