

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY ACTION GROUP
WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF
HEALTH SECURITY POLICIES

Brussels, 9-10 November 2006

European Commission Conference Centre "Albert Borschette"

Rue Froissart 36

B-1040 Brussels



BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE WORKSHOP.

In November 2001, the first ministerial meeting of the *Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI)* was held in *Ottawa*, to discuss global health security. Attending were the Health Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, the USA, Mexico and the European Commissioner for Health. The World Health Organization is a technical adviser to the GHSI. A *Global Health Security Action Group (GHSAG)* of experts was tasked with developing proposals and concrete actions to improve global health security. The GHSAG also serves as a network of rapid communication/reaction in the event of a crisis.

GHSAG has established a number of Technical Working Groups on areas such as smallpox, risk management and communication, influenza pandemic, chemical and radio nuclear incidents. In addition, there is a network of high level laboratories to co-ordinate, standardise and validate diagnostic capabilities, and contribute to global health surveillance and response to disease outbreaks.

The Health Ministers, at their meeting of November 2005, accepted the offer by the European Commission to host a symposium on research activities in health security by the GHSI partners in 2006. The aim of the symposium is to exchange on research related to improvements in health security which is being undertaken, completed or planned by the GHSI partners.

Conclusions on further follow-up of issues by research activities, the implementation of research results, possible additional research, and synergies which could result from joint action in research will be drawn from the symposium.

Participants of the workshop will be the GHSAG members and their representatives in the GHSAG technical working groups, experts designated by GHSAG members to act as chairs, keynote speakers and rapporteurs as well as the members of the "EU Health Security Committee".

PROGRAMME

9 NOVEMBER 2006

8h30 – 9h30: Arrival and registration of the participants

9h30 – 10h15:

Plenary Session

Chairperson: **Ms. Isabelle Benoiel**, Principal Advisor to the Director General for Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission

9h30 – 9h45: Welcome address: **Ms. Isabelle Benoiel**, Principal Advisor to the Director General for Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission

9h45 – 10h15: The Ottawa initiative in a global health security context (Background and short overview of objectives; how GHSAG addresses threats; areas of collaboration; Technical Working Groups and the research platform initiative)

Keynote Speaker: **Mr. Gordon Taylor Lee**, Secretariat of the Global Health Security Initiative, Health Canada

Defining policy-related and policy-driven research supporting improved preparedness and response plans and health security strategies

10h15 – 12h30: Theme 1 Biosafety and biosecurity

The session will examine how different countries approach biosafety and biosecurity. Special emphasis will be given on preparedness.

Chairperson: **Dr. John R. Stephenson**, Chief Research Officer, New and Emerging Infections and Vaccines, Department of Health, United Kingdom

Rapporteur: **Dr. Axel Lambert**, France

Keynote speaker: **Dr. Kathryn Harris**, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Biotechnology Activities, Office of the Director, NIH, US:

Promoting Biosecurity in Life Science Research

Speakers: Experts from

- **WHO:** **Dr. Cathy Roth**, WHO
WHO Guidelines on Biosecurity
- **European Commission:**
Dr. Albrecht Werner, Health Threats Unit,
Directorate General for Health and Consumer
Protection, European Commission
*The European approach to biosafety and
biosecurity*

11h00 – 11h15: Coffee break

- **Canada:** **Dr. Paul Payette**, Director of the Office of
Laboratory Security, Centre for Emergency
Preparedness and Response of the Public Health
Agency of Canada
- **Germany** **Prof. Dr. Bernd Appel**, Head of the Department
of Biological Safety, Federal Institute for Risk
Assessment, Germany
*Awareness and Prevention of Bio- and Agro-
terrorism*
- **United Kingdom:** **Dr. Paul McDermott**, Health and Safety Executive,
United Kingdom,
Working with BSL3 and BSL4 agents in the UK
- **France:** **Dr. M. Joël Crouzet**, Directeur de la valorisation
scientifique, INSERM-TRANSFERT, France
*The biotox call for proposals : an innovative way
to promote research on biosecurity*
Dr. Dominique Masset, French Health Products
Safety Agency
*Needs, development and implementation of
biosecurity regulations in France*

