

ESWI ANNUAL REPORT 2010

... EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS FIGHTING INFLUENZA



Table of Content



3	Table of content
5	Editorial: ESWI as a network of influenza stakeholders
6	ESWI's organisational development
8	Country Influenza Stakeholder Networks
11	Strategy towards Public Health Officials
12	ESWI communicates
14	Looking ahead at 2011
16	The Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference
18	ESWI members
22	ESWI partner organizations and associate members



ESWI as a true network of influenza stakeholders



EDITORIAL

ESWI has been active in the European influenza field since 1993. The group adopted its first policy plan in 1997. Its main objective then was to disseminate scientifically based information and knowledge about influenza, especially to the medical and scientific world. Since then, ESWI continuously expanded its range of target groups to include amongst others general practitioners, public health officials, pharmacists and opinion leaders in healthcare work. With the loyal support of its sponsoring partners, ESWI has grown into an organisation with a clear and unique position in the European influenza field. A true partnership organisation, ESWI is able to meet specific objectives and to undertake projects that neither partner could tackle adequately on its own. Importantly, ESWI's partners share a common ground: the social concern to improve public health in Europe, by reducing the number of influenza victims.

In 2010, the ESWI Board of Directors have again taken an important strategic decision: the ESWI structure has been thoroughly adapted to reflect the 'network of partners' concept. As of 2010, ESWI is a multidisciplinary, scientifically independent partnership between:

- Members: European influenza experts, covering almost all disciplines in the field (see page 19 for more information on the ESWI members)
- Associate members: individual experts with an advisory role. Associate members (formerly 'advisers') do not represent an institute or organization
- Partner organizations. ESWI aims to establish formal relationships with European umbrella organizations of:
 - Organizations of the elderly
 - Organizations of healthcare providers
 - nurses
 - cardiologists
 - pulmonologists
 - GP's
 - pharmacists
- Patient organizations
 - diabetes patients
 - respiratory disease patients
 - heart patients
- Organizations of science writers and the press
- Influenza vaccine and antivirals manufacturers

By joining forces with influenza stakeholders to help raise awareness about the potential dangers of influenza and the existing prevention methods, ESWI aims to realize its mission: to reduce the burden of influenza in Europe.

While redefining its organizational structure, ESWI started the implementation of its 2010-2011 action plan. Driven by a social concern to improve the public health situation in Europe, the ESWI members translated their scientific expertise in clear messages and activities towards public health experts and healthcare workers. The organization of influenza workshops for public health officials is an excellent example of such an ESWI activity. The preparation of the First European Influenza Summit is yet another example. The recently acquired contacts with the above umbrella stakeholder groups will prove of valuable importance when promoting the summit.

Close collaboration between influenza stakeholders like public health officials and healthcare providers is the aim of yet another major ESWI project: the establishment of Country Influenza Stakeholders Networks (CISN) in individual European countries. In 2010, promising networks have been initiated in Austria and Turkey. As a matter of fact, two of the driving forces behind these networks, Prof Michael Kunze and Dr Meral Ciblak, have now joined the ESWI group as an associate member and as a member respectively.

Lastly, ESWI is looking forward to welcoming the influenza community in Malta, from 11 till 14 September 2011. Speaking on behalf of the entire Organizing Committee, I can say that scientists and public health officials will be offered attractive and tailor-made programs, with plenty of interesting sessions, symposia, plenaries, workshops and lecturers to choose from.

A.D.M.E. Osterhaus
ESWI President

ESWI's organisational development



In compliance with ESWI's redefined organizational structure (see previous page), the group has established formal relationships with a number of stakeholder organizations (and will continue to expand this network). In addition, ESWI is continuously in search of the most valuable knowledge in order to strengthen its position of an independent and decisive network of influenza scientists.

ESWI'S MEMBERS

Dr **Bruno Lina** is Professor of Virology at the University of Lyon, France. Dr Lina has been a supporter of ESWI for some years, as is demonstrated by his commitment to ESWI's Influenza Workshops for Public Health Officials.

Dr **Meral Akcay Ciblak** joined the ESWI member group in April 2011. Dr Ciblak is currently the Manager of the National Influenza Reference Laboratory at the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine in Turkey. She is one of the driving forces behind the formation of the Country Influenza Stakeholders Network in Turkey.

REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The European Respiratory Society (ERS) has been a partner organization of ESWI for several years now. In 2010, Dr **Gernot Rohde**, University of Maastricht, succeeded Dr Francesco Blasi as the new ERS representative.

Mrs **Sirpa Peura** represents the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), the European association representing community pharmacists. Mrs Peura is Director for Pharmaceutical Affairs at the Association of Finnish Pharmacies. In 2010, she succeeded Mrs Pamela Logan as the ESWI representative.

Mr. **S. Marschang** has joined the ESWI group as the representative of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), the European network of non-for-profit organizations working in the field of public health.

Mrs **Sophie Peresson** is representing the International Diabetes Federation-Europe (IDF-Europe), the European umbrella organization of national diabetes federations.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dr **Michael Kunze** now represents the Austrian Influenza Stakeholders Network at ESWI's Board of Director's meetings and in regular contacts with the Executive Committee. Dr Kunze is Professor at the Vienna Medical University in Austria.

The Board of Directors officially welcomes the new members, partner organizations and associate members, and is looking forward to an intense and fruitful cooperation.

In 2011, ESWI will continue its search for additional (associate) members and partners. By covering the entire field of influenza, we wish to grant European experts the opportunity to join forces in the fight against influenza.

THANK YOU

ESWI's Board of Directors wishes to thank Dr Derek Smith for his unbridled dedication to the mission of ESWI and his indisputable contribution to the current success of the group. Dr Smith served ESWI as a vice-chairman from 2007 until 2010. Dr Smith's scientific expertise will undoubtedly prove extremely valuable in future ESWI activities, such as the Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference in Malta.

ESWI'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following Dr Smith's resignation from the ESWI Board of Directors, Dr Peter Openshaw has joined the Executive Committee as the new Vice-President. Dr Ted van Essen has been appointed treasurer.

President: **Dr Albert Osterhaus**
Vice-President: **Dr Peter Openshaw**
Treasurer: **Dr Ted van Essen**



Country Influenza Stakeholder Networks (CISN)

2003: CISN IN GERMANY, SWEDEN AND POLAND

As a way to enhance interactions between influenza stakeholders in a particular country, ESWI has been facilitating the creation of national influenza stakeholder networks in Sweden, Germany and Poland since 2003. The idea for these networks is to support and strengthen national public health activities. From bringing together national influenza stakeholders in these countries, ESWI has learnt that a decisive national strategy to fight influenza depends on the quality of the communication lines from research institutes and the government to General Practitioners. ESWI has also learnt that an efficient and well-functioning network cannot exist without the active support of the leading national influenza institute. After all, ESWI is merely there to provide methodological, organisational and financial support to the network.

Based on its experience from the pilot countries, ESWI started facilitating the establishment of CISN in several other European countries: Finland, Portugal and the Czech Republic in 2008, Austria and Hungary in 2009, and Greece, Norway and Turkey in 2010.

AUSTRIA

Austria has an excellent public health system, yet the influenza vaccine uptake in risk groups remains rather low. To discuss the possibilities of setting up an Austrian Influenza Stakeholders Network, ESWI met with Prof H. Hrabcik, General Director of Public Health, and Prof Michael Kunze, University of Vienna, in January 2010. As a result, the first Austrian network meeting was held on 10 December 2010, bringing together a core group of 18 Austrian influenza stakeholders, including representatives of national and regional public health authorities, the military, the pharmacy, hospital management, and of course the medical scientific world. In two highly appreciated presentations, ESWI speakers elaborated on the seasonal influenza approach in The Netherlands, emphasizing the important role of GPs and the Dutch Health Council. In a third presentation, they also introduced the concept of ESWI's Country Influenza Stakeholders Networks. The positive attendee feedback encouraged Prof Kunze to consider the organization of a second CISN meeting, with an expanded audience.

HUNGARY

Not only Hungary an ambitious 'new' EU member state, where ESWI could 'apply' its experience gained in the Czech Republic and Poland, it is also the home of Omninvest, a company heavily involved in influenza vaccine research. Therefore, ESWI has met with Prof M. Melles, Director General of Public Health, on 7 September 2009 in Budapest.

GREECE

The first step towards the establishment of a Greek influenza stakeholders network was taken on 31 August 2010, when ESWI's chairman and ESWI's strategic adviser met with the Head of the National Influenza Reference Laboratory for Southern Greece, the Principal Investigator at the Laboratory of Medical Microbiology, and Dr Panagiotopoulos from KEELPNO. ESWI now also enjoys the full support of Dr Foteinea-Pantazopoulou, the Directorate-General of Public Health. ESWI will continue to increase the number of supporters in order to start the formation of a network of influenza stakeholders in Greece.

NORWAY

The director of the Norwegian Influenza Centre, Dr Olav Hungnes, has expressed his interest in the formation of a Norwegian influenza stakeholder network. Hence, the ESWI chair and ESWI's strategic advisor visited Dr Hungnes in Oslo on 6 December 2010 to discuss collaboration. Further discussions will be held in 2011. Remarkably: Dr Hungnes is a former ESWI Young Scientist who attended – amongst others – ESWI's lab training course in 2005, proving the direct effect of ESWI's efforts to support young scientists.



TURKEY

Turkey is a vast country, with an enormous potential in vaccine uptake increase. Public health care in Turkey heavily relies on local pharmacists, which opens opportunities in light of ESWI's relationship with the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union. ESWI has met with Dr. S. Com, general director of primary health care, in Ankara in March 2010. A second meeting was held on 13 January 2011, under the auspices of KLIMIK, the Turkish Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. The objective was to discuss the possibility of creating an influenza stakeholders network in Turkey with renowned scientists who are currently involved in influenza research. As a result, the first Influenza Stakeholders Meeting was held in Istanbul on 21 February 2011, bringing together a core group of healthcare providers and patient organizations. Follow-up meetings will be held in the course of 2011, demonstrating the desire of Turkish stakeholders to move things forward.





