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 19TH OCTOBER 2026
	Registration
12:00 – 13:30	VM1 - Artificial Intelligence and Data – How rapid technological advancement is impacting veterinary medicines regulatory activities
13:30 – 14:40	**Lunch Break**
14:40 – 16:00	VM2 – Regulatory Updates from the Veterinary Medicines Sector
16:00 – 16:40	**Networking Break**
16:40 – 18:00	VM3 – Navigating complexity: an industry perspective on GMP challenges & expectations for veterinary medicines
	WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2026
09:00 – 10:20	VM4 – Collaboration for Better Health Outcomes: Inter-Agency and International Cooperation
10:20 – 11:00	**Networking Break**
11:00 – 12:20	VM5 – The latest Innovations guiding Veterinary Regulatory Science
12:20 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00 – 15:20	VM6 – The Biotech Act and VICH Biologicals activities

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)/Chair of the Veterinary Medicines Symposium Working Party (VMSWP), Belgium

12:10-13:30	**VM1 - Artificial Intelligence and Data – How rapid technological advancement is impacting veterinary medicines regulatory activities**

Artificial intelligence and data science are transforming veterinary healthcare regulation by enabling a shift from reactive, manual processes to proactive, data-driven oversight, particularly in approval, post-marketing surveillance, and animal welfare monitoring. In this session, we will hear from academia, on the difference between big and critical data, and the importance of distinguishing between the two. In addition, a regulator will give an overview on how artificial intelligence is being utilised in national agency procedures. The final speaker will round off the session by reflecting on the future of the role of the regulatory affairs professional in this rapidly changing environment.

Learning Objectives

- How advancements in veterinary informatics can improve our ability to derive useful insights from big data, while addressing the challenges of identifying critical data in complex datasets
- How the Swedish MPA is using AI to bring efficiencies to its in-house processes, while mitigating risks of generative AI and avoiding hallucinations through encoder-based AI
- Practical career and organisational strategies for navigating this era of AI reshaping regulatory affairs tasks in real time and observations how RA can become the strategic heart of AI governance

Session Leaders

- Jana Schalansky, Head of Veterinary Strategic Support Office, EMA, The Netherlands

Speakers

- Heather Grieve, Assistant Professor in Companion Animal Health and Welfare Surveillance, University of College Dublin, Ireland
- Seamus Doyle, Data Scientist & AI Assessor, MPA, Sweden
- Peter Lassoff, Senior Leader in Regulatory Affairs, Specialising in Growing Companies, Independent, United Kingdom

13:30–14:40	**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

Session Leaders

- Rico Slingerland, Dutch CMDv Member, 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 adapted measures to reflect specific challenges of the veterinary sector
- Provide an update on emerging guidelines on impurities, enabling participants to prepare proactively before these new requirements come into force.

Session Leaders

- Emmanuelle Motte, Corporate Regulatory & Public Affairs Director, Virbac, France

Speakers

- Martin Folger, Principal Fellow CMC Expert & Risk Management, Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany
- Denise van der Heijden, Associate Director - Global Regulatory Affairs CMC, Zoetis, Belgium
- Hervé Fournel, Director CMC TechReg, Virbac, France

18:00–18:05	Closing Speech

End of Day 1

Tuesday 20 October 2025 – DAY 2

TOPRA SYMPOSIUM 2026 UTRECHT

Veterinary Medicines Programme

Monday 19 October 2026 – Wednesday 21 October 2026

Beatrix Building, Royal Jaarbeurs, Utrecht, The Netherlands

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.
- To illustrate the fundamental differences in risk assessment between chemical and medicine regulations, how this has played out in proposed PFAS restrictions in the EU and what a socio-economic impact analysis under REACH looks like for APIs qualifying as PFAS to support a derogation.
- 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
- Radhouane Cherif, Senior International Liaison Officer, EMA, 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.

Learning Objectives

- How Regulation (EU) 2019/6 supports innovation in veterinary medicines in practice, and opportunities to further enable innovation within the existing regulatory framework.
- An understanding of how the CVMP is updating its approach to Novel Therapies, and their mandatory risk management plans.
- What the EMA is doing to support innovation and the development of NAMs to deliver the EU Roadmap to transition away from animal-based safety testing.

Session Leaders

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

Speakers

- Cornelia Allan, Director Global Regulatory Affairs, MSD, Germany
- Jacquelin Poot, CVMP member, NTWP chair, Medicines Evaluation Board, The Netherlands
- Orla Moriarty, Scientific Officer, Translational Sciences, 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.

Learning Objectives

- Provide a regulatory overview of the Biotech Act in relation to VMPs and the potential impact on industry.
- Provide an update on the status the various VICH Biologicals activities.
- Provide an understanding of the international standard for assessing 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, Associate director Regulatory affairs EUAfME, Zoetis, Belgium

15:20–15:25	**Closing Remarks**

End of the Veterinary Medicines Symposium