

Gain of Function:

experimental applications relating to potentially pandemic pathogens

A discussion on modification of the influenza virus and recent related research, including risk-benefit analysis, considerations of scientific responsibility, research review and management systems, biosafety and biosecurity advisory bodies, publication of sensitive information, and public engagement.



Programme:

12:00 Light lunch

12:30 *Introduction to EASAC and the study* (Professor Volker ter Meulen, Chair of the EASAC working group on “Gain of Function” and Past President of EASAC)

12:40 *Key messages from the EASAC study* (Professor Sir John Skehel, Francis Crick Institute, UK)

13:00 *Response to the EASAC study report from the European Commission* (Dr Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, Health Directorate, DG Research and Innovation)

13:20 *Commentary from a US perspective* (Professor Ronald Atlas, University of Louisville)

13:40 Panel Discussion

(moderated by Professor Volker ter Meulen):

- Professor Simon Wain-Hobson (Institut Pasteur Virology, France)
- Professor André Knotternus, WRR (Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy, NL)
- Dr Mike Skinner (Imperial College London, United Kingdom)
- Professor Mike Catchpole, ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control)

14:00 Open discussion with audience

14:30 Close of event and coffee