Influenza workshops for public health officials

Over the past years, the field of influenza preparedness has been confronted with major new developments, including the development of antiviral resistance, the development and licensing of vaccines for pre-pandemic storage or usage and of course the pandemic outbreak of H1N1 influenza. Public health officials need to remain on top of these evolutions, in order to constantly adapt and update national and international pandemic planning strategies. For that reason, ESWI launched its Influenza Workshops for Public Health Officials, which provide evidence-based and objective state-of-the-art information about these topics. The first workshops were held in January and September 2009. The third and fourth editions took place in January and September 2010 respectively.

Each edition was attended by 30-40 key public health officials (General Directors of Public Health, Permanent Representatives to the EU, heads of national research institutes...) representing over 20 different countries. The attendance rates as well as the enthusiastic debates during the Q&A sessions go to show that ESWI's workshops really meet an urgent need, underscoring how much confusion there is among public health leaders.

Q&A BOOKLET: THE RIGHT STEPS WERE TAKEN



The third edition of the influenza workshop was held on 22 January 2010 and focused on the pandemic preparedness measures taken by national governments in Europe, which were then the subject of very critical debate. ESWI felt that such a discussion had to be based on correct and science-based information. Providing this unbiased information was hence the aim of the workshop. The lectures and discussions have been compiled in a widely distributed and well-appreciated publication.

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Q&A BOOKLET: ANSWERING THE INFLUENZA THREAT



The fourth edition of the Influenza Workshops for Public Health Officials was held on 17 September 2010 in Brussels. As WHO had formally declared the end of the H1N1 swine flu pandemic in August 2010, ESWI seized the opportunity to look back and assess the efficacy and effectiveness of the H1N1 pandemic approach in Europe. At the same time, it was the right moment to look ahead and to emphasize the importance of continued vigilance. Scientific experts provided objective state-of-the-art information about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of H1N1 pandemic influenza vaccination, the implementation of effective vaccination strategies and, obviously, an assessment of the pandemic potential of different influenza virus strains (including H1N1 and H5N1).

Again the lectures and discussions have been compiled and widely distributed. The Q&A magazines can still be downloaded from www.eswi.org or www.eswiworkshop.org

ONLINE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FLU COMMUNITY

To provide additional information and to answer possible questions, ESWI has created an online community for Public Health Officials. It is a forum where PHO and ESWI experts informally meet to share their views and knowledge.

The web tool allows registered users to consult the LATEST DOCUMENTS and the LATEST EVENTS on influenza prevention, influenza treatment and pandemic preparedness. Registered community member can also post or send messages, ask questions, share good-practices and post upcoming events. The website was launched on 25 September 2009 and is currently used by about 100 registered PHO.

ESWI communicates



ESWI CORPORATE WEBSITE: WWW.ESWI.ORG

The ESWI website now provides tailor-made information for all major influenza stakeholders. Web links to ESWI projects (www.flucentre.org, www.eswiconference.org, www.flusummit.org, www.eswiworkshop.org) and other leading influenza organisations turn the ESWI website into an important portal site on influenza. In close consultation with ESWI's members, partner organizations and associate members, the website's content is regularly updated.



ESWI'S VIRTUAL INFLUENZA KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS: WWW.FLUCENTRE.ORG

ESWI's influenza knowledge centre for healthcare workers is available online since September 2008. It presents valuable background information on flu and its potential of causing pandemics and aims to help raising awareness about influenza and influenza prevention. The virtual influenza knowledge centre is an attractive and user-friendly web application. It touches on 40 different topics, while links allow the user to click through to related topics and items. The textual information is supported by a variety of animated illustrations: short and low-threshold video items, gripping testimonials and well-edited existing video footage.

In the course of 2010, the website's content has regularly been updated to include the most recent developments and novel data on the H1N1 pandemic. In September and November 2010 dozens of new video footage and testimonials have become available on the virtual influenza knowledge centre.

ESWI ON FACEBOOK

Check and connect to ESWI's Facebook page via www.facebook.com/EuropeanScientistsFightingInfluenza



THE INFLUENZA BULLETIN

The Influenza Bulletin remains a primary tool in ESWI's communication with the medical community at large. At the same time, the Bulletin largely contributes to ESWI's visibility in the field. In March 2011, about **3,000 members** of the medical/scientific community received the magazine, which offers them news, editorials, reviews, commentaries and seasonal influenza reports for Europe.

Topics addressed were:

Bulletin No. 27

- Influenza vaccination side effects: the Guillain-Barré syndrome
Bart C. Jacobs
Depts. Neurology and Immunology
Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1: RIP?
Malik Peiris & Yi Guan
The Department of Microbiology
The University of Hong Kong
- Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1): assessing vaccine safety
Bettie Voordouw
Medicines Evaluation Board, Principal clinical assessor infectious diseases, specialist assessor vaccines
Sabine Straus
Medicines Evaluation Board, Head Pharmacovigilance
- The Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference
- ESWI's Influenza Award for Young Scientists



E-NEWSLETTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

Public health officials are a particularly important target group of ESWI, owing to their responsibility for taking crucial steps and putting pandemic preparedness plans in place. In 2010, ESWI launched its electronic newsletter to public health officials (as a successor of its printed newsletter which had been sent out twice a year since 2005). The e-newsletter provides about 800 policy makers with short, interesting messages, linking the readers to elaborate articles on the www.eswi.org website.

