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## The Role of Real-World Evidence for Regulatory and Public Health Decision Making for Accelerated Vaccine Deployment

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Fran Van Heuverswyn is the Project Manager of Flanders Vaccine, a non-profit organisation, working cross-sectoral (academic, industry, government) to foster collaborations within the field of vaccines and immunotherapeutics. Fran leads the organisation and her primary responsibilities encompass the daily management, coordination, and execution of projects pivotal to the R&D of preventive and therapeutic vaccines within the veterinary and human field.

She has a background in Biomedical Science and obtained a PhD in 2007 at the University of Montpellier II, France. She reported for the first time the discovery of HIV-1 group O related viruses in wild gorillas in south west Africa, indicating the precursor of HIV-1 group O viruses in humans. Further, she holds a degree in Third World Studies – Biology and a Master in Biological Science from the University of Ghent in Belgium. She is author or co-author on several peer-reviewed journal articles, including Nature and Science.

She has more than 15 years of experience working in several domains related to microbiology, infectious diseases and vaccines. At BioMaric NV, Belgium, she contributed to advanced HIV diagnostics and she has played a prominent role as project officer for the production of reference materials and the

standardization of practices within the microbiological field at the European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Geel, Belgium.

