



From Rabies to Readiness: Community Surveillance for One Health

Date: Tuesday 7 April 2026, 12.30-13.30, 60 minute moderated event. Lunch available from 12.00.

Venue: Lyon Marriott Hotel Cité Internationale, 70 Quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006 Lyon, Tête d'Or foyer at the entrance of the conference room (cocktail area). **Room:** Tête d'Or A – 1st floor

Purpose

To **support One Health Summit outcomes** by positioning the **elimination of human rabies deaths from dog bites by 2030 as a shared global goal**, and establishing community surveillance as the practical mechanism linking human, animal & environmental health.

This side event highlights **rabies as a proven entry point for One Health**, showing how **community-based surveillance for rabies can serve as a scalable One Health platform** for the early detection, prevention, and response to **other priority zoonotic diseases**, enhancing preparedness for future outbreaks and pandemics especially those emanating in difficult to reach settings.

Rationale

Rabies is one of the clearest, most solvable One Health challenges. It is invariably fatal once symptoms appear, yet entirely preventable. Over **99% of human rabies deaths result from dog bites**, and more than **40% of victims are children**. Countries that have made sustained progress towards elimination have done so by strengthening **community-level surveillance**: enabling rapid reporting of bites, timely referral for post-exposure prophylaxis, strategic dog vaccination and real-time data sharing between human and animal health systems. This **community interface is what operationalises One Health in practice**.

Objectives

Using rabies as a case study, the event will highlight how **strengthened community surveillance**:

- Detects zoonotic threats early at the human–animal interface.
- Links communities, human and animal health systems into a single operational framework.
- Enables **early warning, targeted response and risk containment** through effective surveillance to enable strategic interventions and resourceful use of human and animal biologicals including oral rabies vaccine.
- Provides a **cost-effective, way to measure effective governance and scale One Health platform** beyond a single disease.

Expected Outcomes

- Political and technical alignment around **eliminating human rabies from dog bites by 2030**.
- Momentum to **adapt rabies surveillance platforms** for other priority zoonoses.
- Strengthened collaboration across human health, animal health and development partners.
- Commitment to strengthen **community surveillance as a foundational One Health infrastructure**.

AGENDA

12.30 Welcome: Moderator

Introduction & scene setting:

Dr Joris Vandeputte, Former President International Alliance for Biological Standardisation (IABS) and IABS-EU

Keynote Address:

Sir Jeremy Farrar, Assistant Director-General, Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Control, World Health Organization

Making One Health Operational: *How integrating human and animal health, and data systems can support disease prevention and control.*

Hon. Madame Khaité Sall, Ministre de la Santé et de l'Hygiène publique Guinée, Republic of Guinea
Dr Nina Militzer, Advisor One Health , Global Programme on Pandemic Resilience, GIZ, Germany

Coordinated Interventions for Animal Health: *Dog vaccination at scale, alignment with human health and early warning at the human–animal interface*

Dr Thanawat Tiensin, Assistant Director-General, Animal Production and Health Division, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
Dr Thaïs Vila, Stop Rabies Global Programme Lead, Boehringer Ingelheim
Dr Alasdair King, Executive Director, International Veterinary Health, Merck Animal Health

Coordinated Interventions for Human Health: Scaling Beyond Rabies

Gavi – The Vaccine Alliance- Supporting endemic countries with rabies post exposure vaccine (TBC)
Dr Christèle Augard, Global Medical Rabies Lead, Sanofi

How rabies surveillance platforms can be adapted to detect and respond to other zoonotic threats whilst building capacity at community level

Professor Hervé Bourhy, Institut Pasteur (Paris)

Concluding Address:

Dr Baba Soumare, Assistant Director General, World Organisation for Animal Health (TBC)

13.30 Meeting ends