

## IABS Meeting on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza

### *Vaccination Strategies to prevent and control HPAI: Removing unnecessary barriers for usage*



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Since 2010, Francesco Bonfante has been working as a veterinary virologist, in the Division of Comparative Biomedical Sciences of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve), building a strong background in vaccine challenge studies with avian and murine animal models, evaluating the clinical and virological efficacy of licensed and prototype avian influenza vaccines against HPAI and LPAI viruses. Since 2016, Dr. Bonfante has been coordinating the Laboratory of Experimental Animal models and Alternative Methods. In 2019, IZSve was designated as European Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle diseases. F. Bonfante supervises and conducts research in the area of preparedness and response to emerging viral threats, in particular with respect to avian influenza viruses. His main research activities aim to understand the evolutionary dynamics driving the emergence of avian influenza viruses with pandemic potential from wild birds and poultry. The evolving ecological and virological scenario of HPAI in Europe poses logistic as well as scientific challenges that require fast and accurate evidence to inform risk assessment activities and the implementation of cost-effective countermeasures. To this end, Dr. Bonfante is currently working to develop in vivo/in vitro platforms for the prompt phenotypic characterization of emerging avian influenza viruses (LPAI, HPAI and non-notifiable AI strains) leading to the determination of viral features such as diffusivity, virulence and zoonotic potential.

