



ME'NA-ISN Congress 2021
Flu vaccination: New horizons in the outlook

Congress Report

The MENA-ISN Congress 2021 was held virtually on 22-24 January. The theme of the congress was “ Flu vaccination: New horizons in the Outlook ”. The congress language was English.

The congress aimed;

- to have a world resilient to pandemic influenza and to establish realistic and implementable influenza programme and pandemic influenza preparedness and response plans in the Region.
- to empower countries to protect their people against influenza threats.
- envisage partnership with and within countries through global and regional initiatives for strengthening the national pandemic influenza preparedness and response capacities.

The congress took place over three days, with day one and day three taking the form of plenary sessions and day two consisting mainly of Networking Sessions.

Scientific Programme

January 22nd, 2021	
Istanbul	Hall A
14:30-14:45	Opening Salah Al-Awaidy, MD Chairperson, ME'NA-ISN Serhat Unal, MD Chairperson, ME'NA-ISN Congress
14:45-15:35	SESSION 1: Policies, strategies and plans Chairperson: Hesham Tarraf
14:45-15:05	Presentation 1 Vaccine politics or political vaccines / Lawrence Kerr

15:05-15:25	Presentation 2 How influenza preparedness can help mitigation of other pandemics? / Abdinasir Abubakar		
15:25-15:35	Q&A		
15:35-15:45	Break		
15:45-16:35	SESSION 2: Immunization behavior & Research gaps Chairperson: Fatima Al-Slail		
15:45-16:05	Presentation 3 Vaccine Coverage Rate (VCR): Complicated or complex? / John Parrish		
16:05-16:25	Presentation 4 Influenza Epidemics : Knowing the unpredictable predictable / Julia Fitzner		
16:25-16:35	Q&A		
January 23rd, 2021			
	Hall A		
10:00-10:50	SESSION 3: Policies, strategies and plans Chairperson: Jane Barratt		
10:00-10:20	Presentation 5 WHO Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030 A panoramic view / Ann Moen		
10:20-10:40	Presentation 6 Are you in a priority group? / Mine Durusu Tanriover		
10:40-10:50	Q&A		
10:50- 11:00	Break		
11:00-11:50	SESSION 4: Economics of influenza & Immunization behavior Chairperson: Serhat Unal		
11:00-11:20	Presentation 7 Influenza vaccination: Costs or investment / Amine Amiche		
11:20-11:40	Presentation 8 Autopsy of disinformation: Dissecting the disinformation around influenza vaccine / Angus Thomson		
11:40-11:50	Q&A		
11:50-13:00	Lunch Break		
NETWORKING SESSION HALL			
13:00-13:50	Networking Session		
14:00- 15:00	Hall A	Hall B	Hall C

	Reporter: Burcin Saglam Policies, strategies and plans- Workshop 1 How policies are made, implemented and evaluated Arash Rashidian	Reporter: Oguz A Uyaroglu Economics of influenza- Workshop 2 Latest in burden of disease Amine Amiche	Reporter: İpek Rudvan Al Research gaps- Workshop 4 Unlock the values (of influenza vaccination) Marta Nunes
15:00-15:15	Wrap up	Wrap up	Wrap up
15:15-15:30	Networking Break		
15:30-16:30	Hall A Reporter: Burcin Saglam Policies, strategies and plans- Workshop 1 How policies are made, implemented and evaluated Arash Rashidian	Hall B Reporter: Oguz A Uyaroglu Economics of influenza- Workshop 2 Latest in burden of disease Amine Amiche	Hall C Reporter: İpek Rudvan Al Research gaps- Workshop 4 Unlock the values (of influenza vaccination) Marta Nunes
16:30-16:45	Wrap up	Wrap up	Wrap up
January 24th, 2021			
	Hall A		
10:00-11:10	SESSION 5: Policies, strategies and plans Chairperson: Salah Al-Awaidy		
10:00-10:20	Presentation 12 Mass gatherings: Challenges and opportunities / Ziad Mimish		
10:20-10:40	Presentation 9 National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups and flu vaccine / Quamrul Hasan		
10:40-11:00	Presentation 10 Vaccination of healthcare personnel: ethical perspective / Helena C Maltezou		
11:00-11:10	Q&A		
11:10- 11:20	Break		
11:20-11:50	SESSION 6: Economics of influenza Chairperson: Salim Parker		
11:20-11:40	Presentation 11 Sustainability of livelihood in flu epidemics / Parvaiz A Koul		
11:40-11:50	Q&A		
11:50-12:10	Closing Session		

Registrants

A total of 150 participants from 24 different countries all around the world attended the congress.

Table 1: Registrants

Participants	111
Speakers	23
ME'NA-ISN Members	16
Total Registration	150

Table 2: Participation by country

Country	Number of participants
Algeria	1
Canada	1
Djibouti	1
Egypt	6
France	1
Greece	1
India	1
Iran	1
USA	6
Kenya	1
Lebanon	16
Libya	16
Morocco	16
Oman	4
Pakistan	4
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	7
South Africa	9
Switzerlandand	3
Tunisie	2
Turkey	37
UAE	4
Uganda	2
Zimbabwe	2