Discussion

12h30 – 14h00: Lunch

**14h00 – 15h45: Theme 2 Diagnostic techniques (Syndromic surveillance, Forensic
Lab, Laboratory Response Network Activities,
Identification of chemical agents)**

Chairperson: **Gary B. Glavin**, Deputy Director, National
Microbiology Laboratory, Health Canada,

Rapporteur: **Dr. Heinrich Maidhof**, Deputy Head of the Federal
Information Centre for Biological Security at the
Robert Koch-Institute, Berlin, Germany

Keynote Speaker: **Prof. Dr. Pauli**, Head of the Centre for Biological Security at the Robert Koch-Institute, Germany
Evaluation of Quality Assurance Testing in Laboratory based Identification of Potential Biological Warfare Agents and Strategies in their Diagnostics

Speakers: *Experts from*

– **European Commission:**

Mr. Paolo Salieri, Unit "Preparatory Action for Security Research", European Commission
Security Research in the 7th EU Framework Programme for research and technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013)

– **U.S.:**

Dr. Janet Nicholson, Senior Advisor for Laboratory Science, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC, US:
Detection of Biological Agents using a Coordinated Approach through Laboratory Networks

– **United Kingdom:**

Dr. John R. Stephenson, Chief Research Officer, New and Emerging Infections and Vaccines, Department of Health, United Kingdom
The UK's cross-government strategy for CBRN-related research

– **France:**

Prof. Bernard La Scola, Université de la Méditerranée, France:
Bacterial bioterrorism agents and new diagnostic stratagems

Dr. Ana Maria Burguière, Institut Pasteur, France
Operational versatility through the use of mini-genes built from in silico PCR primers sequences as biological positive controls and standards for the independent implementation of new diagnostic assays: the examples of Nipah virus and the agent of plague

Dr. Hervé Raoul, National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM), France
Management of strains at the BSL 4 laboratory in Lyon

Discussion

15h45 – 16h00: Coffee break

16h00 – 17h30: Theme 3 Treatment and prevention updates, including drugs and vaccines (e.g., Anthrax, smallpox, plague, VHF)

Within this session, possibilities for identifying consistent approaches that might apply to all or most participating countries should be explored. Chemical and radio-nuclear agents are equally important as infectious disease and toxins, but should be addressed separately.

- Chairperson:** **Dr. Walter Biederbick**, Head of the Federal Information Centre for Biological Security at the Robert Koch-Institute, Berlin, Germany
- Rapporteur:** **Dr. Nigel Lightfoot**, Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom
- Keynote speaker:** **Dr. Giuseppe Ippolito**, Scientific Director, National Institute for Infectious Diseases Lazzaro Spallanzani, Rome, Italy:
High level isolation of patients and maximum containment laboratories for diagnostics of high threat pathogens in Europe: a model for operational research

Speakers: *Experts from*

- **U.S.:** **Dr. Norman Coleman**, Team Leader for CBRNE Planning, OPHEP, Radionuclear Preparedness and Response, US:
New Technologies such as the Radiation Emergency Medical Management and Biodosimetry Network
- **Germany:** **PD Dr. Rene Gottschalk**
University Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany
Lassa Fever: Experiences, Problems and Consequences for International Public Health Management
- **European Commission:**
Mr. Arne Flåøyen, Unit "Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Aquaculture", Directorate General for Research, European Commission
Ongoing projects in the biosecurity area within the 6th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

Discussion

19h00: **Dinner**
("European Commission Foyer - Van Maerlant 2" (VM 2),
Rue Van Maerlant 2, 1040 – Brussels)

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9h00 – 11h00: Theme 4 Preparedness, new tools and analyses to improve monitoring, incident investigation, and operational functioning in response to a crisis (e.g. redeployment of clinical capabilities in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak, vaccine development, continuity of operations planning, training, inter-operability issues, etc.)

