



Extra activity at the 8th European Public Health Conference

Round table: Lost in translation - pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, globalisation and politics

Friday, 16 October

10:30-11:30

Auditorium, Milano Congressi (MiCo), Milan, Italy



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport



EUROPEAN
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CONFERENCE

Organiser: EUPHA Section Infectious disease control and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

Chairs: Anja Schreijer, The Netherlands, Valentina di Gregori, Italy

Presenter: Ilaria Capua, Member of the Parliament, Italy

Our globalised environment, supports the unprecedented spread of pathogens. Novel threats include emerging pathogens, some of which are resistant to antiviral drugs or antibiotics.

Prompt identification for subsequent management of these outbreaks is essential. Initiatives to support sharing of diagnostic reagents, strains and sequences in a timely manner will enable the scientific community to advance its understanding more efficiently. The success of these efforts lies within the scientific community and is dependent on the willingness of scientists to contribute their tools and data.

Another essential issue the scientific community must address is advocacy and communication with stakeholders and engagement of the general public to raise awareness about these global threats.

Advocacy and communication between scientists and politicians are perhaps the most critical links in the communication chain if operational change is to be achieved. Politicians and scientists do not speak the same language as they do not base their

decisions on the same datasets, and this causes a misalignment of priorities and loss of focus. Politicians' decisions are influenced by newspaper headlines, the interests of their constituencies, citizen's protests and lobbying by special interest groups. Thus, a disease outbreak with the potential to become a major health issue which is well managed and does not evolve into a troublesome public health event is generally perceived by the media as a hoax or the result of a conspiracy between scientists and multinational pharma.

It would be beneficial for the scientific community to focus on systematic communication efforts with the political environment, including the rejection of conspiracy theory or hoax accusations. Doing so, would bring added value and would enable the medical research community to improve the outcome of their efforts, with positive consequences for public health as a whole.

Round table on the topic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), globalisation, policy and politics with:

- Ricardo Baptista Leite, Member of the Parliament, Portugal
- Martin McKee, EUPHA President, UK
- Aura Timen, RIVM, The Netherlands, President EUPHA Section Infectious diseases control
- Karl Ekdahl, ECDC, Sweden
- Henk Jan Ormel, FAO, Italy
- Luca Carra, journalist, Italy