



DISCONTOOLS

Symposium

**Filling the knowledge gaps
in animal disease control**

**29 April 2020
Brussels, Belgium**

Organised in collaboration with STAR-IDAZ IRC & hosted by AnimalhealthEurope

Filling the gaps in animal disease control

Animal health research needs for a healthy planet

Background

Improving animal health is a key factor to address today's global challenges. It is an essential component to improve animal welfare, to secure the provision of safe and nutritious food of a growing world population, to improve livelihoods and stimulate economic growth in rural areas and to reduce natural resource use and climate emissions of the livestock sector. At the same time, global changes such as increased mobility of people and animals, changing consumer behaviours and climate change are altering disease risk. Public and private sectors act upon these challenges and invest in research for the development of new animal health solutions. This has improved our knowledge on pathogens & immune mechanisms and led to the development of new medicines, diagnostics and control methods. But with major progress made in the containment of infectious diseases over the last decades, **what are the remaining gaps that need to be filled and where may future research have the largest impact** to deliver the control tools that we will need in the future?

The symposium will draw on the DISCONTOLS and STAR-IDAZ IRC initiatives to identify current research gaps and provide research road maps for innovations in animal health. It hopes to bring together scientists, policy makers, and representatives from the animal health industry, funding bodies and stakeholder organisations to **enhance collaboration for animal health and discuss research priorities**.

Objectives

With DISCONTOLS having completed the update of 47 disease chapters, the time is right to summarise the gaps in control tools, identify disease-specific as well as cross-cutting research needs and **define the path towards required new control tools**. The symposium aims to

- Highlight DISCONTOLS animal health research gaps for epizootic, production and zoonotic animal diseases;
- Disseminate STAR-IDAZ research road maps for new animal health solutions;
- Couple the research gaps and road maps with recent and future animal health funding initiatives (ERA-NET ICRAD, Horizon Europe);
- Increase the mutual understanding of animal health research needs by different stakeholders;
- Discuss animal health research priorities to deliver on the sustainable development goals.

Structure

The symposium will be structured as follows: (1) **State of play** of animal health research initiatives: research gaps, road maps and European collaborative research funding initiatives; (2) Specific **diseases in focus**: reports from DISCONTOOLS expert group leaders on epizootic, production and zoonotic diseases; (3) **Panel discussion**: improving DISCONTOOLS database; disease and cross-cutting priorities. Expert groups will present their gap analysis results via displayed posters on various animal diseases.

Target Audience

The symposium welcomes scientists, academics, research managers, policy-makers from governmental and non-governmental organisations, actors from the animal health industry and stakeholder organisations and representatives of international and national funding bodies, foundations and trusts.

Registration

[Please click here to register.](#)

You will need an access code. To obtain your access code and for further questions, please contact:

- Access codes and administrative questions: Debra Richards, AnimalhealthEurope Office Manager: [**d.richards@animalhealtheurope.eu**](mailto:d.richards@animalhealtheurope.eu)
- Scientific programme: Johannes Charlier, DISCONTOOLS project manager: [**j.charlier@animalhealtheurope.eu**](mailto:j.charlier@animalhealtheurope.eu)

Venue and Hotel

The event takes place in the heart of Brussels at:
Bedford hotel and congress centre
Rue du Midi 135, 1000 Bruxelles

Programme

Moderated by: Florence Ranson, REDComms and Roxane Feller, AnimalhealthEurope.

TIMING	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
08:30	Registration	
STATE OF PLAY		
09:00	Introduction speech by the Croatian presidency to the EU	Tatjana Karačić, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture Croatia (tbc)
09:15	Identifying research gaps (DISCONTOLLS)	Johannes Charlier, DISCONTOLLS Project Manager, AnimalhealthEurope
09:40	Coordinating research (STAR-IDAZ)	Alex Morrow, Coordinator STAR-IDAZ IRC secretariat, DEFRA
10:05	One Health European Joint Programme	Hein Imberechts, One Health EJP Scientific Coordinator, Sciensano
10:30	COFFEE BREAK	
COLLABORATING FOR ANIMAL HEALTH		
11:00	ICRAD: International coordination of research on infectious animal diseases	Kristian Møller, ICRAD Coordinator, Danish Technical University
11:25	Horizon Europe: European partnership on animals and health	Jean-Charles Cavitte, Research Policy Officer DG Agri
11:50	Public-private partnerships in animal health research - a view from a pharma company	Nigel Swift, Global Head Vaccine Research and Development at Boehringer Ingelheim
12:15	LUNCH	
FOCUS ON DISEASES: PROGRESS AND REMAINING GAPS		
13:30	Epizootic - African swine fever	José Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaíno, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
14:00	Production -Endoparasites	Diana Williams, University of Liverpool and Jozef Vercruyse, Ghent University
14:30	Zoonotic - Bovine tuberculosis	Glyn Hewinson, Aberystwyth University
15:00	COFFEE BREAK	
15:30	PANEL DISCUSSION: SETTING DISEASE AND CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES	
16:30	Concluding moments	