



Invitation

JOINT SYMPOSIUM, November 5, 2010, at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp, Belgium

Intersectoral collaboration between the medical and veterinary professions in low-resource societies

“Where medics and vets join forces”

Dear Colleagues,

The invitation letter provides the background to the forthcoming symposium to be held in Antwerp, Belgium on November 5, 2010.

This symposium is jointly organised by the Belgian Platform on Tropical Animal Health and Production (be-troplive), the Belgian Platform for International Health (be-cause Health), ITM's Strategic Network on Zoonoses, and the Strategic Network on Neglected Diseases.

The main aim of this event is mainly sensitizing professionals on the added value of sharing knowledge and to join forces

1. Background and rationale

According to Taylor et al. (2001), who catalogued 1,415 known human pathogens, 62% are of animal origin. Some of these pathogens require the presence of infected animals or animal products to be transmitted to humans whereas others, referred to as emerging pathogens, incidentally cross the species barrier and adapt to their new human host following numerous contacts. Emerging pathogens include HIV/AIDS, SARS and a number of hemorrhagic fevers. Once established in the new host, they circulate among the population as any other disease. Zoonoses are infections that are shared by humans and animals and, more particularly, zoonotic diseases (often referred to as zoonoses) are transmitted from animals to humans. Zoonotic diseases might take epidemic (e.g.: rabies, Rift valley fever) or endemic forms (e.g.: brucellosis, echinococcosis). Whereas emerging and epidemic zoonoses usually attract much interest, endemic zoonotic diseases rarely give rise to collaboration between the medical and veterinary professions, especially in developing countries.

Collaboration between the medical and veterinary sectors forms the backbone of the “One Health – One Medicine” concept. This concept does not only refer to zoonotic pathogens but, more broadly, to all medical issues shared by humans and animals. Animals have long been used as models in anatomy, physiology, immunology, pharmacology and epidemiology. The emergence of drug resistance in microorganisms living in contact with humans and animals and the risk of resistance transfer from non-pathogenic to pathogenic organisms are other important “One Health” issues requiring intersectoral collaboration. Finally, medical and veterinary surveillance, diagnosis, vaccination programmes and service delivery are similarly constrained by cold chains, lack of laboratory facilities and access to the field. Sharing resources is likely to benefit both sectors.

In this respect, early notification of epidemics of zoonotic diseases or accurate estimations of the impact of endemic zoonoses on public health and animal production to support appropriate resource allocation require inputs from both the medical and veterinary sectors. Medical and veterinary professionals should understand the complete cycle of zoonotic pathogens and integrate data collected from animals and humans. Participatory epidemiology, which has been successfully applied in veterinary studies in developing countries, could prove useful to study the incidence and the impact of zoonoses on human health.

Similarly, depending on the epidemiology and the impact of the zoonotic infection in animals and humans, effective control may require inputs from the medical or veterinary sectors or a coordinated joint effort. For instance, zoonoses causing severe diseases in humans (rabies, Rift Valley fever, hydatidosis, anthrax), require prevention in animals using vaccination, chemotherapy or sanitary measures. Other zoonotic pathogens are commensal and widely distributed in animals (e.g. Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli...) and seem very difficult to control in animals. Many endemic zoonoses need to be addressed both in humans and animals, depending on the cost efficiency of the control methods.

Notwithstanding the logic of the “One Health – One Medicine” concept and the obvious need of intersectoral collaboration in the control of zoonoses, effective collaboration is rare. Supported by various networks involved in human and animal health in low-resource countries, the purpose of this symposium is to bring together medical and veterinary professionals involved in low-resource societies and to demonstrate through their experience the importance of intersectoral collaboration in various fields. Examples where animals act as reservoir of human diseases in developing countries will be presented. Their impact on human and animal health and the means to reconcile disease burden assessments in humans and animals will be discussed. Finally, field intersectoral collaboration experiences and instances where animals contribute to human health will be presented and discussed.