E-NEWSFLASH FOR INFLUENZA SCIENTISTS

2010 also saw ESWI's electronic newsflash for influenza scientists. The newsflash will be sent regularly as an addition to ESWI's Influenza Bulletin, providing its readers with 'non-scientific' influenza-related information. Again the short, appealing messages link to full-length articles on the ESWI website.

Looking ahead at 2011



THE FIRST EUROPEAN INFLUENZA SUMMIT

On 26 May 2011, ESWI organizes its first European Flu Summit in Brussels. The concept of the one-day meeting is to provide influenza stakeholder organizations with a platform to exchange good practices and to initiate concrete actions. The Summit will hence be an action-oriented event with participants including healthcare professionals, public health officials, organizations of at-risk patients and senior citizens, and other public and private organizations that have an interest in addressing and resolving influenza issues.

ESWI has established a valuable working relationship with the organizers of the National Influenza Vaccine Summit in the US. Having been organized annually since 2000, the US Summit now has over 400 members who represent over 100 public and private organizations. Whilst preparing the European Flu Summit, ESWI and the US organizers met on 24 January 2011 to share information, wisdom, ideas and feedback.

The First European Influenza Summit enjoys the support of several organizations of healthcare providers and patients. The summit is hence part of ESWI's efforts to establish a long-term relationship with influenza stakeholder organizations.

INFLUENZA WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

To assist journalists with their task of communicating scientific risk, the ESWI scientists have compiled the latest scientific data in five tailor-made workshop lectures. Members of the press who are interested in learning the ins and outs of influenza and its potential impact on public health, will be invited to ESWI's influenza workshop on 27 May 2011 in Brussels. Attendance is free of charge.



THE FOURTH ESWI INFLUENZA CONFERENCE

The Conference will be held in Saint-Julian's, Malta, from 11 – 14 September 2011.

See also page 16 and www.eswiconference.org



YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

As part of ESWI's commitment to the future of the influenza field, ESWI will distribute the second edition of its award for the most promising body of work by a young scientist. By 21 March 2011, more than 25 young scientists had submitted a summary of their work. The award winner will receive the prize, worth €10,000, at the Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference in Malta.





The Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference

The Fourth edition of ESWI's Influenza Conferences will be held in Saint-Julian's, Malta, from 11 – 14 September 2011. The conference date was launched in August 2009, more than two years before the actual event. Evidently, ESWI (and more in particular, the Organizing Committee) has dedicated plenty of time in 2010 to plan and organize the conference and to compile an attractive set of sessions and lecturers.

The conference will have two clearly delineated programme tracks: one for scientists and one for public health officials. Ample networking opportunities are built into the programmes.



The scientific programme track will provide comprehensive scientific coverage of all disciplines involved in influenza prevention, control and treatment. It will be an excellent platform for the world's premier researchers, public health experts and healthcare professionals to exchange ideas and to discuss critical recent data on influenza virus infection in humans and animals, as well as its impact on human and animal health. Attendees will be offered a flexible programme with different sessions to choose from, covering topics from diagnostic approaches and mathematic modeling to healthcare policy and basic virology.

