

ESCV workshop in Turku, Finland
Emerging infections - from one health awareness to
preparedness in clinical virology



Wednesday 6th May 2026

8.30 - Registration

8.55 – 9.00 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP on behalf of ESCV by Heli Harvala

SESSION I: From clinical awareness to effective virological diagnosis (Chair: Olli Vapalahti)

9.00-9.30 Eili Huhtamo (Helsinki, Finland): Sindbis virus infections

9.30-10.00 Corneliu Popescu (Bucarest, Romania): Spread of WNV infections in Europe

10.00-10.30 Prof Åke Lundkvist (Uppsala, Sweden): Up-date to TBEV infection

10.30-11.00 COFFEE

SESSION II: Preparedness for emerging infections (Chair: Jerome Le Goff)

11.00-11.30 Laura Kakkola (Turku, Finland): Laboratory preparedness and Safety

11.30-12.00 Simo Nikkari (Finnish Defense Forces): Comprehensive Security Approaches in Biodefence

12.00-13.30 LUNCH

SESSION III: Interactive mini workshops on emerging infections (Chair: Visa Nurmi and Mario Hönemann)

13.30-15.00

A. How to design a PCR assay and assess its sensitivity (Probit analysis)? (Peter Simmonds, Turku)

B. Insights into the development of antigen and antibody -related diagnostics (Olli Vapalahti, Helsinki)

C. How and why to utilize international standards for harmonizing your results? (Neil Almond, MHRA, UK)

15.00-15.30 COFFEE

SESSION IV: Selected offered talks (Chair: Pam Vallely)

15.30-15.45 Elke Wollants (Belgium): Hybrid-capture sequencing for the rapid detection of viruses

15.45-16.00 Aurora Hirvonen (Italy): Adaptable hospital-based surveillance for respiratory infections

16.00-16.15 Piya Rajendra (UK): An international study on emerging arboviral infections and blood safety

16.15-16.30 Mustafa Karataş (Belgium): Hybrid-capture approaches for environmental surveillance

16.30-16.45 Alessandro Ferrari (Italy): Dengue and West Nile virus infections in Northern Italy

16.45-17.00 Greg Sutton (UK): *The role of quality control in emergency preparedness (TBC)*

17.00-18.00 ESCV Executive Committee Meeting (Closed)

Meet at the hotel Lobby at 18.45

19.00-21.00 DINNER AT GÖRAN

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Thursday 7th May 2026

SESSION V: It is all interconnected... (Chairs: Catherine Moore)

- 9.00-9.30 Prof Jan Semenza (Umeå, Sweden): Climate change and emerging infections
9.30-10.00 Prof Tarja Sironen (Helsinki, Finland): Global one health and emerging infections
10.00-10.30 Prof Ruska Rimhanen-Finne (Helsinki, Finland): HEV outbreak in Finland, 2024

WALKING/CYCLING/E-SCOOTERING/BUSING TO AND FROM THE HOTEL TO THE UNIVERSITY

12.00-13.00 Frontiers of Science: Prof Edward Holmes (Sydney, Australia)
Metagenomics in One Health – from detection to prediction of emerging infections

13.30-15.00 LUNCH BACK AT THE HOTEL

SESSION VI: Diagnostic challenges and opportunities (Chair: Xavier Lopez and Jutte de Vries, ENNGS)

- 15.00-15.30 Emma Thompson (Glasgow, UK): Metagenomics and emerging infections in humans
15.30-16.00 Maria Perdomo (Helsinki, Finland): Human persistent tissue DNA virome
16.00-16.30 Judy Breuer (London, UK): Multidisciplinary discussions to interpret metagenomic findings?

16.30-17.00 FAREWELL AND COFFEE