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4. [Cooperation between animal and human health sectors is key to the detection, surveillance, and control of emerging disease: IMED 2007 meeting in Vienna, February 2007](#)

This is the last weekly release of 2006. Eurosurveillance will return on Thursday 4 January 2007. From the Eurosurveillance editorial team in England, France and Sweden, we wish all our readers a merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and a peaceful holiday.

[Cooperation between animal and human health sectors is key to the detection, surveillance, and control of emerging disease: IMED 2007 meeting in Vienna, February 2007](#)

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For many years, scientists have recognised the overrepresentation of zoonoses among emerging and re-emerging human diseases. Many factors affect the likelihood that a pathogen will emerge (the broad definition of an emerging infectious pathogen used by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is one 'whose incidence in humans has increased within the past two decades or threatens to increase in the near future [1]), but it was suggested over 10 years ago that emerging pathogens were very frequently zoonotic [2]. More recent work has confirmed that as many as 60% of the more than 1400 recognised human pathogens jump between species [3].

Despite this knowledge, and many dramatic recent examples such as Ebola virus, Lyme disease and SARS, the worlds of veterinary and human health, including public health, remain quite separate. Schools and other training institutions, healthcare facilities, NGOs, public health agencies at all administrative levels, professional and scientific organisations, and journals nearly all remain segregated by their interests in either human or veterinary health. One of the rare examples that deals with both is ProMED-mail (the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases, <http://www.promedmail.org>), an internet-based service devoted to the early detection of infectious disease outbreaks around the world, which has explicitly included animal diseases as part of its purview [4]. ProMED reports on human diseases, zoonotic diseases and diseases that affect sources of human nutrition (both plants and livestock animals). As such, ProMED has always included the veterinary community, both among its staff and as participants in its reporting system. Currently, four of ProMED's 11 subject area moderators are veterinarians. Over 20% of ProMED's 37 000 participants subscribe to one or more of its email lists specialising in animal health issues. A recent retrospective study of ProMED from 1996-2004 showed that over 10 000 reports during this 9 year interval concerned animal health issues [5]. Approximately 30% of these related to zoonotic disease in humans, the remainder dealt strictly with animal disease outbreaks both in wildlife and domesticated animals including livestock. Nearly half of the animal diseases reported were caused by viral pathogens, the most likely category to emerge or re-emerge.

To help address the animal health/human health divide, the International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance (IMED 2007) is being held in Vienna from 23 to 25 February 2007. The meeting will fully embrace the 'one medicine' concept, which considers health without regard to species differences and recognises the commonality of human and veterinary health interests. Virtually every session at IMED 2007 will include representatives of both the human health and veterinary communities. Topics will include emerging zoonoses; models of disease surveillance, detection, and reporting; emerging vectorborne diseases in humans and animals; and vaccines against emerging diseases. The meeting is aimed at physicians, veterinarians, public health workers, microbiologists and other scientists, as well as journalists and other non-scientists who recognise the importance of emerging infectious diseases in humans and animals and the surveillance of these diseases. They will come away

with specialised knowledge of some of the most important emerging diseases, their surveillance, prevention, and control, and a better appreciation of the complexities of the animal-human ecosystem. The organisers believe that greater cooperation between the animal and human health worlds will lead to a healthier world.

Plenaries will include Surveillance of Emerging Diseases in the 21st Century, Drivers of Disease: Human-Wildlife Linkages, and Marburg the Angola Experience. The deadline for discounted early registration is 22 December 2006, and more information is available at <http://imed.isid.org>.

IMED 2007 will be sponsored by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), ProMED-mail (The Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases), the European Commission, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

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- **Article 1** : Influenza team. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A/H5N1 – update and overview of 2006. Euro Surveill 2006;11(12):E061221.1. Available from: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2006/061221.asp#1>

- **Article 2** : Quoilin S, Lambion N, Mak R, Denis O, Lammens C, Struelens M, Maes S, Goossens H. Soft tissue infections in Belgian rugby players due to Streptococcus pyogenes emm type 81. Euro Surveill 2006;11(12):E061221.2. Available from: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2006/061221.asp#2>

- **Article 3** : Kaiser R, Coulombier D. Epidemic intelligence during mass gatherings. Euro Surveill 2006;11(12):E061221.3. Available from: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2006/061221.asp#3>

- **Article 4** : Madoff L. Cooperation between animal and human health sectors is key to the detection, surveillance, and control of emerging disease: IMED 2007 meeting in Vienna, February 2007. Euro Surveill 2006;11(12):E061221.4. Available from: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2006/061221.asp#4>



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