

## **FIRST ANTIGONE ONE HEALTH COURSE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED**

The first ANTIGONE One Health Course was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from 17 September to 5 October 2012. It attracted 26 participants from the Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. They came from institutes of veterinary medicine, human medicine, and wildlife biology, and so already by their origin fulfilled the concept of “One Health”. Of the 26 students, eight were from the Netherlands, five were from Spain, four were from Vietnam, two were from the U.K., two were from Italy, and one each were from Belgium, Finland, Ghana, Switzerland, and the U.S.A. As agreed between the three major FP7-funded consortia working on emerging infectious diseases, priority was given to students from within the consortia: ANTIGONE (eleven students), Emperie (six students), and Predemics (four students). In addition, there were five students from outside these consortia.

### **Contents followed “chain of emergence”**

The contents of the three-week course followed the so-called “chain of emergence” of viral and bacterial pathogens from their animal reservoir to the human population. In the first week of the course, there was a general introduction to emerging viral and bacterial diseases in the human population, and the interspecies barriers for emerging pathogens were discussed. The second week of the course dealt with intrahuman barriers and interhuman barriers for emerging pathogens, as well as their identification, epidemiology, and modelling. Finally, in the third week of the course, clinical treatment of human patients, preventive measures, and future perspectives were presented.

### **Lecturers from wide range of disciplines**

Lecturers were the leading scientists in their fields and covered a wide range of disciplines. They included Samuel Cohn, historian from the University of Glasgow, Albert Osterhaus, virologist from the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, Sarah Randolph, ecologist from the University of Oxford, John Cleland, demographer from the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Frédéric Keck, social anthropologist from the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in France, Nigel Dowdall, aviation medical examiner from the Civil Aviation Authority at Gatwick, Tiffany Bogich, mathematical modeller from Princeton University, Constance Schultsz, medical microbiologist from the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam, Christian Gortazar, veterinary scientist from the Instituto de Investigación en Recursos Cinegéticos in Ciudad Real, Laurence Tiley, molecular virologist from the University of Cambridge, and Richard Delahay, wildlife biologist from the Food and Environment Research Agency, Woodchester Park.

### **Both theory and practice**

The format of the course was a mix of theory and practice, and encouraged discussion among students and between students and lecturers. Before lunch, the lectures were concluded with a panel discussion, in which students had the opportunity to quiz the lecturers of that morning. Most afternoons were used for practicals and site visits. These included visits to a wild animal shelter, a modern poultry farm, an urban design office, an experimental animal facility, and an intensive care centre, as well as a multi-header microscope session, a simulation exercise for a communicable disease outbreak, and

viewings of documentaries on epidemics and environmental effects of increased consumption.

**Next ANTIGONE One Health Course in Spain, autumn 2013**

Taken together, this course provided a three-week immersion in the multitude of disciplines that make up One Health. In this way, ANTIGONE hopes to equip the next generation of scientists with the holistic viewpoint required to deal with emerging infections. The next ANTIGONE One Health Course will take place in the autumn of 2013 in Spain, and will be announced on this site.