

Agenda

Speakers



Lunchtime seminar
Room: Magasinet

27 November 2019
12:40–14:30

Point-of-care testing (POCT) and its impact on surveillance of communicable diseases and public health

12:40 – 12:50 Arrival of participants

Please join us for the talks in the seminar room (Magasinet), where lunch will also be served.

12:50 – 13:00 Welcome notes

Professor Nick Phin, Public Health England, London, United Kingdom and Editorial advisor of *Eurosurveillance*

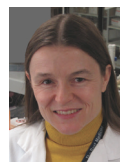
13:00 – 13:30 Infectious disease POCT: ready or not, here it comes

Dr Susan M. Poutanen, University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto and University of Toronto, Canada

13:30 – 14:00 Infectious disease POCT: how to translate into public health benefits

Professor Marc Struelens, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Solna, Sweden

14:00 – 14:30 Questions and answers



Dr Susan M. Poutanen

Dr Poutanen is a Medical Microbiologist and Infectious Diseases Physician at University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada and an associate professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Susan has served as Chair of the Microbiology Committee and Professional Advisory Committee of the Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare in Canada and currently serves as the Microbiology Section Head of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada. She is currently leading the Association's creation of a guidance document regarding quality implementation of point-of-care tests in microbiology. Susan's broad research interests include: the epidemiology and detection of antimicrobial resistance, the use of faecal microbiota transplantation to manipulate dysbiosis and the optimisation of microbiology laboratory practices using rapid diagnostics, automation, artificial intelligence and point-of-care tests. Susan's training is from Canada and the United States. She received her Medical Degree from the University of Toronto and completed Internal Medicine and Medical Microbiology Residencies at the University of Toronto and an Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Stanford University, California. She received her Masters of Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley.



Professor Marc Struelens

Professor Struelens is the Chief Microbiologist at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Solna, Sweden. 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 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, has been a member of several national and international advisory boards and European Union (EU)-supported research and public health networks, and has served as consultant to the World Health Organization and EU bodies.



Professor Nick Phin, Moderator

Professor Phin has been Acting Director of the Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control (CIDSC), Public Health England, Colindale, London, United Kingdom for nearly 3 years. CIDSC covers all aspects of infectious disease response and provides advice and information on infectious diseases locally, nationally and internationally. He is also the International Health Regulations National Focal Point and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Focal Point for a number of areas. He was acting Head of Department for Respiratory Diseases at CIDSC before his current position and still remains involved and keenly interested in influenza (avian, seasonal and pandemic) and Legionnaires' disease. He led the Legionella Surveillance and Respiratory section for a number of years and has contributed at national and international levels in influenza and legionella since 2007. Nick joined the Health Protection Agency in 2002, as a Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, to pursue an interest in respiratory diseases. After completing his public health training in 1991, he worked as a Director of Public Health in England and Wales for a number of years before joining the Health Protection Agency.

Point-of-care testing (POCT) and its impact on surveillance of communicable diseases and public health

Diagnostic devices for testing close to the patient, frequently by healthcare workers who may or may not have specific laboratory training or for self-testing, are becoming increasingly available. Self-testing increases accessibility and confidentiality, which individuals may perceive as a benefit. Point-of-care testing (POCT) makes testing easier and produces more rapid results, which enables timely clinical decisions and treatment as well as the implementation of infection prevention and control measures.

Such advantages have led to increased interest in POCT among clinicians, as well as public health experts and decision makers. However, the incorrect use of tests can affect their accuracy and quality, and their sensitivity and specificity can vary. As rapid diagnostics' limitations can have important consequences for individual and public health, it is crucial to ensure appropriate use. Aside from standards and accreditation of tests, self-tested patients need to be linked to care and policies should be in place to address these aspects.

Capturing results from POCT and self-testing devices systematically and comprehensively is a challenge for epidemiological surveillance. For reference and public health laboratories, possible limited availability of referred samples and/or isolates from POCT could impact on detection of transmission events, identification of emerging new strains, infection source attribution, monitoring antimicrobial resistance patterns, etc.

The 8th *Eurosurveillance* scientific seminar is moderated by Professor Nick Phin from Public Health England, London, United Kingdom. Speakers are Dr Susan Poutanen from University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto and University of Toronto, Canada, and Professor Marc Struelens, Chief Microbiologist at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Solna, Sweden. In her talk, Dr Poutanen provides examples from POCT practice in Canada and raises quality assurance and ethical questions. Professor Struelens raises questions about the different uses of the term 'POCT', the regulation of POCT devices, limitations of POCT as culture-independent technology and the challenges and potential benefits of POCT for public health, from a European perspective.

Eurosurveillance invites the audience to take an active part in the discussion by sharing their experiences and 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 topics relevant to Europe. A weekly online journal published on Thursdays, it produces 50 issues per year and features short and timely rapid communications, as well as longer in-depth research articles, surveillance and outbreak reports, reviews, and perspectives.

All *Eurosurveillance* content is open access, free of charge for both readers and authors. The most recent impact factor, for the year 2018, is 7.4 (Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate analytics, 2019). This places *Eurosurveillance* at rank 4 among the 89 journals in the category Infectious Diseases.

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Eurosurveillance



Eighth scientific seminar

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ESCAIDE
Stockholm, The Brewery Conference Centre
27 November 2019



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