

## PRESS STATEMENT

### **European Society calls for enhanced vigilance and international networking in response to Swine Influenza**

**30 APRIL 2009:** As the world reacts to the appearance of human cases of Swine Influenza (A/H1N1), the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) calls for vigilance and international networking.

The confirmation of this outbreak comes less than a week after ESCMID marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Day for Fighting Infection (23 April) by calling for vigilance on infection and for its control in Europe today.

ESCMID applauds the collaborative efforts currently underway to better understand the risk and manage the global response to human cases of Swine Influenza.

“The rapidly evolving situation requires improved laboratory diagnosis, optimized clinical management and prevention measures, strengthened surveillance efforts and proactive reporting in order to determine effective strategies” says Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID President.

“Some EU countries, such as Italy, already have in place good plans to control transmission of the disease”, says Didier Raoult, Member of the ESCMID Executive Committee. “Nevertheless, the outbreak of a novel virus is certainly a matter of concern given that we often fail to control even ‘regular’ events such as yearly flu epidemics. Flu complications, such as pneumonia, are one of the most common and neglected causes of death worldwide.

At the annual European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) which brings 8’000-10’000 medical experts and industry together, the issue of Swine Influenza will be discussed. The Congress is taking place 16-19 May in Helsinki.

**Please see [www.congrex.ch/ECCMID2009/](http://www.congrex.ch/ECCMID2009/) for more details.**

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The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infection-related diseases. This is achieved by promoting and supporting research, education, training, and good medical practice.