Chairperson: Mr. Helmut Walerius, European Commission

Rapporteur: Dr. Gary Coleman, Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom

Keynote speaker: Dr. Claude Giroux, Health Canada

Speakers: *Experts from*

- **Canada:** Dr. Theodore Kuschak, Canada:
The Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence (CNPHI) - New Tools for Outbreak Management and Mitigation
- **Germany:** PD. Dr. Walter Haas, Head of the Branch for Respiratory transmitted Diseases at the Robert Koch Institute, Germany
Science-based Concepts in Influenza Preparedness Planning
- **European Commission:**
Dr. Frank van Loock, Health Threats Unit, Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission
Lessons from generic preparedness planning in the EU
- **United Kingdom** Dr. Penny Bevan, Department of Health, United Kingdom
NHS resilience during local and national emergencies

Discussion

11h00 – 11h15: Coffee break

11h15 – 13h00: Theme 5 Scenario and medical consequence modelling

Chairperson: Prof. Jean-Francois Lacronique, Ministry of Health, France

Rapporteur: Dr David Russell, Head of Unit / Deputy Director WHO Collaborating Centre, Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom

Keynote speaker: **Dr. Martin Eichner**, University of Tübingen,
Germany
*Modelling the Spread and Control of Emerging
Infectious Diseases*

Speakers: *Experts from*

– **GHSAG Chemicals WG:**

Dr. David Blakey, Canada:
Risk prioritisation matrix for chemicals

– **GHSAG Radio-nuclear WG:**

Prof. Jean-Francois Lacronique, Ministry of
Health, France
*Work related to scenario and medical consequence
modelling by the radio-nuclear WG*

– **European Commission:**

Mr. Nikolaos Stilianakis, Unit "Support to external
Security", Directorate General "Joint Research
Centre" (JRC), European Commission
*Modelling activities on public health issues at the SES-
Unit /DG-JRC*

– **United Kingdom:** **Dr. Nigel Lightfoot**, Health Protection Agency,
United Kingdom
UK scenario planning and modelling

Discussion

13h00 – 14h30 Lunch

14h30 – 17h00:

Plenary Session

Chairperson: **Ms. Isabelle Benoliel**, Principal Advisor to the Director General for
Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission

Rapporteur: **Mr. Brad Goble**, GHSAG Secretariat, Health Canada

14h30 – 16h15: Round table discussion

- Members are the chairpersons of the Thematic Groups. The objective is to distil and document from the seminar discussions what are the most urgent and valuable policy-driven research topics / areas and outline a stepwise plan for reporting and collaboration amongst research bodies of GHSI partners.

- The round table discussions include a concise reporting of maximum 10 minutes per theme from each thematic session.
- The aim of the discussions is to identify issues, recommended action needed, how the GHSAG can add value and work with WHO, EC and others to help enhance preparedness toward some of the global health threats/problems identified.

Special attention to be given to:

- Cases of good international collaboration that could serve as an example to be used or broadened or adapted.
- Collaboration, networking amongst laboratories; laboratory workshops;
- Information exchange, resources sharing, access to research results and comparison of approaches between GHSI partners (including identifying the existing barriers (legislative, commercial, structural, political, safety concerns,...) to creating such collaboration and the discussion of possible solutions or steps towards overcoming barriers.)
- Fields where there exists a need for training, e.g., training of trainers.

16h15 – 16h30: Coffee break

Conclusions and closure:

16h30 – 16h50: Conclusions of the seminar: the next steps

Mr. Gordon Taylor Lee, Secretariat of the Global Health Security Initiative, Health Canada

16h50 – 17h00: Closing remarks:

Ms. Isabelle Benoliel, Principal Advisor to the Director General for Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission