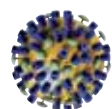


EUROPEAN  
SCIENTIFIC  
WORKING GROUP  
ON INFLUENZA

REDUCING THE BURDEN  
OF INFLUENZA IN EUROPE



**ESWI**

... EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS FIGHTING INFLUENZA



## ESWI'S DRIVING MOTIVES:

**Fact 1:** European health care systems are among the best in the world

**Fact 2:** In Europe, influenza claims more lives than traffic accidents

**Fact 3:** Influenza is partly preventable by vaccination and other measures

**Fact 4:** We can identify those at special risk

## ESWI'S GOAL:

To reduce the burden of influenza in Europe

## ESWI AS A PARTNERSHIP

The European Scientific Working group on Influenza (ESWI) is a multidisciplinary partnership between independent influenza experts (**the ESWI members**), experts with advisory roles (**the ESWI associate members**) and organizations of influenza stakeholders (**the ESWI partner organizations**).

Decisive partnerships are always based on a common concern, in the case of ESWI this shared concern is a social one: in Europe, influenza still claims more lives than traffic accidents, despite the fact that influenza is partly preventable by vaccination and other measures.

To help reduce the impact of influenza on European public health, ESWI aims to advance the understanding of influenza as a disease, to apply this knowledge to improve the health of Europeans and to raise awareness about the potential dangers of the disease as well as about possible preventative measures.

*To realize its objectives, ESWI develops and implements activities that reach and involve the different target groups:*

## **ESWI's European Influenza Conferences**

Once every three years, ESWI organizes its Influenza Conferences. The first edition, held in Malta in September 2002, reached over 600 members of the influenza community. Today, the ESWI Influenza Conferences have grown into Europe's largest conferences solely dedicated to influenza.

The ESWI Influenza Conferences are based on a unique concept that totally fits into ESWI's objectives to address and gather the different professional groups involved in the fight against influenza: different target groups are offered different programme tracks.

Scientists are offered a top-level scientific programme covering all disciplines involved in influenza prevention, control and treatment. Outstanding scientific sessions with specific attention for new developments are the core of the conference. Additionally, the conferences have a clearly delineated programme for public health officials (PHOs). In separate, dedicated sessions, the newest scientific data are 'translated' into influenza policy measures and recommendations.

Extensive press coverage and scientific publications increase the conferences' impact on the combat against influenza in Europe and the world. The latest news on ESWI's Influenza Conferences is to be found on [www.eswiconference.org](http://www.eswiconference.org).

## **Country Influenza Stakeholder Networks**

As a way to enhance interactions between influenza stakeholders, ESWI has been facilitating the creation of influenza networks in various European countries like Finland, Sweden, Austria and Turkey. Country Influenza Stakeholder Networks bring together national public health authorities, scientific medical institutes, organizations of at-risk patients (diabetes, respiratory diseases, cardiac diseases), organizations of healthcare workers and medical specialists (general practitioners, nurses, hospital managers, pharmacists, pneumologists, paediatrics, geriatrics...), who jointly develop and implement a national influenza action plan. In this way, the networks aim to improve public health protection by supporting and strengthening national public health activities.

## **Annual European Influenza Summit**

On 26 May 2011, ESWI organized its first European Flu Summit in Brussels. The concept of the one-day meeting was to provide influenza stakeholder organizations with a platform to exchange good practices and to initiate concrete actions. The Summit was an action-oriented event with (>70) 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.

The highlights and outcome of the First European Influenza Summit have been brought together in an attractive publication. Free download is available at [www.flusummit.org](http://www.flusummit.org) and [www.eswi.org](http://www.eswi.org).

### **Influenza Workshops for Public Health Officials**

ESWI launched its Influenza Workshops for Public Health Officials in 2009 in order to provide evidence-based and objective state-of-the-art information about novel influenza topics. Each of the four editions 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.

### **[www.flucentre.org](http://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 touches on 40 different topics, while links allow the user to click through to related topics and items.

