Dear all,

It is our pleasure to announce the first Sciensano Symposium **"Health challenges of the 21st centur**y".

With this initiative,  we aim to highlight some of the research activities of Sciensano, and invite you for further interaction.

The **topics** selected for this first edition are:

* Crisis preparedness/Innovation
* One health
* Food safety and health

Where and when?

8th of December 2022 from 9 to 18 hours

A hybrid event: **online and in Brussels** (BEL, Havenlaan 86c/3002 1000 Brussels, [How to get there | bel.brussels](https://bel.brussels/en/access))

At noon we will offer you a lunch, and there will be different stands were you can learn more about some

technologies applied within Sciensano.

Preliminary programme of the symposium

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| **Time** | **Presentation** | **Speaker** |
| **09h00-9h15** | **Welcome coffee** |  |
| 09h15-9h20 | Opening of the symposium by the president | Sofie De Broe |
| 09h20-9h50 | Welcome by the general director | Christian Leonard |
| 09h50-10h00 | Opening speeches by the responsible ministers | Frank Vandenbroucke/  David Clarinval |
| 10h00-11h00 | Exposome: Where chemistry meets biology | Roel Vermeulen |
| **11h00-11h30** | **Coffee break** |  |
| 11h30-12h30 | **SESSION I: Crisis preparedness / innovation** |  |
|  | -New monitoring systems and data |  |
|  | * + Never waste a good crisis, the impact of COVID-19 on infectious disease surveillance in Belgium | Dieter Van Cauteren |
|  | * + Wastewater surveillance of COVID-19, and future application | Marie Lesenfants |
|  | * + The collection and management of real world data for public health policy: past, present and future of the healthdata.be platform | Johan Van Bussel |
|  | -Emerging diseases |  |
|  | * + Preparedness for emerging vector- bornediseases: Japanese encephalitis virus interactions with indigenous mosquitoes and pigs | Nick De Regge |
|  | * + Zoonotic potential of the circulating highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza viruses | Mieke Steensels |
|  | -Endocrine disrupting chemicals - State of play | Mélanie Di Mario |
| 12h30-12h45 | Questions and Answers (moderated by scientific board) |  |
| 12h45-14h00 | **Walking LUNCH**/  Demonstrations Technology@sciensano |  |
| 14h00-14h45 | **Session II: One Health**   * Biodiversity in the OH programme: (un)healthy nature? * Combining virus genomes and epidemiological tracing to understand an unexpectedly severe outbreak of avian influenza in poultry) * Vaccines: major contributors to global health which improve the quality of life | Raf Aerts/  Steven Van Gucht  Steven van Borm  Koen Brusselmans |
| 14h45-15h00 | Questions and Answers (moderated by scientific board) |  |
| 15h00-15h30 | **Coffee break** |  |
| 15h30-16h15 | **Session III: Food safety and Health**   * Presence of PFASs in the food chain: Role of Sciensano in the recent crisis * Susceptibility of vulnerable populations to foodborne illness * Healthy ageing and the food environment: Current evidence and future directions | Laure Joly  Koenraad Van Hoorde  Stefanie Vandevijvere |
| 16h15-16h30 | Questions and Answers (moderated by scientific board) |  |
| 16h30-16h35 | Closing remarks |  |
| 16h35-18h00 | **Drinks and networking** |  |

For whom?

* For our stakeholders and external partners at home and abroad
* For all interested scientists at home and abroad
* For all Sciensano employees interested in these topics

Information and subscription

Participation is free, but registration is needed.

The final programme and further information on registration will be communicated by the beginning of september.

The spoken language during the symposium is English.

**Make sure you mark the date of this symposium in your calendar!** (you can click on the attached ICS file attached to do so)

**Questions?** Contact [scico@sciensano.be](mailto:scico@sciensano.be)

We’re looking forward to meeting you at the symposium!

Christian Leonard, managing director

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