

Several unknown viruses have been discovered. Some viruses have been transmitted from animals to humans. The genetic plasticity of viruses has created viral variants with dangerous pathobiological properties. Recent progresses in the development of antiviral treatments have been jeopardized by the emergence of resistant mutants. Human activities resulting in climatic and social changes have resulted in the emergence or re-emergence of viruses that affect human health, especially arboviruses.

The main objective of the Christophe Mérioux Conference will be to draw general lessons from recent events involving different emerging viruses and to improve the preparedness of the health community through a better surveillance of and response to viral spread and epidemics.

Important topics in medical virology will be covered, including viral hepatitis, dengue, influenza, SARS, hemorrhagic fever, and emerging pathogens.

All aspects, from basic science (taxonomy, species barrier crossing, pathogenesis, replication, immunology) to surveillance and early warning (including diagnostic and veterinary surveillance), as well as development of vaccines and treatment (including monitoring) will be covered.

This new conference will be the first of a series of workshops focused on this topic. This event will be held in the memory of Dr. Christophe Mérioux, MD, Vice President Fondation Mérioux, who was deeply committed to the global fight against infectious diseases and has initiated this action.



Sunday, June 24

18.00 to 19.00: Introduction
 Alain Mérioux

Plenary Session
 Chair: G. Vernet, F. Zoulim

- Emerging viral threats to human health in the last 25 years
Ab Osterhaus
 Erasmus Hospital - Rotterdam
 The Netherlands

Discussion
Welcome reception

Monday, June 25

8.30: Replication and virus entry
 Chair: T. Miyamura, T. Baumert

- New insight on HCV entry and regulation of HCV replication
Ralf Bartenschlager
 Heidelberg University - Germany
- Protease-mediated entry of SARS-CoV from cell surface; implication in pathogenesis
Fumihito Taguchi
 NIID, Tokyo - Japan
- Replication of arenaviruses
Stephan Gunther,
 Bernard Nocht Institute, Hamburg
 Germany
- Interaction between flavivirus envelope proteins and cell membrane
Felix Rey
 Institut Pasteur / CNRS - Paris
 France
- Human herpesvirus entry, signaling and replication; implication in pathogenesis
Bala Chandran
 Chicago Medical School - USA

Round Table
11.00 am: Break

11.30: Drug design/screening and new antiviral treatments
 Chair: F. Penin, F. Hayden

- Discovery of new HCV inhibitors
Johann Neyts
 Rega Institute, Leuven - Belgium
- SARS Protease as drug target
Rolf Hilgenfeld
 Lubeck University - Germany
- Flavivirus RNA polymerase as a drug target
Bruno Canard
 CNRS, Marseille - France

Round Table
13.00: Lunch Break

14.30: Virus genome evolution: Mutants, resistance, virulence
 Chair: J. Neyts, C. Treppe

- Antiviral Drug Resistance in Influenza
Frederick G. Hayden
 WHO, Geneva - Switzerland

- HBV resistance to nucleoside analogs
Fabien Zoulim
 INSERM, Lyon - France
- HCV resistance to protease inhibitors
Tara Kieffer - Vertex Pharmaceutical
 Cambridge - USA
- The molecular epidemiology and evolution of encephalitis viruses
Guodong Liang
 CDC, Beijing - China
- Zoonoses, modeling hot spots for ID emergence
Peter Daszak
 Consortium for Conservation
 Medicine, New-York - USA

Round Table
16.45 pm: Break

17.00: Surveillance, epidemiology
 Chair: X. de Lamballerie, I. Lipkin

- Vector biology and arbovirus transmission
Barry Beaty
 Colorado State University - USA
- Emerging viral diseases in South Asia and Oceania
John Mackenzie
 Biosecurity CRC, Brisbane - Australia
- Pathogen surveillance and discovery in acute and chronic disease
Ian Lipkin
 Columbia University, New-York - USA
- Molecular epidemiology of hepatitis viruses
Tetsuo Miyamura
 NIID, Tokyo - Japan
- Chandipura and chikungunya virus epidemics in India
AC Mishra - National Institute of Virology, Pune - India
- New molecular tools for epidemiology studies and diagnosis
Guy Vernet
 bioMérioux, Lyon - France

Round Table
19.30 pm: Poster session

20.00: Gala Dinner

Tuesday, June 26

8.30: Immunology and pathogenesis
 Chair: FL Cosset, G. Leroux

- Innate immune response against flaviviruses
Christoph Seeger
 Fox Chase Cancer Center,
 Philadelphia, USA
- Exploited defense – How influenza virus hijacks cellular signalling responses
Stephan Ludwig
 Institute of molecular virology,
 Muenster, Germany
- Immune control and immunopathogenesis of viral infections
Daniel Pinschewer
 Institute of Experimental
 Immunology, Zurich - Switzerland

TRENDS IN VIROLOGY
Christophe Mérieux
 CONFERENCE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- François-Xavier Babin
- Jean-Yves Bonnefooy
 - Dexin Li
 - Mifang Liang
 - Ian Lipkin
- Johann Neyts
- Ab Osterhaus
- Guy Vernet
- Fabien Zoulim

Round Table
 9.45: Break

10.15: Prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines

Chair: C. Bréchet, J-Y. Bonnefooy

- H5N1 Vaccine studies
Geert Leroux-Roels
 Center for Vaccination, Ghent University and Hospital - Belgium
- HBV therapeutic vaccine
Christian Bréchet & Marie-Louise Michel
 INSERM, Paris - France
- Prophylactic and therapeutic HCV vaccine
Geneviève Inchauspé
 Transgene, Strasbourg - France
- HPV vaccine
Samir Khleif
 NCI Naval hospital, Bethesda - USA
- Vaccination against flaviviruses
Christian Mandl
 Vienna University - Austria
- Hantavirus Vaccine Development and Large Scale Vaccination in China
Mifang Liang
 CDC, Beijing - China

Round Table
 13.00: Lunch Break

14.30: Early warning and response

Chair: Zijian Feng, B. Lina

- Web-based ID surveillance
 Speaker to be confirmed
- Surveillance and Response to emerging diseases outbreak: a WHO perspective
Pierre Formenty
 WHO, Geneva - Switzerland
- Early warning system and response in China
 CDC system for emerging infectious diseases
Zijian Feng
 CDC, Beijing - China

Round Table
 16.00 Break

16.30: Keynote lecture

- The Evolutionary Biology of Emerging and Re-emerging Viruses
Edward C. Holmes
 Pennsylvania University, Philadelphia, USA

Conclusion: Guy Vernet, Fabien Zoulim



Coordination

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Les Pensières
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In the recent years, the virologists community has been confronted to several events that had strong impact on human health worldwide.

A Fondation Mérieux Conference

