

Editorial

Chapter II: Conclusions of the workshops of the Second European Influenza Conference

During this conference, influenza was not only discussed from a scientific perspective. Health care workers, government representatives and policy makers were also recognized as influenza stakeholders and were offered separate programme tracks. These included tailor-made lectures and workshops on all relevant aspects of the disease. In addition, specific sessions brought together the entire influenza stakeholder community, including representatives of influenza vaccine and antivirals manufacturers. These sessions focussed on information exchange and interaction between all participants, and resulted in highly interesting new visions on the future fight against epidemic and pandemic influenza in Europe.

This chapter contains the reports and conclusions of the separate workshops for the different participant groups (scientists, health care workers, and policy makers together with government representatives). These tailor-made sessions looked at the influenza issue from the specific angle of one or more groups.

The reports of the conference's plenary sessions are also included in this chapter. These sessions brought

together the entire influenza stakeholder community, including representatives of influenza vaccine and antivirals manufacturers.

The reports are not a literal reproduction of the workshop. They are conceived as journalistic, comprehensive articles, accessible for non-scientists and non-specialists. They cover the key elements of the workshop's topic and reflect the main points of interaction and discussions between the participants.

The different groups of participants debated about all relevant influenza prevention and impact reduction topics, e.g. pandemic preparedness, the interaction between science and policy, and how to join forces to reduce the impact of influenza. The discussions between the different groups resulted in a captivating multidisciplinary approach to each topic.

Chris Vanlangendonck
*Managing Director Link Inc.,
Communication Consultants*
Available online 6 June 2006