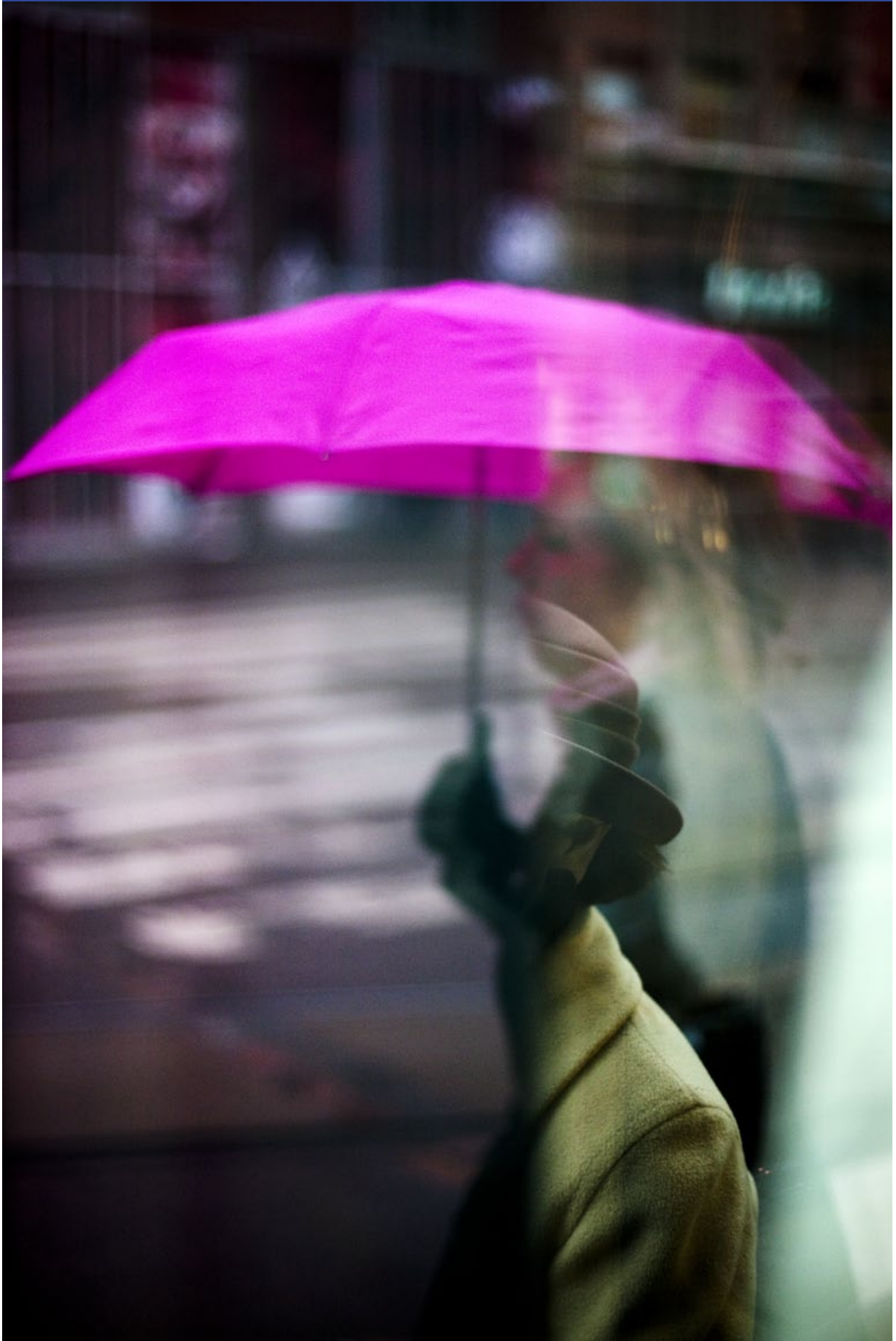


A clearly delineated separate programme track for public health officials will 'translate' the newest scientific data into influenza policy measures and recommendations. Practice has shown that this group has a specific need for unbiased scientific information, offered in a tailor-made format. In the past two years, ESWI has organized four Influenza Workshops for Public Health Officials, which have allowed ESWI to learn to understand the needs of this group and to compile a database of top PHO in Europe. The separate programme track at the Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference is hence part of the group's commitment to policy making.



The separate track has been named 'Science Policy Interface'. Every session will be chaired by a top expert in the field and will bring an appealing mixture of tailor-made lectures, good practices, case studies and workshops. Thus, the lectures for PHO will be quite different from regular scientific lectures. A second innovation lies in the fact that all sessions will be co-chaired by an experienced facilitator. These facilitators will take up a position between the speakers and the audience, and will coordinate the lectures and the Q&A discussions.

All information about the Fourth ESWI Influenza Conference is to be found on www.eswicongference.org.



ESWI members

DR. G.A. VAN ESSEN

- Dr. G.A. (Ted) van Essen has been a General Practitioner since 1976 and Vocational Trainer since 1981 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. He is also Assistant Professor (since 1992) at the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, University Medical Center, Utrecht. He was President of the Dutch College of General Practitioners from 2000-2004.
- Dr. Van Essen was born in the Netherlands and educated at the University of Groningen (M.D. and G.P.) and at Utrecht University where he received his Ph.D. Dr. Van Essen was a member of the Dutch Influenza Foundation, the Dutch Pneumococcal Foundation and different local, regional and national GP organisations. He is a member of the Influenza Vaccination Committee of the Dutch Health Council.
- Some of his recent publications (amongst others) include:
Which determinants should be targeted to increase influenza vaccination uptake among health care workers in nursing homes? *Vaccine*. 2009 Jul 23;27(34):4724-30. Epub 2009 May 29.
Influenza vaccination of healthcare workers, oseltamivir resistance and pre-pandemic vaccination. *Expert Rev Respir Med* 2008; 2: 703-5.
Threat of an influenza pandemic: family physicians in the front line. *BMC Fam Pract*. 2009;10(1):11.
Influenza immunization of Dutch general practitioners: Vaccination rate and attitudes towards vaccination. *Vaccine*. 2008;26(47):5918-21.
Antibiotics for adults with clinically diagnosed acute rhinosinusitis: a meta-analysis of individual patient data. *Lancet*. 2008 Mar 15;371(9616):908-14.
Influenza vaccination coverage and reasons to refrain among high-risk persons in four European countries. 2006. Inhaled Zanamivir Versus Placebo for the Prevention of Influenza Outbreaks in an Unvaccinated Long-term Care Population. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2005
Macroepidemiology of Influenza (MIV) Study Group. The macroepidemiology of influenza vaccination in 56 countries, 1997-2003. A report from the Macroepidemiology of Influenza Vaccination (MIV) Study Group. 2005
Clinical effectiveness of influenza vaccination in persons younger than 65 years with high-risk medical conditions: The PRISMA Study. *Arch Intern Med*. 2005

DR. T. HEIKKINEN

- Born in Turku, Finland. Dr. Heikkinen attended medical school at the University of Turku, where he received his M.D. (1984), Ph.D. and Docent degrees, as well as Certificates for Specialisations in General Paediatrics and Paediatric Infectious Diseases. His thesis on the development and prevention of acute otitis media in children was completed in 1994.
- Dr. Heikkinen received the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship Award, and worked in 1996-98 as a Research Fellow at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, USA. Subsequently, he held a position as a Senior Clinical Researcher at the University of Turku, funded by the Academy of Finland. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Turku and a Consultant in Paediatrics at Turku University Hospital.
- Dr. Heikkinen's major research interest lies in influenza and other respiratory infections in children, including otitis media. He is an active member of several Finnish and international scientific organizations dealing with infectious diseases. He has authored more than 100 scientific articles and textbook chapters, and serves as a regular reviewer for several medical journals.

