



**European Surveillance Network  
for Influenza in Pigs (ESNIP)  
Minisymposium**

**Gent, Belgium, 4 – 5 June 2008**

## INVITATION TO THE SYMPOSIUM

The “European Surveillance Network for Influenza in Pigs 2”, in short ESNIP 2, is a coordination action (SSPE-CT-2005-022749) in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Research Programme of the European Commission (EC). It is the single surveillance network for influenza in pigs in Europe and maintains and expands a surveillance network that was established during a previous concerted action, ESNIP 1. The main aims of ESNIP 2 are: 1) To keep track of major changes in the epidemiology and evolution of swine influenza viruses (SIVs) in Europe and to apply this knowledge to improve the control and diagnosis of SI, 2) To better understand the epidemiology of SI worldwide by comparing the situation in Europe with that in the US and in Asia, 3) To gain better insights in the public health risk of influenza in pigs by screening European swine populations for avian influenza viruses, and by comparison of influenza viruses in swine and in human populations. This minisymposium is meant to present the activities of ESNIP 2 to influenza virologists, decision makers, the pharmaceutical industry and colleagues from human, avian or equine influenza surveillance networks. It will be a small, but stimulating and interactive meeting. The first day of the programme is dedicated entirely to surveillance for SIVs. Participation of expert colleagues from the US and Asia will allow us to get a more global picture of the swine influenza situation. During the second day we will focus on infection of pigs with avian or human influenza viruses and discuss potential determinants of the species barrier. An informal ESNIP progress meeting that is open to all participants will take place on the afternoon of the second day. Anyone with an interest in influenza in pigs is very welcome. The symposium venue is Ghent University’s cultural centre, “het Pand”, Onderbergen 1, 9000 Gent, Belgium. “Het Pand” is an old Dominican Monastery located in the heart of Gent, where you will experience and enjoy the atmosphere of old Gent. We hope to welcome you there.

On behalf of the ESNIP 2 consortium,  
Kristien Van Reeth, ESNIP 2 coördinator  
Laboratory of Virology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University,  
Salisburylaan 133, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium  
Phone +32 9 2647366, Fax +32 9 2647495  
Email: kristien.vanreeth@UGent.be

## REGISTRATION FEES

Scientific Programme Wed June 4 (+ symposium dinner)	€150
Scientific Programme Thu June 5	€50
Social Programme Thu June 5	€30

Please use the attached combined registration and accommodation booking form to register for the symposium.

**The deadline for registration is May 5**

## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

A block of rooms has been reserved in hotel 'Ibis Gent Centrum Kathedraal'. The hotel is situated in the shadow of Gent's famous 3 towers – St. Bavo's Cathedral, the Belfry and the St. Nicholas Church – and at walking distance from 'het Pand', the symposium venue. This hotel offers good accommodations for a reasonable price.

Address: hotel Ibis Gent Centrum Kathedraal  
Limburgstraat 2, 9000 Gent, Belgium  
phone + 32 9 233 00 00  
fax + 32 9 233 10 00

The room rate is €94/night (+€13 for breakfast). All rooms have bath or shower. No advance payment is required. Hotel charges are to be paid directly at the hotel upon check out.

Please indicate on the combined registration and accommodation booking form whether you would like us to make hotel reservations. Upon request, rooms can be booked in other hotels at different price categories.

**The deadline for room reservation is May 5**

## **TRAVEL AND TOURISTIC INFORMATION**

Most major airlines serve Brussels International Airport. There are frequent rail services between Brussels Airport and the main train stations in Brussels. There you can switch to one of the many intercity (IC) trains to or via "Gent St. Pieters", Gent's main railway station. Some trains run directly from the airport to Gent St. Pieters. Eurostar and Thalys trains run from London or Paris to the station "Brussels South", where you should also switch to a train to Gent St. Pieters. At the Gent St. Pieters train station, take tram 1 from the tunnel under the station and get off at the "Korenmarkt", which is close to both the Ibis hotel and "het Pand".

