

# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Sepsis Alliance

## Is Europe ready to lead the Global Agenda on Sepsis?

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18 March 2024

Location:

Permanent Representation of North-Rhine Westphalia  
to the EU, Brussels

[Livestream on YouTube](#)



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# Programme

10:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME RECEPTION

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11:00 Welcome remarks

Evangelos J. Giamarellos-Bourboulis, ESA Chair

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11:10 Opening presentation

The Berlin Declaration and a Renewed Global Agenda for Sepsis

Mariam Jashi, CEO of the Global Sepsis Alliance (GSA)

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11:20 High-level addresses and video messages

Strengthening the sepsis strategy at European and global level

Hans Kluge, Regional Director, WHO Europe

EU developments and challenges for the future

Philippe Roux, Acting Director for Public Health, Cancer and Health Security Directorate,  
DG SANTE, European Commission

Integrating sepsis into national health systems: the Belgian perspective

Nathalie Muylle, Member of the Chamber of Representatives, Belgium, tbc

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12:00 Panel: What does it take to prioritise sepsis in health systems?

Panelists:

Ilse Malfait, sepsis survivor, SEPSIBEL

Nora Lüthi, Medical Program Manager Swiss Sepsis National Action Plan, University  
Children's Hospital Zurich

Edoardo De Robertis, Past-President European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive  
Care, ESAIC

Ron Daniels, CEO of the UK Sepsis Trust

Moderator:

Simone Mancini, Coordinator Regional Sepsis Alliances, GSA

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13:00 Synergising strategies on AMR and sepsis

Konrad Reinhart, President Sepsis Stiftung, Founding President GSA

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13:15 Lunch break

14:00 Panel: Understanding sepsis: from silos to a common fight

Panelists:

Ann Gils, Director of prevention at Kom Op Tegen Kanker

Aurica Pripa, Chair of the ESA Patient and Family Working Group, and Steering Committee member

Ron Daniels, CEO of the UK Sepsis Trust

Shahrzad Kiavash, sepsis survivor, Sepsisfonden Ambassador

Moderator:

Ulrika Knutsson, Sepsisfonden

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14:45 Panel: Sepsis management requires strong research networks

Presentation: Drug approval during pandemics, the challenge

Marco Cavaleri, Chairman of COVID-Emergency Task Force, Head of Health Threats and Vaccines Development, European Medicines Agency

Panelists:

Marco Cavaleri, European Medicines Agency

Antonio Artigas, Autonomous University of Barcelona

Evangelos J. Giamarellos-Bourboulis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, ESA Chair

Adam Linder, Lund University

Moderator:

Konrad Reinhart, President Sepsis Stiftung, Founding President GSA

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15:45 Conclusions and next steps

Evangelos J. Giamarellos-Bourboulis, ESA Chair

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15:50 End

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The programme will be moderated by Ulrika Knutsson, Sepsisfonden.

## Speakers



**Antonio Artigas** is Professor of Applied Physiology and Chair of Sepsis and Acute Respiratory Failure Research at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He is director of the Intensive Care Medicine Department at Corporacion Sanitaria Universitaria Parc Tauli and Sagrado Corazon-General de Cataluña Hospitals and member of the advisory committee for sepsis to the Catalan Government. Antonio is a honorary member of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and received the Educational Award of the European Respiratory Society.



**Marco Cavaleri** is Head of Office, Health Threats and vaccines strategy at EMA. He is the Chair of EMA COVID-19 Task Force (ETF) and responsible for EMA activities for emergent pathogens, vaccines and AMR. Marco Cavaleri is a Pharmacologist who spent several years in industry in R&D mainly in the area of anti-infectives covering different positions in preclinical and clinical development of new antibacterial, antitubercular and antifungal agents. He serves in different group at WHO such as PDVAC and R&D Blueprint, and engages on different international activities on vaccines and medical countermeasures. He is co-author of several publications related to AMR, TB, antibiotics and vaccines.



**Ron Daniels** is an NHS Consultant in Intensive Care, based in Birmingham, UK. He is Chief Executive of the UK Sepsis Trust and serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Sepsis Alliance. Ron has operationally transformed the delivery of reliable sepsis care in the UK and beyond, through his creation of the Red Flag Sepsis recognition tool and the Sepsis 6 treatment pathway. In 2016, he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to patients.



**Edoardo De Robertis** is a Full Professor in Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care at the University of Perugia, where he coordinates the Department of Anaesthesia, Analgesia and Intensive Care. He is also Director of the University Clinical Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care and of the Residency Programme and School in Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain. He was also President of the European Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (ESAIC) for the 2022-23 biennium.

Prof. De Robertis graduated with honor in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Napoli Federico II, where he completed his anaesthesiology residency. At the University of Lund, Sweden he received the Ph.D.

Leader of a research group at the University Federico II and more recently at the University of Perugia, he has been involved in the planning, management, and coordination of experimental studies in complex animal models and clinical studies on mechanical ventilation.

Prof. De Robertis has been actively involved in numerous collaboration and research projects with European partners and in the drafting of guidelines of the European Society of Anesthesiology (ESA/IC). He coordinated for Italy the ESA multicentric study PROVHILO and the ESICM consensus study WELPICUS, and is involved in several financed European research projects.

He has focused his research activity in intensive care medicine with particular attention to mechanical ventilation in critically ill patients and management of massive bleeding, while also demonstrating interest in obstetric anaesthesia and pelvic robotic surgery.



**Evangelos J. Giamarellos-Bourboulis** is chair of the ESA. He is specialized in Internal Medicine and in Infectious Diseases. His main research contribution is immunomodulation in sepsis for which he was awarded the Young Investigator Research Award by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Currently, he is Professor of Internal Medicine at the Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He has 476 publications in international peer-reviewed journals and h-index 80. He is chairing the Hellenic Sepsis Study Group.



**Ann Gils** has a rich and diverse career spanning over 30 years, initially in academia. She is a distinguished specialist in therapeutic drug monitoring and the immunogenicity of drugs, with an impressive portfolio of over 200 published papers in various fields, including fibrinolysis, Crohn's disease, and psoriasis. In 2019, Ann Gils made a transition to the NGO sector, particularly in cancer prevention. As the Director of Prevention and Early Detection at "Kom op tegen Kanker" (Stand up to Cancer), a prominent Flemish non-profit organization, she is now dedicated to the critical mission of preventing illness and promoting early detection.



**Mariam Jashi**, CEO of the Global Sepsis Alliance brings 25 years of experience in Global Health, Sustainable Development and Innovative Financing from the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Middle East, Africa and the Americas. From 2012 to 2020 she held prominent leadership positions in Georgia, including as the Deputy Minister of Health, Member of Parliament, and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee for Education and Science. In 2017-2018 Dr. Jashi served as the President of the Leading Group Secretariat on Innovative Financing for Development and Since 2019 is the Global Board Member of the UNITE Parliamentarians' Network for Global Health. She chairs the Board of Advisors at the Tbilisi Medical Academy and is the Secretary General of the Medical Women's International Association. Her earlier experience includes extensive, 12 years of humanitarian and development work with UNICEF, UNAIDS, GAVI, and other international organizations. Dr. Jashi holds MPA degree from Harvard University, MD from AIETI Medical School, MPA from Tbilisi State University and is the Mason Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School.



**Shahrzad Kiavash** is the Sepsis Survivor Speaker and Triathlete who has inspired thousands of patients, health care workers and policymakers around the world. Shahrzad arrived as a refugee to Sweden from Iran in 1989. In 2012 Sepsis almost cost her life and doctors had to amputate both her legs. In August 2015 she completed her first triathlon and almost a year later was racing at the Paralympics in Rio. Shahrzad Kiavash is the Ambassador of Sepsisfonden, a Swedish organization working on the awareness raising on Sepsis among the general public, health care providers and decision-makers in the Nordic region. She has served on the Board of the Global Sepsis Alliance and has become a renowned Speaker and Sepsis Ambassador who brings the message of warning and hope. A warning of how quickly Sepsis can strike and how early diagnosis and treatment is still challenging even among the high-income countries with strong health care systems. Most importantly, Shahrzad brings the hope of survival to the millions of patients and their families affected by Sepsis every year.



**Hans Henri P. Kluge** is the WHO Regional Director for Europe. His term began on 1 February 2020, following his nomination by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and appointment by the WHO Executive Board.

Throughout his career, beginning as a family doctor in Belgium, along a journey to Somalia, Liberia, the prisons in Siberia, former Soviet Union countries, Myanmar and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and most recently leading the Division of Health Systems and Public Health at WHO Europe for a decade, Dr. Kluge has always been committed to achieving better health for all with a focus on the vulnerable.

As Regional Director, Dr. Kluge's vision for the WHO European Region is "United action for better health", working in partnership to achieve universal health coverage, address health emergencies, and promote healthier populations.



**Adam Linder** is Coordinator of the ESA Research Working Group. He is a professor for Infection Medicine and a specialist in Infectious Diseases with a position as a senior consultant and senior lecturer at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases at Lund University Hospital, Sweden. His research interest lies in epidemiology, early diagnostics, novel treatment options and long-term outcomes of sepsis. Adam is one of the initiators of Combatsepsis, a Swedish network for translational sepsis research and he is the founder of Sepsisfonden.



**Nora Lüthi** is a trained intensivist with expertise in public health and epidemiology, who worked in Switzerland and Australia. She was involved in leading a large sepsis trial (VITAMINS). She is working as the Medical Program Manager for the Swiss National Sepsis Program, a national quality improvement program funded by the Swiss Federal Quality commission.



**Ilse Malfait**, Ilse is a cancer and sepsis survivor, having survived a septic shock during her chemotherapy. In November 2023, Ilse was featured in the documentary "Kwaad bloed" (Bad blood) broadcasted by Belgian TV channel VRT. This documentary brought sepsis to the attention of the wider public and triggered a political debate, leading Belgian Minister for Health Frank Vandenbroucke to commission a report for a National Plan on Sepsis.

Ilse encapsulated her journey also in the book 'Elk uur telt' (Every Hour Counts), emphasizing the crucial need for swift intervention in septic shock. Now, Ilse actively contributes to the cause by co-founding the non-profit organization SEPSIBEL, uniting sepsis survivors. Their mission is to raise awareness about sepsis in Belgium and to establish a National Sepsis Plan with guidelines for early diagnosis and treatment.



**Nathalie Muylle**, a Belgian politician for the Flemish Christian Democratic Party (CD&V), holds a background in Political Science from KU Leuven. Beginning her political career in 2000 during Roeselare's local elections, she has served successive terms in the Chamber of Representatives since 2004, with a focus on public health, environment, and foreign affairs. Notably, she has championed legislation such as the Muylle-Vandenbergh law, which enforced a smoking ban in hospitality venues, and initiatives recognizing clinical psychologists.

During her tenure as Minister of Labor, Economy, and Consumer Affairs

from 2019 until 2020, she actively implemented measures amid the COVID-19 crisis, including temporary unemployment aid, COVID parental leave, and a voucher system supporting heavily impacted sectors. Currently, as a member of the Committee on Health and Social Affairs in the Federal Parliament, she addresses hospital organization, healthcare professions, and the Belgian labor market. A few years ago, she submitted a resolution on sepsis in the Federal Parliament.