### **Support to young scientists**

Young scientists are the lifeblood of the influenza field. ESWI therefore has been actively encouraging the careers of young scientists for many years:

- bi-annual course on basic laboratory techniques for influenza diagnosis, organized at the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam
- the young scientists fund: ESWI provides full funding for young scientists to participate at the ESWI Influenza Conferences. The ESWI young scientist fund is named after Professor Claude Hannoun, the first ESWI chair, and promoter of young scientists.
- the support to the bi-annual Research Conferences on Orthomyxoviruses
- Young Scientists Awards for best body of work and for outstanding papers/presentations. This competition is open to all young scientists throughout the world, and is judged by an international committee spanning all of influenza.





## RESOURCES

The pharmaceutical industry is a valued partner in ESWI's efforts to lessen the impact of influenza in Europe. Nine companies pay an equal annual contribution to ESWI. These contributions are unrestricted grants. ESWI thus maintains impartiality, with sponsoring companies who are fully committed to ESWI's scientific independence, enshrined in the articles of incorporation and laid out in the official rules of practice. Article 20 of ESWI's articles of incorporation reads: "The financial contributors will regularly be informed about ESWI's plans and ongoing projects. Financial contributors shall have no voting rights and, therefore, no binding decisions can be made at their meetings."

ESWI draws part of its resources from the organization of the ESWI Influenza Conferences. Organized every three years, the conference's financial profits are entirely put to the benefit of ESWI's awareness raising activities.

None of the ESWI members receives a honorarium or any other fee for his/her ESWI work. The ESWI experts devote their time to ESWI on a voluntary basis.



### The ESWI Members

Dr. T. Heikkinen, *University of Turku, Finland*

Dr. P. Openshaw, *Imperial College London, UK*

Dr. A.D.M.E. Osterhaus, *Erasmus MC, The Netherlands*

Dr. A. Monto, *University of Michigan, USA*

Dr. B. Lina, *University of Lyon, France*

Dr. G. Gabriel, *Heinrich-Pette-Institut Hamburg, Germany*

Dr. G.A. van Essen, *University MC Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Dr. M. Ciblak, *University of Istanbul, Turkey*

Dr. R. Prymula, *University Hospital Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic*

Dr. R. Amaral-Marques, *Hospital Particular Lisboa, Portugal*

Dr. T.D. Szucs, *University of Zürich, Switzerland*

Dr. S. van der Werf, *Pasteur Institute Paris, France*

### The ESWI Associate Members

Dr. C. Hannoun, *former Pasteur Institute Paris, France*

Dr. J.E. McElhaney, *Farmington, CT, U.S.A.*

Dr. M. Kunze, *University of Vienna, Austria*

Dr. U. Elonsalo, *Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland*

Dr. M. Fletcher, *Education for Health, UK*

### The ESWI partner organizations

European Respiratory Society ([www.ersnet.org](http://www.ersnet.org))

Pharmaceutical Group to the EU ([www.pgeu.eu](http://www.pgeu.eu))

World Organization of Family Doctors ([www.woncaeurope.org](http://www.woncaeurope.org))

European Public Health Alliance ([www.epha.org](http://www.epha.org))

International Diabetes Federation-Europe ([www.idf.org](http://www.idf.org))

US National Influenza Vaccine Summit ([www.preventinfluenza.org](http://www.preventinfluenza.org))

European Lung Foundation ([www.european-lung-foundation.org](http://www.european-lung-foundation.org))

European influenza vaccines and antivirals manufacturers

ESWI also structurally collaborates with:

- Organizations of the elderly
- World Health Organization
- Organizations of nurses and hospital pharmacists
- Organizations of diabetes patients, lung and respiratory patients and heart patients

## VISIT US AT

[www.eswi.org](http://www.eswi.org)  
[www.flucentre.org](http://www.flucentre.org)  
[www.flucommunity.org](http://www.flucommunity.org)  
[www.facebook.com/EuropeanScientistsFightingInfluenza](https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanScientistsFightingInfluenza)

## WANT TO BE KEPT INFORMED?

If you wish to be on the mailing list of the Influenza Bulletin or receive the e-newsletter for public health officials, please fill in the subscription form on [www.eswi.org](http://www.eswi.org) or send an e-mail to [info@linkinc.be](mailto:info@linkinc.be)

**ESWI**  
c/o Link Inc  
Communication consultants  
Tolstraat 9  
2000 Antwerp  
Belgium  
phone + 32 32 32 93 42  
fax + 32 32 32 17 04  
[info@linkinc.be](mailto:info@linkinc.be)  
[www.eswi.org](http://www.eswi.org)



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