DR. R. AMARAL-MARQUES

- Dr. Amaral-Marques was educated at the University of Lisbon, in the School of Medicine. Part of its formation, for specialist in lung diseases, was also done in Paris (France), Hamburg and Frankfurt (Germany).
- Dr. Amaral-Marques is doctor in Medicine (since 1972), specialist in Pneumology and Immunoallergology (since 1977), Chief of Service of Pneumology of the Hospital de Pulido Valente - Lisbon (since 1980), Director of the Service of Pneumology and the Pneumology Intensive Care Unit of Hospital de Pulido Valente - Lisbon (since 1992), Associate Invited Professor of Pneumology of the Faculdade de Ciências Médicas (School of Medical Sciences) of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (since 1985).
- Dr. Amaral-Marques is retired from the National Health Service and University on May 1999.
- Actually, Dr Amaral-Marques, is the Clinical Director of Pneumomedical, Respiratory Centre of Lung Function and Director of the Department of Lung Diseases of the Hospital Particular de Lisboa (since 1999).
- Dr. Amaral-Marques was the ancient President of the Board of lung specialists of the Portuguese College of Medicine.
- Dr. Amaral-Marques is founding member of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Pneumologia and the European Respiratory Society (ex Societas Europea Pneumologica), member of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina Intensiva, the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, the American Thoracic Society and Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians.
- Dr. Amaral-Marques is Adviser Member on "Respiratory Influenza" of Direcção Geral de Saúde (General Direction of Health).
- Dr. Amaral-Marques is also author and co-author of about 150 scientific publications.
- Dr. Amaral-Marques maintains (since 1980) an intense activity among General Practitioners and Family Doctors, promoting annual meetings about influenza and the importance of the vaccination.

DR. P. OPENSHAW

- Professor of Experimental Medicine
Director, Centre for Respiratory Infection
National Heart & Lung Institute
Imperial College London
St. Mary's Campus, Norfolk Place
Paddington, London W2 1PG
- Openshaw is a member of the Clinical Information Network (Flu-CIN), a national Department of Health funded study of over 1000 patients admitted with swine flu. He leads a UK-wide consortium of 45 co-investigators in 8 cities working to understand variations in disease severity in hospitalised patients with influenza, under the banner of MOSAIC (mechanisms of severe acute influenza consortium) and currently holds grants totalling over £10m.
- He became the founding Director of the Centre for Respiratory Infection in 2008, bringing together many of Imperial College's established leaders and groups with expertise in molecular, cellular, animal and human studies with a shared mission to combat the global health burden of respiratory infections. He has been very active in providing information to the public and has given many press briefings, appeared many times on TV and participated in several documentaries. He was nominated for 'Man of the Year' by the Science Media Centre in 2009.
- He has advised the Department of Health as a member of the Scientific Pandemic Influenza panel (SPI, 2006 on) and is a member of the Clinical Countermeasures Subgroup. He also serves on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) subgroup on influenza and RSV prophylaxis (2009) and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Group in Emergencies (SAGE), chaired by the Chief Government Scientist, which advised the cabinet on pandemic H1N1 influenza (2009-10). He has been an advisor to the Ministry of Defence (2009). He was nominated by the BSI as the UK candidate to be President-elect of the Federation of European Immunological Societies in 2009.
- He is a scientific advisor on the Netherlands Influenza Vaccine Research Centre (NIVAREC) and a Board Member of the European Scientific Working Group on Influenza (ESWI; May 2008). He served on the NIAID (USA) Centers for Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance panel in 2007, the Wellcome Trust's Immunology and Infectious Disease Panel (2006-2009) and the Tropical and Clinical Panel (2003-2006). He was a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences Vaccines Working Group in 2005 and represented the Academy on the Science in Health Group (2008). He is a member of a Sectional Committee for the Academy of Medical Sciences (2009-11).

DR. A.D.M.E. OSTERHAUS

- Dr. Osterhaus currently holds the positions of Professor of Virology, Medical Faculty, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam (since 1993); Professor of Wildlife Virology and virus discovery, University Utrecht (since 1990); Director of the National Influenza Center (NIC), Rotterdam (since 1993); Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Arboviruses and Haemorrhagic Fever Reference and Research, Rotterdam (since 1995); Member of the Dutch Health Council (since 1995); Chairman of the European Scientific Working Group on Influenza (ESWI) (since 2000); CSO of Viroclinics Biosciences BV and of ViroNative BV (both companies of the Erasmus MC holding).
- Dr. Osterhaus studied at the University of Utrecht, where he also completed his doctorate in 1978.
- From 1978 to 1994 he held various positions at the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in Bilthoven, the Netherlands.
- He was directly involved in setting up four commercial companies.
- Dr. Osterhaus is also a member of numerous professional societies including: American Society for Microbiology, Society for General Microbiology, European Scientific Working Group on Influenza, European Society for Veterinary Virology, European Society for Clinical Virology, European Association for Aquatic Mammals, Dutch Society for Microbiology, Dutch Society for Laboratory Animal Science, Dutch Society for Immunology, International Society for Vaccines, American Society for Virology, and European Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is a member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences and was awarded the Royal decoration of Commander in the order of the Dutch Lion.
- Furthermore he holds many editorial positions for scientific publications, is the winner of several scientific awards, holds several patents, has been the supervisor and mentor of more than 50 PhD students. Over the last 20 years, Dr. Osterhaus has identified more than a dozen "new" viral pathogens and he is author of more than 900 scientific papers.

ESWI members

DR. R. PRYMULA

- Roman Prymula, MD, PhD, is director of University hospital in Hradec Kralove and former Dean of the Faculty of Military Health Sciences and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Defense in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic.
- He graduated from Military Medical School and Charles University School of Medicine in Hradec Králové, Prague, with a medical degree, before completing an International Certificate in Hospital Management, at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom in 1995. He became associated professor in Epidemiology in 1995 and in 2007 he became full Professor of hygiene, epidemiology and preventive medicine. He obtained his PhD from Purkyne Military Medical Academy in Hradec Králové and holds specialization degrees in hygiene and epidemiology, public health, and medical microbiology.
- Dr Prymula is involved in various research activities in preventive medicine, including clinical development of new vaccines, such as those for pneumococcus; rotavirus; varicella; meningococcus B; measles, mumps, rubella (MMR); and human papillomavirus. In addition to his active research and teaching activities, he serves as a consultant for several national and international organizations. He is a member of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) management board, Chairman of Central European Vaccine Advisory Board (CEVAG), Chairman of the Czech Advisory Board for Epidemiology, Chairman of the Czech Vaccinological Society JEP and member of the Czech National Immunization Board (NIKO). He is also on the editorial board of several scientific journals and serves as a consultant for several national and international organizations. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on vaccine preventable infectious diseases and monographs on bioterrorism and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

DR. T. SZUCS

- Dr. Thomas Szucs, Professor of Medicine, is Co-Chairman at the European Centre of Pharmaceutical Medicine and Head of the Department of Medical Economics at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Zurich.
- Prior to this, he was Chief Medical Officer of Hirslanden Holding, the largest private hospital chain in Switzerland. Previously, he was Head of the Department of Medical Economics, a joint venture of the University Hospital in Zurich and the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Zurich.
- Other former appointments were Head of Research and Founder of the Center of Pharmacoeconomics at the University of Milan, Head of the Working Group for Clinical Economics at the University of Munich, Senior Consultant at Arthur D. Little Inc. and Head of the Department of Health Economics at F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd in Basel. He was appointed Professor of Pharmacology/Pharmacoeconomics at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Milan in 1996 and Associate Professor for Medical Economics at the University of Zurich in 2002. He holds an MD degree from the University of Basel, an MBA from the University of St. Gallen, an MPH from Harvard University, an LLM from the University of Zurich and is board certified in Pharmaceutical Medicine as well as in Prevention and Public Health.

- He is also member of the editorial board of several scientific journals and has published more than 300 articles, book chapters and monographies.
- His research interest is the economic analysis of new technologies, pharmaceuticals and health services, mainly in the field of infectious, cardiovascular and oncologic diseases.

DR. S. VAN DER WERF

- Dr. van der Werf completed the following education: Agrégation (National Teaching Degree) in Physiology and Biochemistry, Doctorate in Microbiology with an option in Virology at the University of Paris, and a Doctorate in Natural Sciences specialising in Virology, also at the University of Paris.
- Professionally Dr. van der Werf held several teaching and research positions. At the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Jeunes Filles she worked as a Student Professor and an Academic Assistant. At the University of Paris she held several teaching positions in the Biochemistry Department: Academic Assistant, Master of Conferences and Professor: her current position. At the Pasteur Institute in Paris she held several research positions: Deputy-Director of the Fundamental Virology Course, Deputy-Chairman of the Department of Virology, Director of the URA 1966 CNRS Molecular Virology Unit. Currently she is Head of the Molecular Genetics of RNA Viruses Unit. Currently she is also Director of the National Influenza Centre in Northern France.
- Dr. van der Werf is a member of the following professional bodies and societies: American Society of Microbiology, Société Française de Microbiologie, Society for General Microbiology, and European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. She is currently an associate editor of Eurosurveillance in addition to previously being an editorial Board Member for the Journal of General Virology, Microbes and Infection and Virologie.
- Dr. van der Werf's research interests previously in the field of picornaviruses on the molecular genetics of poliovirus and Mengo virus, and their use as vectors for vaccines and RNA immunisation, have been focused on respiratory viruses since 1996, particularly dealing with molecular epidemiology and molecular genetics aimed at the identification of determinants of species specificity of influenza viruses and the evaluation of vaccine strategies against SARS coronavirus and influenza viruses.
- She is the author of 90 original scientific papers and more than 50 other scientific publications.

