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Van: ESCV VM on COVID-19 - Meeting Secretariat <(10)(2e)@eventsairmail.com>
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Aan: (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@rivm.nl>
Onderwerp: [Spam] A brief summary about scientific content

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

A brief summary about all scientific sessions can be found below:

Session 1. Update to COVID-19 Pandemic

SARS-Cov-2 arrived in December 2019 but it was heralded by two previous zoonotic transfers of animal coronaviruses to humans. Our session begins with a talk from one of the giants of the coronavirus world (Malik Pieris) who was a lynchpin in the control of the 2002-4 outbreak of SARS-CoV in Hong Kong and to whom we owe much of our knowledge about control of this and the later emergence of MERS zoonotic infections. Followed by summaries of the laboratory responses in Europe to the emergence of SARS- CoV-2 ((10)(2e)) with an oversight from the European Centre of Disease Control and from the most active and prepared organiser of practical laboratory responses to the emerging threat ((10)(2e)).

Session 2. Molecular and Serological Diagnostics

The emergent pandemic has led to an unprecedented speed of development and application of an incredible array of techniques to diagnosis and study the emergent disease associated with the pandemic virus. In this session we have an overview of the unprecedented scale a variety of nucleic acid amplification techniques being applied (Jeroen van Ampen), the application of antibody tests some good, some bad and some truly awful with an emerging path through to good high value tests (Sylvie Van Werf), and finally the emerging point of care tests which will be an essential part of coping with future waves of infection and the challenge of establishing the usability and performance characteristics of these novel diagnostics ((10)(2e)).

Session 3. What Have We Learnt about SARS-CoV-2 Infection So Far?

In contrast to previous pandemics we now have the availability of whole genome sequencing which can be performed with great rapidity allowing tracking of the evolution of the virus as the pandemic progresses. The (10)(2e) experience ((10)(2e)) and the European experience ((10)(2e)) with whole sequencing and Nextbase will be reviewed. A question as to whether SARS-CoV-2 infection can persist will be posed (Peter Simmons) leading neatly into a consideration of whether viral markers are the complete answer in the study of disease evolution and whether we can now define immune markers that correlate and possibly predict severity.

Session 4. Antivirals and Vaccines

Our final session will review where we are with vaccines and vaccinology is there a real prospect of timely vaccines to effectively control SARS-CoV-2? A topic close to heart of our speaker from Oxford University (Sarah Gilbert). Antiviral or immune modulators form another route to control and treatment of disease. Early exhibition of a diverse array of antivirals in the

pandemic have met with variable success. Similar reports have followed the use of immunotherapies our final speaker ((10)(2e)) will hopefully show us the way forward.

[Click here to view the scientific programme](#)

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Link and login details to the virtual platform have been sent to all registered participants on Monday. Please make sure to check both your inbox and spambox.

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CONTACT US

Meeting Secretariat
Kenes Group, Office M+

For registration inquiries: Ms. (10)(2e) | (10)(2e) [@kenes.com](mailto:(10)(2e)@kenes.com)
For scientific inquiries: Ms. (10)(2e) | (10)(2e) [@kenes.com](mailto:(10)(2e)@kenes.com)
For sponsorship inquiries: Mr. (10)(2e) | (10)(2e) [@kenes.com](mailto:(10)(2e)@kenes.com)
For any other inquiries: Ms. (10)(2e) | (10)(2e) [@kenes.com](mailto:(10)(2e)@kenes.com)

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