If you come by car from the E40 or E17 highways, take the direction "Gent centrum" and follow the parking-route to P7, "Sint Michiels Parking". This parking is only 50 m away from "het Pand".

Gent is one of the best conserved mediaeval cities of Europe. The inner town is a maze of narrow streets and alleys huddled around the junction of the rivers Leie and Lieve. The city centre is a showcase of magnificent examples of every architectural style from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The scientific programme of this meeting is arranged to allow free time for sightseeing and for a visit to the numerous cozy pubs in Gent. Don't miss the symposium dinner on June 4 (restaurant "Coeur d'Artichaut", Onderbergen 6). On the evening of June 5, participants are invited to take part in a culinary walk through Gent. Those who have visited Gent before will for sure discover new places and attractions.

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

## *Wednesday June 4*

08.30 Registration

### **Session 1: Swine influenza in Europe**

09.00-09.30 **The European Surveillance Network for Influenza in Pigs: history, aims, state of affairs**

Kristien Van Reeth, Ghent University, Belgium

09.30-10.00 **Antigenic evolution of swine influenza viruses in Europe and significance for diagnosis and vaccination**

Constantinos Kyriakis, Ghent University, Belgium

10.00-10.30 **Ecology and evolution of swine influenza in Europe**

Ian Brown, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, UK

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-11.20 **Genetic and antigenic characterisation of swine influenza viruses in France: identification of novel H1N1 reassortants**

Gaëlle Kuntz-Simon, French Agency for Food Safety, France

11.20-11.40 **Influenza surveillance in the pig population of Great Britain (1991-2007): a demographic and virological analysis**

Sharon Brookes, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, UK

11.40-12.00 **Swine influenza in Denmark: diagnostics and current research**

Lars Larsen, National Veterinary Institute, Denmark

12.00-12.30 Discussion session

12.30-14.00 LUNCH

### **Session 2: Swine influenza in the US and Asia**

14.00-14.45 **Surveillance for swine influenza in North America**

Marie Gramer, University of Minnesota, USA

14.45-15.30 **Surveillance for swine influenza in Japan and Thailand**

Takehido Saito, National Institute of Animal Health, Japan

15.30-15.45 Discussion session

15.45-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-16.30 **Special lecture: Avian influenza H5N1: is it a cause for concern?**  
Malik Peiris, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

19.00 Symposium dinner

### ***Thursday June 5***

#### **Session 3: Avian influenza in pigs**

08.30-09.00 **Highly pathogenic avian influenza H7N7 in swine in The Netherlands: serology in the field and experimental infections**  
Willie Loeffen, Central Veterinary Institute Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands

09.00-09.30 **Avian influenza in pigs: diagnostic tools and research**  
Ramona Trebbien, National Veterinary Institute, Denmark

09.30-10.15 **Susceptibility of pigs to LPAI viruses: *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies**  
Annebel De Vleeschauwer & Sjouke Van Poucke, Ghent University, Belgium

10.15-10.30 Discussion session

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

#### **Session 4: Determinants of the species barrier**

10.45-11.15 **Understanding influenza virus infectivity in pigs**  
Chris Olsen, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

11.15-11.45 **Adaptive changes in haemagglutinin and neuraminidase during the emergence of pandemic influenza viruses**  
Mikhail Matrosovich, University of Marburg, Germany

