

presented by



LEUVEN ONE HEALTH



PREPARE-EU

Connecting European Expertise for Pandemic Preparedness

June 2-3, 2025

Thermotechnical Institute, Leuven, Belgium

June 2 - Day 1

08:00 - 09:00 *Registration*

09:00 - 09:10 *Welcome*

Xevi Casadevall i Solvas (conference chair), KU Leuven

Session I: Europe united in pandemic preparedness

Session chair: **Xevi Casadevall i Solvas**

09:10 – 09:50 *Globally United against Old and New One Health Threats: Embracing Open Science and Transdisciplinary Collaboration*

Sandra Coecke, Team Leader Emerging Health Threats & One Health Approach, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre at the European Commission (DG JRC)

09:50 – 10:15 *Research at the core of pandemic preparedness and response*

Evelyn Depoortere, Team leader Public health emergencies Research preparedness and response, European Commission

10:15 – 10:40 *Translating policy into action: HaDEA's contribution to PREPARE-EU*

Miguel Lizaso, Head of Sector "Combatting Diseases" at HaDEA.A.3 Unit

10:40 – 11:10 *Coffee break*

Session II: Zoonotic spillover and initial steps in disease emergence

Session chair: **Robbert Boudewijns**

11:10 – 11:30 *Presentation EU project: BE READY*

Quentin Gaday, INSERM MIE (Emerging Infectious Diseases), France

11:30 – 11:50 *Presentation EU project: OneBAT*

Paola De Benedictis, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Delle Venezie, Italy

11:50 – 12:30 *From pathogen emergence to decoding its sequence: mpox outbreak research in Belgium, 2022 and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2024*

Koen Vercauteren, Clinical microbiologist and Associate Professor of clinical virology, ITM, Belgium

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch with poster sessions*



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Session III: Modelling for improved pandemic preparedness/response and mass testing approaches

Session chair: Koen Vercauteren

14:00 – 14:30 *Presentation EU project: LEAPS & DURABLE*

Catherine Decouttere and **Nico Vandaele**, KU Leuven, Belgium

14:30 – 14:50 *Presentation EU project: ESCAPE*

Niel Hens, Hasselt University, Belgium

14:50 – 15:10 *Presentation EU project: SUNRISE*

Berit Lange, HZI, Germany

15:10 – 15:30 *Presentation EU project: PCR-4-ALL*

Xevi Casadevall i Solvas, KU Leuven, Belgium

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 – 16:50 *Luxembourg example of mass testing during COVID19 pandemics*

Ulf Nehrbass, CEO of the Luxembourg Institute of Health and CEO ad interim of the Integrated Biobank of Luxembourg

Session IV: Technological advancements to fight old and new pandemics

Session chair: Anja Haase

16:50 – 17:20 *Presentation EU project: DECIPHER & FORTIFIEDx*

Jeroen Lammertyn, KU Leuven, Belgium

17:20 – 17:40 *Presentation EU project: UniHealth*

Anastasia Galanopoulou, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (IMBB-FORTH), Greece

17:40 – 18:00 *Presentation EU project: B-PATH*

Ankur Gupta-Wright, University of Heidelberg, Germany, and Imperial College London, United Kingdom

18:00 – 18:20 *Presentation EU project: Triple-A-COAT*

Hans Steenackers, KU Leuven, Belgium

18:20 – ... Wood fired pizza & ice cream dinner

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June 3 - Day 2

Session V: Pharmaceutical countermeasures for better preparedness

Session chair: **Carolina J. Klett-Tammen** and **Paola De Benedictis**

- 09:00 – 09:40 *Hallmarks of preparedness in development and manufacturing of pandemic vaccines*
Isabelle Bekerédjian-Ding, Professor and Chair of Medical Microbiology at the Marburg University and coordinator of the DZIF, EU Vaccine Hub
- 09:40 – 10:00 *Presentation EU project: COMPREHEND*
Berit Lange, HZI, Germany
- 10:00 – 10:40 *Power of vaccination — 50 years of WHO Extended Program of Immunization and lessons (not) learnt during a pandemic*
Kai Dallmeier, Professor of Virology, Molecular Vaccinology & Vaccine Discovery, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 10:40 – 11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:00 – 11:40 *Broader-spectrum antivirals for epidemic and pandemic readiness*
Johan Neyts, Professor of Virology at KU Leuven, Belgium
- 11:40 – 12:20 *Vaccine Confidence: An Important Component of Pandemic Preparedness*
Greet Hendrickx, Senior Project Coordinator within VAXINFECTIO at the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 12:20 – 14:00 *Lunch with poster sessions*

Session VI: The importance of integrating social, environmental and digital dimensions in pandemic threat response

Session chair: **Nico Vandaele**

- 14:00 – 14:40 *Ethical considerations during the COVID pandemic in Belgium*
Zeger Debyser, professor Faculty of Medicine, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 14:40 – 15:20 *Digital countermeasures and environmental surveillance: the two emerging pillars of modern pandemic preparedness strategies*
Emmanuel André, Professor of Clinical Microbiology, KU Leuven, Belgium and co-chair of the European Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergencies

