



# Influenza Ecology and Pandemics

A new Current Themes Symposium

April 19, 2006

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In 2003, with the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the Netherlands (2003) we received a major reminder of the threats of avian influenza to animals and man. The threat has not subsided; a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (H5N1) recently spread from Southeast Asia to Russia, Eastern Europe and Turkey, and has killed 85 individuals out of 160 infected. Many people fear that this virus could cause a new pandemic similar to the Spanish Flu pandemic, which caused an estimated 40 million casualties worldwide in 1918. It has been speculated that the spread of the H5N1 virus is facilitated by migratory waterfowl, which would be bad news for The Netherlands being a hot spot for these animals with some visiting species easily outnumbering the human population.



Although virologist should importantly be dealing with this paramount issue, the ecology of the viruses and their hosts may significantly determine the chances and severity of an influenza pandemic. To introduce us to the world of influenza, notably highlighting the ecological host-pathogen knowledge, we have invited a number of renowned speakers that will inform us on this subject in a total of seven lectures. Since avian influenza is increasingly in the spotlights and much money is being allocated to increase our knowledge and safeguard our society from pandemic, attention will also be paid to identifying the major knowledge gaps during this one-day symposium.

#### **Tentative program:**

The program also allows for short 5 minute presentations on recently developed research initiatives related to avian influenza. In case you are interested using this opportunity, you are most welcome to contact Marcel Klaassen at [m.klaassen@nioo.knaw.nl](mailto:m.klaassen@nioo.knaw.nl).



## Organisation

### Organisation:

[Prof. Dr. Marcel Klaassen](#), [Netherlands Institute of Ecology](#),

[Dr. Ron Fouchier](#), [Erasmus University](#).

[Prof. Dr. Hans Heesterbeek](#), [University of Utrecht](#),  
the Netherlands.

### Advice and overview:

[Prof. Hans de Kroon](#), [Experimental Plant Ecology](#), Radboud University Nijmegen, The  
Netherlands.

**Logistics:** [Els Kakisina](#), [Netherlands Institute of Ecology](#).

**Web design:** [Johan van de Koppel](#), [Netherlands Institute of Ecology](#).

### For practical questions:

[currentthemes@nioo.knaw.nl](mailto:currentthemes@nioo.knaw.nl)



## Location of the Influenza Ecology and Pandemics Symposium

**Date:** April 19, 2006

**Venue:** WICC, Wageningen The Netherlands

**Admission, including lunch:** €22,50 (Students & PhDs: €12,50)

**Starting time:** 10.00 hrs.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#)

[Address and route](#) to the Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC).

### Programme

[Print version](#)

10.00-10.30	Registration and coffee
10.30-10.45	<b>Organizing committee</b> Introduction: aim of the day, red thread.
10.45-11.15	<b>Ab Osterhaus</b> (Erasmus University, Rotterdam, NL): <a href="#">Introduction to influenza</a>
11.15-11.45	<b>Ron Fouchier</b> (Erasmus University, Rotterdam, NL): <a href="#">Prevalence and characteristics of influenza viruses in animals</a>
11.45-12.15	<b>Thijs Kuiken</b> (Erasmus University, Rotterdam, NL): <a href="#">Pathology of influenza in birds and mammals</a>
12.15-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.00	<b>Michiel van Boven</b> (University of Wageningen & Research Centre, NL): <a href="#">The epidemiology of avian influenza viruses in various host species</a>
14.00-14.30	<b>Vincent Munster</b> (Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands): <a href="#">Which migrants are to blame?</a>
14:30-15:10	<b>EXTRA: Current research activities in hysteria's wake.</b> A few 5 minute presentations of recently launched Dutch research activities.  <b>Bart Ebbinge</b> (Alterra Wageningen; Bart.Ebbinge@wur.nl): Analysis of migratory routes of Greater White-fronted Geese in western Eurasia. <b>Marian Bos</b> (Utrecht University; M.E.H.Bos@vet.uu.nl): Epidemiological Analysis of the Dutch Avian Influenza Epidemic in 2003. <b>Helmut Saatkamp</b> (Wageningen University; helmut.saatkamp@wur.nl): The HEALTHY POULTRY project: development of new integrated strategies for prevention, control and monitoring of epizootic poultry diseases. <b>Thanawat Tiensin</b> (Utrecht University; t.tiensin@vet.uu.nl): Epidemiology and Implications for Control of H5N1 Avian Influenza in Thailand. <b>Maarten Loonen</b> (University of Groningen; m.j.j.e.loonen@biol.rug.nl): Arctic breeding birds and their health <a href="http://www.birdhealth.nl">www.birdhealth.nl</a> .
15.10-15.40	Tea
15.40-16.00	<b>Marc Argeloo</b> (Vogelbescherming Nederland, NL): <a href="#">Bird Flu from a Bird's View</a>
16.00-16.30	<b>Ab Osterhaus</b> (Erasmus University, Rotterdam, NL): <a href="#">Final discussion. Where do we go from here?</a>
16.30	End