

SCIENCE
POLICY
FLU
SUMMIT

30/09
2015
BRUSSELS



Moving Europe towards further action

INFLUENZA FACTS

Influenza is a preventable disease.

Hospitalizations and deaths after an influenza infection mainly occur in at-risk groups: persons over 60 years of age and those with chronic illnesses (mainly diabetes, heart or lung disease).

The World Health Organization (WHO) strongly recommends routine vaccination of at-risk groups, pregnant women, healthcare workers and young children.

Antiviral drugs for influenza are available to treat and prevent the illness.

Healthcare workers have a key role to play in preventing influenza and in encouraging patient immunization.

The success of preparedness efforts for a pandemic outbreak depends also on the existence of an adequate response system during seasonal influenza outbreaks.

Since the H5N1 bird flu virus emerged in 1997, more than 650 people have been hospitalized with an H5N1 virus infection, around 60% of whom have died.

Several new strains of influenza, like H7N9 and H10N8, have emerged in the past few years and continue to spread.

AND YET...

European countries hold widely divergent policies regarding flu vaccination recommendations.

Influenza vaccination rates of recommended groups are generally low.

Improving preparedness for a pandemic outbreak of influenza must remain a priority for public health decision-makers.

Influenza viruses evolve constantly. Flu vaccines therefore have to be adapted and administered annually. Mismatches do happen.

Routine vaccination of young children, the efficacy of vaccines in the elderly and the efficacy of antiviral drugs against influenza remain at the centre of the scientific debate.

It is high time for the influenza community to come together and to address some of the most intriguing issues in public health policy. **ESWI & EPHA therefore kindly invite you to join other public health officials and decision-makers at the Science Policy Flu Summit** on 30 September 2015 in Brussels.

goal of the Summit is to develop an influenza action plan for Europe. Summit speakers will spark the debate, interaction with the audience will be at the core of the Summit. Together, we can get into action and reduce the burden of both epidemic and pandemic influenza in Europe.

The Summit is designed to give an overview of the scientific advances in the influenza field. To that end, eleven experts will provide you with a state-of-the-art in their fields of expertise in a series of short, appealing presentations. But the main

PROGRAMME

09:00-09:20	Coffee / welcome
09:20-09:30	Why have ESWI and EPHA joined forces to organize a Science Policy Flu Summit? Prof. Ab Osterhaus, ESWI chair Mrs. Peggy Maguire, EPHA president
09:30-09:45	Is influenza on the agenda of European Parliament? Members of European Parliament
09:45-10:00	AUDIENCE DEBATE: What do MEPs need to do to reduce the impact of influenza in Europe?
10:00-10:10	EU Council conclusions on vaccinations as an effective tool in public health: outcome of 30 April Commission meeting Representative DG Health and Food Safety
10:10-10:30	AUDIENCE DEBATE: Detecting the most important EU actions for the coming years
10:30-10:40	Health equality and sustainable access to vaccines/joint procurement Peggy Maguire, EPHA president
10:40-11:00	AUDIENCE DEBATE: How to secure sustainable access to influenza vaccines?
11:00-11:10	Are influenza vaccines effective for the elderly? Jonathan Van-Tam, Professor of Health Protection, UK
11:10-11:30	AUDIENCE DEBATE: How to improve the dialogue with senior citizens and healthcare workers?
11:30-11:40	How effective are antiviral drugs against influenza? Puja Myles, Associate Professor of Health Protection and Epidemiology, UK
11:40-12:00	AUDIENCE DEBATE: How to improve communication about the usefulness of antivirals?
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-13:10	The socio-economic impact of influenza: weighing the benefits and the costs of influenza vaccination Mark Jit, researcher at Public Health England, UK
13:10-13:30	AUDIENCE DEBATE: Translating scientific data into health policy action
13:30-13:40	Should children be vaccinated against influenza? Terho Heikkinen, Assistant Professor of Paediatrics, Finland
13:40-14:00	AUDIENCE DEBATE: Towards a revision of the influenza vaccination recommendations?
14:00-14:10	Pandemic preparedness in Europe: before, during and after the 2009 H1N1 pandemic Ted van Essen, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands
14:10-14:30	AUDIENCE DEBATE: Putting preparedness and response back on the Member States' priority list
14:30-14:40	Strain selection and the evolution of the virus Derek Smith, Professor of Infectious Disease Informatics, UK
14:40-15:00	AUDIENCE DEBATE: Exploring future pathways for an improved selection of flu strains
15:00-15:10	Improving influenza vaccines: looking ahead Gerd Sutter, Professor of Virology, Germany
15:10-15:30	AUDIENCE DEBATE: Can we stimulate the development of better influenza vaccines?
15:30-16:00	Wrap up of the Summit: developing the roadmap for an influenza action plan in Europe

VENUE

International Press Center
Résidence Palace/European Council
Wetstraat/rue de la Loi 155 – Blok C
1040 Brussels

DATE

30 September 2015

PARTICIPATION

The Science Policy Flu Summit is open to anyone interested in resolving influenza issues. The Summit venue, however, will only be accessible for registered participants. On-line registration is hence necessary, yet free of charge. There are a limited number of places available for the Science Policy Flu Summit; registration will be closed once this limit has been reached.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

www.flusummit.org

CONTACT

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