SYMPOSIUM 2026 UTRECHT

Veterinary Medicines Programme

Monday 19 October 2026 – Wednesday 21 October 2026

Beatrix Building, Royal Jaarbeurs, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Please note, the programme may be subject to change.

Monday 19 October 2026 – DAY 1

Time	Session
11:00-12:00	**Registration**
12:00-12:10	**Welcome Speech**
Speakers • Rick Clayton, Retired (Ex-Technical Director at HealthforAnimals and AnimalhealthEurope), Belgium	
12:10-13:40	**VM1 - How the fourth industrial revolution is impacting veterinary medicines regulatory activities**
Artificial intelligence and data are becoming more prevalent to the regulatory affairs community, in which during this period of rapid innovation, the practical implications of these changes can often be misunderstood. In this session, we will hear from a regulator on how artificial intelligence is being utilised in the agency procedures, alongside an industry speaker who will share the impact it has had on regulatory operations. We will also hear from academia, on the difference between big and critical data, and the importance of distinguishing between the two.	
Learning Objectives • Critical Data vs Big Data - Critical data is more important than big data (pharmacovigilance; incl. references to SAVSNET and VETCOMPASS) • Usage of AI in regulatory agency procedures - How the MPA is using AI to bring efficiencies to its in-house processes • Usage of AI in industry regulatory procedures	
Session Leaders • Jana Schalansky, Head of Veterinary Strategic Support Office, EMA, The Netherlands	
Speakers • Heather Grieve, University of College Dublin, Ireland • Gabriel Westman, Head of Artificial Intelligence, MPA, Sweden • Peter Lassoff, Independent Consultant, United Kingdom	
13:40–14:40	**Lunch Break**
14:40–16:00	**VM2 – Regulatory Updates from the Veterinary Medicines Sector**
This session will hear from experts on the latest regulatory updates affecting the veterinary medicines community. There will be a comprehensive update from the CMDv, providing updates on items such as the work harmonising the national implementation of e-leaflets, the proposed changes to the VNRAs and the availability of products that do not make the QRDv9 deadline. The session will also have an update on the latest regulatory updates taking place in the UK, from a VMD representative, and an industry representative sharing the challenges in incorporating QR codes into product packaging.	
Learning Objectives • CMDv Update – Including: Harmonising national implementation of e-leaflet, QR codes, CMDv-EMA WG, proposed changes for the VNRAs (ref. Biotech Act) and the availability of products that do not make the QRDv9 deadline • VMD/UK Update – Global Collaboration, Opportunities, Challenges and Hot-Topics • Challenges implementing QR codes - Challenges Incorporating QR Codes into Product Packaging and Best Practices link to e-Leaflets and videos	
Session Leaders • Rico Slingerland, Regulatory Project Leader, Medicines Evaluation Board, The Netherlands	
Speakers • Rhona McHugh, Executive Pharmaceutical Assessor, HPRA, Ireland	

- Gavin Hall, Director of Authorisations & Deputy CEO, VMD, United Kingdom
- Paul Verhallen, Director, MSD, The Netherlands

16:00–16:40	**Networking Break**
16:40–18:00	**VM3 – Navigating complexity: an industry perspective on GMP challenges & expectations for veterinary medicines**

Current GMP regulations for VMPs are largely based on human medicinal product standards. While this ensures high-quality products, it is not always appropriate for the specific needs of the veterinary industry. At international level, both regulators and the industry face the burden of multiple inspections. This session, facilitated from an industry perspective, provides a deep dive into these challenges and perspectives to address them. By adapting GMP measures and fostering global mutual recognition we can improve VMP manufacturing efficiency and ensure the availability of essential animal healthcare products.

Learning Objectives

- Provide feedback from the industry after newly implemented EU GMP regulation; what are the pending questions and challenges?
- Provide an overview of the need for tailored measures - call for the reactivation of annexes 4 & 5 revision
- Provide an update on emerging guidelines on impurities, enabling participants to prepare proactively before these new requirements come into force

Session Leaders

- Emmanuelle Motte, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Virbac, France

Speakers

- Martin Folger, Principal Fellow CMC Expert & Risk Management, Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany
- Denise van der Heijden, CMC Regulatory Affairs Manager, Zoetis, Belgium
- Hervé Fournel, CMC Pharmaceutical Coordination Manager, Virbac, France

18:00–18:05	**Closing Speech**

End of Day 1

Tuesday 20 October 2025 – DAY 2

Time	Session
08:55–09:00	**Welcome to Day 2**
09:00–10:20	**VM4 – Collaboration for Better Health Outcomes: Inter-Agency and International Cooperation**

In this session we will hear how a coordinated approach to human health, animal health and environmental health underpins the EU One Health approach. We will also hear how the PFAS issue, which also requires acceptable cross-boundary solutions, as well as strategic and economic considerations, will impact the animal health sector, The theme of extended cooperation between agencies is continued in the final presentation of this session, which examines the opportunities presented by the OPEN Framework for international cooperation in the veterinary medicines' domain.

Learning Objectives

- What will be the impact of the PFAS restrictions on animal health from an Industry viewpoint: what can be anticipated in the final EC opinion expected in late 2026.
- How five EU agencies are coordinating to support One Health initiatives at European level through an Inter-agency framework for action.
- Are there opportunities for the veterinary medicines sector within the OPEN Framework for international cooperation?

Session Leaders

- Thomas Heberer, Head of Department 3 "Veterinary Drugs", BVL, Germany

Speakers

- Ana Vidal, One Health – Senior Scientific Specialist, EMA, The Netherlands
- Chris Van den Eede, Senior Research Director, Zoetis, The Netherlands

10:20–11:00	**Networking Break**
11:00–12:20	**VM5 - The latest Innovations guiding Veterinary Regulatory Science**

The veterinary sector is constantly horizon-scanning for opportunities to bring new innovations to market and how to better regulate them. It is challenging to blaze new trails and to find the synergies in the relatively early years of legislation. In this session we will hear the industry perspective on navigating the current framework, on how regulators are broadening areas of guidance to encompass new technologies, including the reduction of animal testing, and on how collaboration and leverage of expertise is key to capacity and capability building.

Session Leaders

- Emily Drury, Head of Veterinary Regulatory Affairs and Referrals, EMA, Ireland

Speakers

- Cornelia Allan, Director Global Regulatory Affairs Pharmaceuticals Policy and Strategic Initiatives, MSD, Germany
- Jacquelin Poot, Senior Assessor, Medicines Evaluation Board, The Netherlands
- Orla Moriarty, Seconded National Expert (Translational Sciences/3Rs), EMA, The Netherlands

12:20–14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00-15:20	**VM6 – The Biotech Act and VICH Biologicals activities**

The EU Biotech Act foresees amendments to the Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation to foster the development of innovative veterinary medicines. This session will explore the possible impact of the Biotech Act on veterinary regulatory affairs. In addition, the session will provide an overview on the status of VICH activities concerning Biologicals. And finally, it will explore in more detail how VICH proposes to address the safety of veterinary monoclonal antibody products.

Session Leaders

- Esther Werner, Head of Veterinary Medicines Division, Paul Ehrlich Institute, Germany

Speakers

- Clotilde Mazerolles, Global RA Process & Regulatory Intelligence, Ceva, France
- Esther Werner, Head of Veterinary Medicines Division, Paul Ehrlich Institute, Germany
- Ignacio Algaba, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Zoetis, Belgium

15:20–15:25	**Closing Remarks**

End of the Veterinary Medicines Symposium