2. Programme

Provisional Programme

time	title	Presenter (s)
9h00	registration and welcome coffee	FORUM
9h30	Welcome address (official)	Director Institute of Tropical Medicine or representative
9h45	Brief introduction to the day : Joep van Mierlo (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, Belgium - VSF-B) & Tanguy Marcotty (ITM)	
10h00	Introduction to the One Health concept : an approach to global health challenges	Pat Conrad (University of California UC Davis)
Theme 1: Role of animals as reservoir for human diseases: - Moderator Joep van Mierlo (VSF-B)		
10h30	Parasitic zoonoses : the example of echinococcosis and hydatidosis	Philip Craig (University of Salford , UK)
10h50	Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis at the wildlife/livestock/human interface	Jacques Godfroid, (Norwegian Veterinary School)
11h10	Questions and discussion on Theme 1	
11h30	<i>Coffee break</i>	FORUM
Theme 2: Burden assessment - Moderator Tanguy Marcotty (ITM)		
12h00	Re-evaluating burden of disease estimates for neglected tropical disease	Filip Meheus (ITM)
12h20	The burden of zoonoses on animal and public health	Jakob Zinsstag (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute)
12h40	Questions and discussion on Theme 2	
13h00	<i>Lunch Break – offered by the organisers</i>	FORUM

Theme 3: Meeting in the field - Moderator : Dirk Van der Roost (ITM)		
14h00	The fight against zoonotic diseases, a challenge for human and animal health services: experience from Niger	Abdou Razac Boukary (ONG Kharkara) & Mallam Abdou Badé (Hôpital Général Niamey)
14h20	Experience from Morocco on Echinococcosis	Hamid Sahibi (Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II) & Hind Filali (Institut National de l'Administration de la Santé)
14h40	Participatory epidemiology in animal and human health	Saskia Hendrickx (International Livestock Research Institute) & Cyrille Pissang (VSF-B)
15h00	Questions and discussion on Theme 3	
The road ahead - Moderator Marleen Boelaert (ITM)		
15h20	The role of animals in public health crisis: source of diseases or shield?	Michel Van Herp & Peter Maes (Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium)
15h40	<i>Buzzing with coffee</i>	FORUM
16h10	General discussion and conclusions	All the speakers
17h10	Wrap up	The Chairs of the organising platforms & networks
17h20	Reception	FORUM



3. Logistics

3.1. Venue

The symposium will be held at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp, Belgium, and will take place in Campus Rochus, Aula PG Janssens, which is located in Sint Rochusstraat 43, B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium

If you enter through the main entrance, you take the first hall on your right and then you take the stairs to the 1st floor. There you will find Room PG Janssens.

3.2. Language

During the symposium, there will be simultaneous translation English-French.

3.3. Availability and Outcomes

The symposium will be available on the internet through video conferencing. The protected PowerPoint Presentations will also be made available on the internet. A concept note presenting the results of the workshop and the abstracts will be published. A view-point will be published in an International Journal.

3.4. Registration

A registration form will be available on the website. We ask you to register before 22 October 2010. The registration and participation in the symposium is free of charge.

3.5. How to reach the ITM?

From Brussels National Airport

SN Brussels Airlines Express bus to Antwerp Central Station

*Brussels-Antwerp: every hour

On weekdays and Saturdays:
first departure: 5:00 a.m.
last departure: 12 midnight

On Sundays:
first departure: 7:00 a.m.
last departure: 12 midnight

Travel time: 45 minutes



***Antwerp-Brussels: every hour**

On weekdays and Saturdays:
first departure: 4:00 a.m.
last departure: 11:00 p.m.

On Sundays:

first departure: 6:00 a.m.

last departure: 11:00 p.m.

Travel time: 45 minutes

Price: ± 10,00 €

From Antwerp Airport (Deurne)

Bus n° 16 - stop Central Station

From Antwerp Central Station

Subway n° 2 or 15 - stop Groenplaats

From Berchem Station

Tram n° 8 (direction: Lambermontplaats)- stop Volksstraat

Please check the following site for more maps and info if you want to come by car

<http://www.itg.be/itg/GeneralSite/generalpage.asp?wpid=109&miid=25&RND=225311637>

Car-parking:

Free of charge if parked on the square located between the Vlaamse Kaai and the Waalse Kaai, or on the banks of the Scheldt.

4. Map



Legend

- A. Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Campus Rochus, Sint Rochusstraat 43, 2000 Antwerp (location Aula PG Janssens)
- B. Square between Vlaamse kaai and Waalse Kaai (parking free of charge)
- C. Car parking on banks of the river The Scheldt (parking free of charge)

Additional maps: please consult

<http://www.itg.be/itg/GeneralSite/generalpage.asp?wpid=109&miid=25&RND=225311637>



5. More questions and remarks?

Please consult the colloquium- website at: <http://www.itg.be/internet/colloq2010/index.htm>

Or contact the Joint-symposium secretariat:

Via e-mail: info@be-troplive.be

By phone: +32 3 2476392 (Eric Thys) or +32 3 2476271 (Leen Claes)

The be-troplive website: www.be-troplive.be