



# Agenda

12 November 2015

ESCAIDE  
Stockholm Waterfront Conference Centre

**The right tools for the job: choosing appropriate new laboratory methods to support outbreak detection and response**

**12:30 – 12:35 Participants entering room with lunch**

**12:35 – 12:38 Welcome note**

Dr Ines Steffens, Editor-in-chief, *Eurosurveillance*

**12:38 – 12:50 Introduction**

Professor Marc Struelens, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

**12:50 – 13:15 Choosing tools for bacteria – handyman, expert or DIY?**

Professor Jacob Moran-Gilad, Ministry of Health and Ben-Gurion University, Israel

**13:15 – 13:20 Q&A**

**13:20 – 13:45 Right tools, right application, right answer?**

Professor Maria Zambon, Public Health England, London, United Kingdom

**13:45 – 13:50 Q&A**

**13:50 – 14:00**

Further interventions from audience and closing remarks by moderator

# Speakers

Impact factor 5.7  
**Eurosurveillance**



## Professor Jacob Moran-Gilad

Jacob Moran-Gilad is a Medical Doctor board-certified in clinical microbiology and public health. As Head of Microbiology Cooperation & National Microbiology Focal Point for the Israeli Ministry of Health, he oversees a range of national strategic and policy-making activities and works with stakeholders across government and public sectors. Under this capacity, he is leading areas such as appraisal of genomic technologies and the National Programme for Legionellosis Control and is involved in cross-cutting work relating to emergency preparedness, disease surveillance and outbreak control.

His main research interest as a Professor of clinical microbiology at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel is development of molecular diagnostics and bioinformatics capabilities for application of genomic approaches in public health microbiology, focusing on waterborne, foodborne and antimicrobial resistant bacteria. Jacob is also an executive committee member of the ESCMID Study Groups for Legionella Infections (ESGLI) and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD).



## Professor Maria Zambon

Maria Zambon is medically and scientifically qualified Director of the United Kingdom (UK) national reference laboratories involved in national microbiology reference laboratory provision, public health and epidemiology surveillance, outbreak response and integrated clinical research programmes. She is Head of the UK National Influenza Centre and scientific respiratory virus group, directing longstanding programmes on respiratory virus diagnostics, antivirals, vaccines and other interventions for treatment of serious respiratory infections. Her laboratories have clinical and laboratory response roles for emerging respiratory infections e.g. severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

Maria had a significant individual contribution to the UK and international policy on pandemic planning for influenza. Her main research interests include vaccine development, viral diagnosis, molecular epidemiology, antivirals for RNA viruses. She has authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications on influenza and other respiratory viruses.

Maria is the professional lead for Public Health England national respiratory programmes and member of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee.



## Professor Marc Struelens

Marc Struelens is the Chief Microbiologist at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). He is former President of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, and Professor of Medical Microbiology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium.

Marc has authored over 280 peer-reviewed articles and 20 book chapters across many disciplines, including molecular epidemiology, control of nosocomial infections, and antimicrobial resistance. He has served as editor of several international scientific journals, been a member of several national and international advisory boards, European Union (EU)-supported research and public health networks, and has served as consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO) and EU bodies.



## The right tools for the job: choosing appropriate new laboratory methods to support outbreak detection and response

Public health microbiology has become an indispensable tool for the prevention and control of infectious diseases. In outbreak investigations it adds another layer and considerable value to the classical ‘shoe-leather’ = field epidemiology that focuses on time, place and person. Microbiological evidence is considered as strong evidence of the transmission route or infection source, for example in food-borne outbreaks where related strains are recovered from linked individuals, or where the same pathogen is found both in the patients and consumed food item.

The traditional field epidemiology has its roots in John Snow’s legendary investigation of the cholera epidemic in 1854 in London. Public health microbiology is a much younger discipline and has evolved over recent decades in Europe. The most notable impact of public health microbiology is the explosion in the development and application of new tools for laboratory diagnostics, particularly molecular typing methods e.g. pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE), multilocus sequence typing (MLST) and recently, whole genome sequencing (WGS). These methods have provided new perspectives on identifying and controlling (cross-border) outbreaks.

With great variation of the availability and application of these tools between laboratories and between different countries it has become a challenge to find the right tool to be able to interpret and compare results in a standardised manner and draw correct conclusions from the findings.

The seminar will frame the opportunities and challenges posed by the new and by emerging methods. After an introduction by Prof. Marc Struelens, two eminent speakers will present examples from the field of bacteriology, Prof. Jacob Moran-Gilad, and virology, Prof. Maria Zambon, respectively. They will exemplify prospects, pose questions and point out risks that have emerged, and discuss benefits and solutions for the future. There will be some room for the audience to comment and share views.

## About us

*Eurosurveillance* is a European peer-reviewed scientific journal devoted to the epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases, with a focus on such topics that are of relevance to Europe.

The entire content is open access, free of charge for both readers and authors. All articles are indexed in the PubMed/MEDLINE, Scopus, EMBASE, EBSCO, among other databases. The journal has been selected for coverage by Thomson Reuters and is indexed and abstracted in the Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch) and in the Journal Citation Reports/ Science Edition beginning with Volume 14(1) 2009. The journal's current impact factor, for the year 2014, is 5.7 (Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters, 2015). This places *Eurosurveillance* at rank 6 among the 78 journals in the category Infectious Diseases. The Scopus-based SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) for 2014 ranks *Eurosurveillance* 92 of 1,985 journals in the category Medicine. Google Scholar metrics in 2014 listed *Eurosurveillance* at ranks 5 and 12 among journals in the categories Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases.

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The views expressed in the journal are those of the authors and may not necessarily comply with ECDC policy.

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## Fourth scientific seminar

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