11.45-12.00 Discussion session

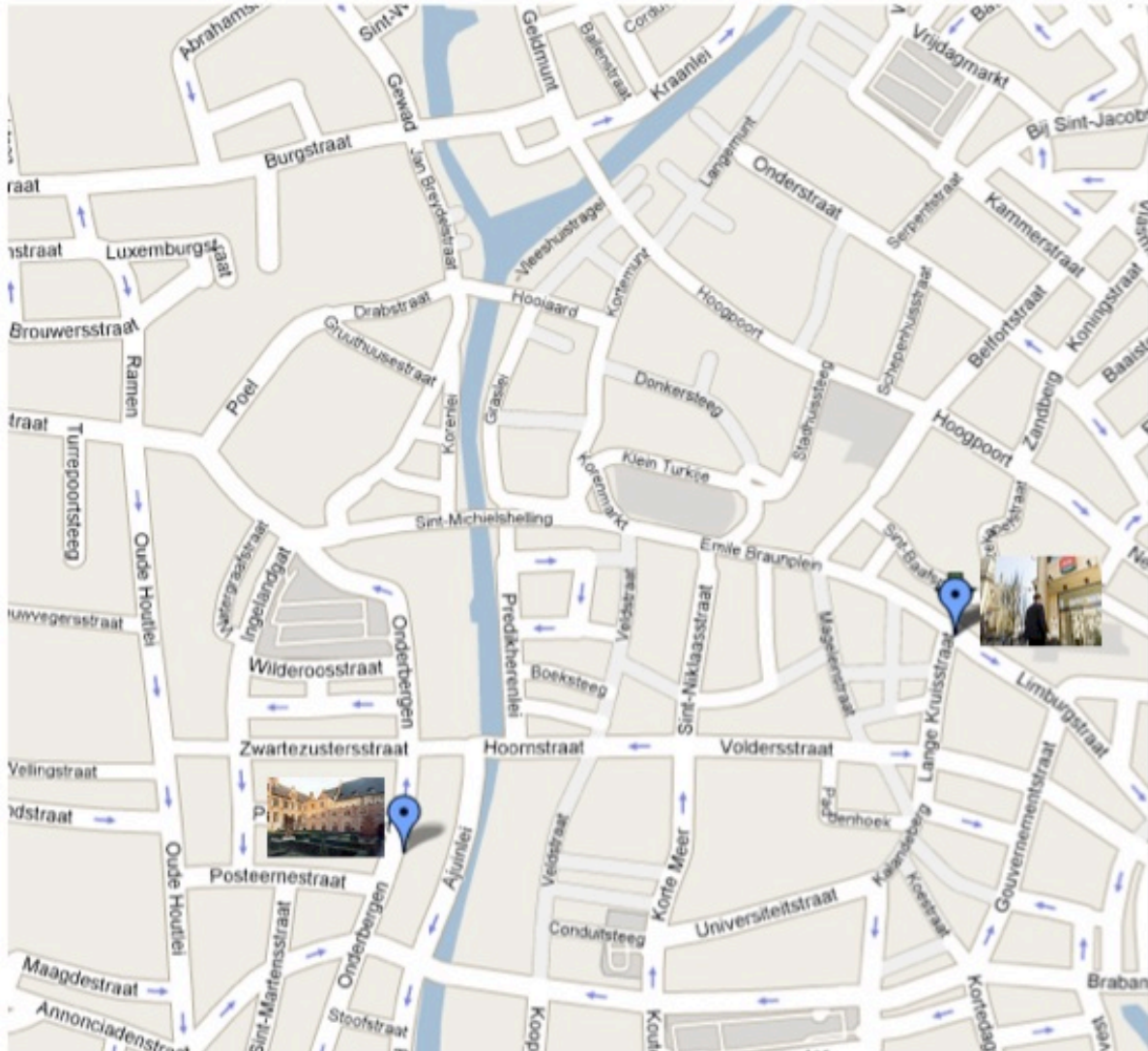
12.00-12.30 **Special lecture: Antigenic cartography to compare the evolution of human and swine influenza viruses**  
Ron Fouchier, Erasmus Medical Centre, The Netherlands

12.30-14.00 LUNCH

14.00-16.00 **ESNIP 2 progress meeting**

17.00 Tour in Gent with typical dinner

## MAP OF CENTRAL GENT



<http://maps.google.be/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=nl&msa=0&msid=105491791510699420204.00044a08556a20f642667&z=17>