

# Health Thematic Session

## **Speakers:**

**Graham Hughes, Beta Technology**

**Dr Lisa Ng, SlgN**

**Dr Pierre Roques, CEA**

**Dr Sutriayu Nalim, National Institute of Health, Indonesia**

**Moderator: Jessica Wright, British High Commission Singapore**

**Rapporteur: James Screen, British High Commission Singapore**

# Overview of Presentations 1

Graham Hughes, Beta Technologies, UK NCP for Health

- Overview of FP7, FP7 Health (€6.1 bn) and opportunities for collaborative funding
- Health within FP7 is split across 3 pillars covering Basic – Translational – Infrastructure to treat
- Developing proposals – importance of networks - NCPs can help.

# Overview of presentations 2

Dr Lisa Ng, Singapore Immunology Network

- Deciphering immune responses to chikungunya and development of new immune based control strategies
- Explanation of the Chikungunya virus - re-emergent acute infectious disease transmitted via mosquitoes
- Disease area is spreading geographically – e.g to Italy
- Multicentre network to research, hub in Singapore
- Field – bench – bed.

# Overview of presentation 3

- Dr Pierre Roques, Atomic Energy Commission
- Experimental infection of macaques and pathophysiology of chikungunya infection
- Developing animal model of the infection

# An example of EU-SEA collaboration

- Preparing a proposal for a FP7 project for the call on West Nile virus/Chikungunya/Crimean Congo Fever
- New consortium will be called ICRES (Integration of Chikungunya Research)
  - 11 partners from UK, France, Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia
- Met at a SEA-EU-NET workshop – highlights the benefits of workshops as a promoter of collaboration

# Presentation 4

Dr Sustriayu Nalim, R&D Department of Health  
Department, Indonesia

- Climate change influence on occurrence of Chikungunya may have led to observation at higher elevations.
- Other factors also – possible change in nature of the virus increasing spread by vector
- Opportunities for collaboration e.g. Samples from Yojakarta
- Need for public health awareness and public education. Public have a role in reducing/preventing mosquito borne diseases. Control of mosquitoes

# Outcomes – areas for future collaboration

- Malaria – especially translational research
- Chikungunya, TB, Dengue, Avian flu
- Point to note: most research funding goes into aging related diseases and cancer. Lack of national funding priority demonstrate greater need for collaboration
- Interrelationship of climate change and other influences on the spread and transmission of infectious diseases e.g. Migration
- Inter-disciplinary research e.g. Biomedical and sociological

# Outcomes – policy recommendations and current issues with health research

- Sharing of materials / restriction brought about by regulations limiting sample sharing (Indonesia)
- Limitation of diagnostic sampling – only test for dengue. No capacity to test for chikungunya
- ID funding low on national agenda because of political emphasises.
- Problem of identifying real total R&D expenditure on ID research
- Calls must be clearly drafted if they are to be directed at EU-SEA collaboration specifically
- Better networking of NCPs in Europe with those in SEA

Thank you!