



**DISCONTTOOLS**

# **Symposium**

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

**20 October 2021  
Brussels, Belgium**

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

# Filling the knowledge gaps in animal disease control

Assessing 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 and leading to disease spill-over events between animals and humans. 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 the renewed attention for the control of infectious diseases, what are the most pressing gaps that need to be filled, and where will future research have the largest impact?

The symposium will draw on the DISCONTTOOLS 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 from different perspectives.

## Objectives

With DISCONTTOOLS having completed the update of near 53 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 DISCONTTOOLS 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 (Horizon Europe, European Partnership Animal Health & Welfare);
- 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) **Identifying research gaps**, with an overarching and cross-cutting analysis of information contained in the DISCONTTOOLS database, followed by a number of disease-specific case reports. (2) **Collaborating for animal health**, diving into public-private partnership needs to deliver the required, therapeutics, vaccines and key knowledge for animal health. (3) **Filling the gaps**, covering the STAR-IDAZ IRC research coordination approach and the status of the planned European Partnership for Animal Health & Welfare under Horizon Europe. (4) We will close with a **panel discussion** involving various stakeholders of animal health on how to evolve DISCONTTOOLS and on disease and cross-cutting research priorities.

# 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.](#)

Would you like to present a poster? We welcome posters from the various DISCONTTOOLS expert groups to highlight their work and represent research needs for specific diseases/disease complexes. In addition, posters on studies/projects useful for animal health policy making are welcome.

Download the abstract template [here](#) and submit before **20 September** to [j.charlier@animalhealtheurope.eu](mailto:j.charlier@animalhealtheurope.eu)

Other questions? Please contact [d.richards@animalhealtheurope.eu](mailto:d.richards@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

[Download a hotel booking form here.](#)

# Programme

Moderated by: Florence Ranson, REDComms

TIMING	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
08:30	Registration	
<b>STATE OF PLAY</b>		
09:00	High level introduction speech – tbc	
09:15	Identifying research gaps (DISCONTTOOLS)	Johannes Charlier, DISCONTTOOLS Project Manager, AnimalhealthEurope
09:45	Epizootic – African Swine Fever	José Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaíno, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
10:05	Epizootic – Animal Influenza	Timm Harder, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut
10:25	Production - Endoparasites	Diana Williams, University of Liverpool and Jozef Vercruyse, Ghent University
<b>10:45</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
11:15	Zoonotic - Bovine tuberculosis	Glyn Hewinson, Aberystwyth University
<b>COLLABORATING FOR ANIMAL HEALTH</b>		
11:35	Public-private partnerships in animal health research - a view from a pharma company	Nigel Swift, Global Head of Veterinary Public Health at Boehringer Ingelheim
<b>12:00</b>	<b>NETWORKING BUFFET &amp; POSTER SESSION BY DISCONTTOOLS EXPERT GROUPS</b>	
<b>FILLING THE GAPS</b>		
13:30	STAR-IDAZ IRC road maps to coordinate research	Alex Morrow, coordinator STAR-IDAZ secretariat (SIRCAH)
13:50	Towards a European Partnership in Animal Health & Welfare (EUPAHW): status and priorities	Jean-Charles Cavitte, Research Policy Officer DG AGRI and Hein Imberechts, coordinator EUPAHW application, Sciensano
<b>14:30</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>15:00</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: SETTING DISEASE AND CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES</b>	
	Paula de Vera – Copa Cogeca Nancy De Briyne – FVE	Roxane Feller - AnimalhealthEurope Marina Bagni - Ministry of Health, Italy Jonathan Rushton - University of Liverpool
16:15	Concluding moments	