DR. A. MONTO

- Arnold S. Monto is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor and is Founding Director of the Bioterrorism Preparedness Initiative.
- The major focus of his work has been the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of acute infections in the individual and the community. These activities have included work on the occurrence and characteristics of the infections as well as potential for vaccine prevention and antiviral treatment. Respiratory infections, in particular influenza, have been a major interest, with special reference to the evaluation of vaccines in various populations and the assessment of the value of antiviral such as amantadine, rimantadine and the neuraminidase inhibitors. He has worked on these issues in tropical as well as temperate regions. He led the studies of respiratory infection in Tecumseh, MI, a landmark study of infection in the community. Dr. Monto was closely involved in the US HCFA-sponsored studies, which made influenza vaccine a covered benefit for older individuals. He has also studied other approaches to influenza vaccine use, particularly to control transmission of the virus in the community and in nursing homes. He is currently involved in assessing the efficacy of various types of influenza vaccine, the neuraminidase inhibitors in prophylaxis and therapy of influenza, as well as non-pharmaceutical interventions in interrupting transmission. His recent activities have also included evaluation of face masks and hand hygiene in the control of influenza transmission. He works extensively with national and international organizations on issues related to pandemic preparedness and was a member of the WHO Influenza Pandemic Task Force. During his tenure at the University of Michigan, Dr. Monto has also served for periods of time in the Acute Respiratory Infection program at the World Health Organization, Geneva, and as Scholar in Residence at the United States Institute of Medicine/National Research Council. He has been a member of the Pulmonary Diseases Advisory Committee and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and of the National Allergy and Infectious Disease Advisory Council. He has also served on various United States and international advisory bodies addressing the overall response to the problem of emerging and reemerging infections, control of influenza in the seasonal and pandemic situation, and bioterrorism preparedness. He is the past president of the American Epidemiological Society.

DR. G. GABRIEL

- Dr. Gabriel studied Biology (Virology, Genetics and Microbiology) at the Philipps University of Marburg in Germany. During her study, she also stayed at the Public Health Agency Canada, Special Pathogens Program, Winnipeg in Canada for internship.
- In 2006, she held the position of a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Virology at the Philipps University of Marburg, Germany.
- 2007-2009 she held the position of a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom.
- In 2009, she received ESWI's Young Scientist Award for the Best Body of Work in Influenza Virus Research
- Currently, Dr. Gabriel holds a position as an Independent Junior Group Leader (Emmy-Noether Research Fellow since 2009) at the Heinrich-Pette-Institute, Leibniz Institute for Experimental Virology in Hamburg, Germany.

DR. B. LINA

- Dr.Lina currently holds the positions of Professor of Virology, Université de Lyon (since 2001); Head of the laboratoire de Virologie Est des Hospices Civils de Lyon (since 2006); Head of the UCBL-CNRS FRE3011 research Lab on Influenza virus (since 2007), Director of the National Influenza Center (NIC), Lyon (since 1999); Member of the French Pandemic planning committee and Comité de lutte contre le Grippe of the Ministry of Health (since 1997); Chair of the Groupe d'Experts et d'Information sur la grippe (since 2005); Chair of the WHO Advisory Group for the sharing of virus and benefits (since 2008); President of the European Society for Clinical Virology (since 2007). Dr.Lina studied medicine at the University of Lyon where he graduated as a MD in 1990 and completed his PhD in 1994.
- Dr. Lina is also a member of several professional societies including: American Society for Microbiology, European Society for Clinical Virology, Société Française de Microbiologie.
- He was awarded Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 2010.
- He has been the Co-PI of several national and international collaborative projects in the fields of virology in the past 8 years.
- Furthermore he holds editorial positions for scientific publications for the Journal of Clinical Virology and the Influenza Research and Treatment Journal. He is the winner of the ASM Young Investigator award (1994), holds several patents, has been the supervisor and mentor of more than 15 PhD students. Over the last 16 years, Dr. Lina is author of more than 100 scientific papers, including reviews, book chapters. He has been the author of a Book on the A(H1N1) pandemic virus and asked for numerous junior scientific review of pandemic viruses in Junior scientific reviews in French.

DR. M. AKÇAY CIBLAK

- Dr. Meral Akçay Ciblak graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in 1991. Shortly after her graduation she moved to the USA where she continued her education in Medical Microbiology and received her MS degree from Department of Biology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. Upon graduation she was awarded a Research Fellowship from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA where she worked for 3 years on antifungals. She then worked as Senior Research Specialist at Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA until 2004. She took teaching position from Genetics and Bioengineering Department, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey in 2004. She received her PhD from Istanbul University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology with focus on influenza viruses in 2011. During her PhD studies with joint effort of her advisor Influenza Laboratory was nominated as one of the two National Influenza Reference Laboratories which in 2008 was approved by WHO. She is currently the Manager of National Influenza Reference Laboratory located in Istanbul Faculty of Medicine.
- She has involved in several activities including organizing scientific meetings aiming to increase influenza awareness among lay public, health care professionals, press and policy makers.
- She has authored and co-authored several articles published in peer reviewed journals and has served as a reviewer for articles to be published in the field of influenza.

Partner organizations

EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY (ERS)

Dr Gernot Rohde

WORLD ORGANIZATION OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS (WONCA)

Dr. M. Godycki-Cwirko

PHARMACEUTICAL GROUP TO THE EU (PGEU)

Mrs Sirpa Peura

EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE (EPHA)

Mr. S. Marschang

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Mrs Sophie Peresson

EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS OF INFLUENZA VACCINES AND ANTIVIRALS

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