

Call for abstracts (Uniting Streams sessions)

Two parallel afternoon sessions will be reserved for short oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts. Researchers of all seniority, including (PhD) students, are invited to submit abstracts describing original research in any field of international health, including but not limited to: Maternal and Child Health; Neglected Tropical Diseases; Poverty-related Diseases (malaria, HIV, TB, etc), Medical Anthropology, Medical Entomology; Health Economics; Health Services & Health Policy. Abstracts should be submitted in English. Oral presentations will be selected on the basis of abstract quality; priority will be given to research of applied or translational nature, but fundamental research will also be considered. An abstract form is available online at www.unitingstreams.com. Please send completed abstracts to unitingstreams@gmail.com, before **September 1st, 2009**.

Participants

Members of NVTG, Uniting Streams, affiliates of SANO / Members of the Netherlands Platform for Global HP&HSR and their respective organisations / Researchers and other professionals in the field of tropical medicine and international health / Students

Registration / Fees

Until October 2nd: registration by paying the correct amount to account number 125774 (NVTG, Hilversum) mentioning your name and 'symposium NVTG 2009'.
After October 2nd: registration at the symposium information desk on October 14th, 2009.

	EARLY REGISTRATION / BEFORE OCTOBER 2 nd	LATE / ON-SITE REGISTRATION / OCTOBER 2 – OCTOBER 14
ALL PARTICIPANTS	€45	€55
STUDENTS*	€30	€35

* Student participation (including Tropical MDs in training) is limited to 50 places; students must register before October 2nd.

About the keynote speakers

Anthony Costello is director of the UCL Institute for Global Health and Professor of International Child Health at the Centre for International Health and Development in London / *Tim Evans* is Assistant Director-General Information, Evidence and Research at the WHO in Geneva / *André van der Ven* is director of the Poverty-Related Infection-Oriented Research (PRIOR) programme at the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre / *Sue Welburn* is Professor of Molecular Epidemiology at the Centre for Infectious Diseases, University of Edinburgh / *Ivan Wolffers* was Extraordinary Professor Health Care in Developing Countries VU-University in Amsterdam.



Symposium
October 14th 2009

From Research to Improved Practice & Policy in International Health

Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health
(www.nvtg.org) / Uniting Streams (www.unitingstreams.com) /
Foundation Medical Doctors to Developing Countries (www.stichtingsano.nl) /
Netherlands Platform for Global Health Policy and Health Systems Research
(www.globalhealthplatform.nl)

Location

Louis Hartlooper Complex, Tolsteegbrug 1
Utrecht / www.louishartloopercomplex.nl /
030-2320450

Organisers

Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine
and International Health (NVTG) / Uniting
Streams (US) / Foundation Medical Doctors
to Developing Countries (SANO) / Nether-
lands Platform for Global Health Policy and
Health Systems Research (HP&HSR)

Organising Committee

Eveline Baerends (TROIE) / Serge Heijnen
(Platform for Global HP&HSR) / Esther
Jurgens (NVTG) / Lies Laumans (NVTG)
/ Matthew McCall (US) / Anne Teirlinck
(US) / Ton Teunissen (SANO) /
Linda Wammes (US) / Hans Wendte
(NVTG)

Language

English

Aim of the symposium & programme outline

The symposium **From Research to Improved Practice & Policy in International Health** highlights the importance of scientific research in enhancing the health of people in low- and middle-income countries, through improvements in both clinical practice and health care policy. It will provide a platform to state-of-the-art expertise in both biomedical international health research and in health policy and health systems research. The former centres on gleaning novel insight into the epidemiology and pathophysiology of disease, laying the foundation for improved approaches to control or treatment; the latter seeks to reduce inequities in health and improve the management and organisation of care.

The theme of the symposium – the role of scientific research in improving clinical practice and health policy in developing countries – is reflected in the **morning programme** with keynotes delivered by distinguished speakers on Maternal and Child Health (Professor Anthony Costello); Neglected Tropical Diseases (Professor Sue Welburn); and Health Policy & Health Systems Research (Dr Tim Evans). Achieving improvements in the first two fields form major pillars of the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, strengthening health systems and improving health policies in developing countries are considered crucial for reaching and sustaining health gains. Professor Ivan Wolffers will round off the morning plenary programme with reflections on scientific research paving the way towards improved living conditions in developing countries.

The **afternoon programme** is divided into four parallel sessions, each with a different set-up: Two parallel sessions organised by **Uniting Streams** will offer the floor to researchers for the dissemination of results of international health research in the form of short oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts.

The session organised by the **Netherlands Platform for Global Health Policy and Health Systems Research** will focus on health systems research and financing. Particular attention will be given to the contribution, and the added value, of the Netherlands research capacity and its position in the international research arena.

The session hosted by the **NVTG** and **SANO** is divided into two parts. In the first part Working Parties of the NVTG will discuss research conducted by their members. The second part is dedicated to the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of SANO, starting with a presentation by Ton Teunissen, the President of SANO, who will characterise the organisation in its historical perspective. This is followed by a presentation of Dr André van der Ven on research opportunities for ‘tropical’ doctors in low-income countries. Also a study into the added value of Dutch ‘tropical’ doctors to the Dutch health care system will be presented.

The closure of the symposium is reserved for the **Minister for Development Cooperation, Bert Koenders (to be confirmed)**, who will present the Dutch policy regarding international health research followed by a discussion on current opportunities and challenges in international health research, including health systems research.

9.15 – 9.45	REGISTRATION & COFFEE					
9.45 – 10.00	Welcome and introduction		Dr Albert Mantingh (chair NVTG) and Dr Hans Wendte (chair symposium)			PLENARY
10.00 – 10.35	No longer neglected? State-of-the-art insight into the epidemiology and control of Neglected Tropical Diseases		Professor Sue Welburn			
10.35 – 11.10	To what extent has research in Maternal & Child Health led to tangible improvements in policy and practice?		Professor Anthony Costello			
11.10 – 11.45	Positioning Health Policy and Health Systems Research in Internal Health		Dr Tim Evans			
11.45 – 12.00	Scientific research as a tool to improve living conditions		Professor Ivan Wolffers			
12.00 – 13.00	LUNCH					
13.00 – 14.15	US	Short research presentations	US	Short research presentations	NVTG	PARRALLEL
					Presentations & discussion	
14.15 – 14.45	COFFEE / TEA					
14.45 – 16.00	US	Short research presentations	US	Short research presentations	NVTG	PARRALLEL
					Presentations & discussion	
16.00 – 16.45	The Dutch Policy on International Health Research		Minister for Development Cooperation Bert Koenders (to be confirmed)			PLENARY
16.45 – 18.00	CLOSURE AND DRINKS					