**Aurica Pripa** is an EU Public Affairs professional with experience in numerous sectors. She has co-chaired the European Sepsis Alliance’s Patient and Family Support Working Group since 2019. Her commitment to join ESA was sparked by a personal story a few years ago, when her husband suddenly developed sepsis. Luckily he survived. Doctors explained he had had a septic shock, caused by pneumonia and bacterial infection, leading to multiple organ failure, including lungs, kidneys, and the heart, necessitating an ECMO treatment and intubation. This ultimately resulted in amputation and 8 months in hospital. It was the first time in her life she heard of sepsis, and she became increasingly familiar with the work of the health services. Since then, she is committed to raising awareness about sepsis as a condition requiring an emergency response.



**Philippe Roux** is Acting Director ‘Public Health, Cancer and Health Security’ and Head of Unit ‘Cancer, Health in all Policies’, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission.

Mr Roux started his career in the French Social sector in 1985. During the same time, he studied social sciences, European law and Public Health. He worked with DG V (Employment and Social Affairs) from 1990 to 1998 in support of the development of EU initiatives related to drug prevention. In September 1998, he joined the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction where he contributed to the development of the framework and tools for the evaluation of the EU action plans on drugs. He was nominated deputy Head of Unit of the “Interventions, law and policy” Unit of the Agency In 2002. In 2005, he joined the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, where he worked in the Nutrition and Physical Activity team of the Health Determinants Unit on the coordination of the European Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. In July 2013, he became Head of Unit of the Health Determinants Unit. Subsequently, he was nominated Head of Unit of the ‘Country Knowledge and Scientific Committees’ unit in March 2016, and later Head of Unit for ‘Health Information and Integration in all policies’ in October 2020. In October 2022, he became Head of Unit for ‘Cancer, Health in all Policies’ with the mission to implement policies and organise activities to achieve the objectives of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and to ensure the EU’s overall health policy objectives are taken on board in EU policies. On 1 September 2023, Mr Roux was nominated Acting Director ‘Public Health, Cancer and Health Security’.

## Moderators



### **Ulrika Knutsson**

Ulrika is a communications specialist. In 2015, she and Dr Adam Linder founded Sepsisfonden in Sweden (the Swedish Sepsis Trust) a trust that has grown to be a major influencer in Sweden when it comes to spreading sepsis awareness to the public, as well as to decision makers, and raising money for research. In her capacity as communications director at Sepsisfonden, she has also worked closely with the Swedish National Sepsis Plan committee. For example, Sepsisfonden has been involved in providing the program with patient relevant material. Sepsisfonden received Global Sepsis Alliances Award 2020, much due to Ulrika's efforts in the sepsis awareness work in Sweden.



### **Simone Mancini**

Since 2019, Simone Mancini oversees the activities of the Global Sepsis Alliance's regional alliances and acts as Director of the ESA. He also directly supports the advocacy efforts of the African and Eastern Mediterranean sepsis alliances. Simone has extended experience in public affairs and communication, having worked for leading global corporations, mostly in the retail and FMCG sectors, and navigated through complex policy processes and positioning challenges, in Europe and globally. Simone has an academic formation on Social Sciences and European Affairs.



**Konrad Reinhart** is a global sepsis champion, serving as the Founding President of the Global Sepsis Alliance and co-initiator of World Sepsis Day and World Sepsis Congress. He chaired the International Sepsis Forum and was a Council member of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive & Critical Care Medicine from 2008-2013. In Germany, he is a member of the German National Academy of Science Leopoldina, Chairman of the Sepsis-Foundation, and former President of the German Sepsis Society.

As the speaker of the German research network SepNet, he led significant studies on sepsis treatment and epidemiology. He established the Center for Sepsis Control & Care (CSCC) at Jena University Hospital and boasts 750+ peer-reviewed publications. Konrad, a Senior Professor at CSCC, focuses on improving sepsis management and studying sepsis-related long-term effects through publicly funded research.



## Venue:

Representation of the State of  
North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union  
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels

Metro: Trône

Due to limited seating capacity, please understand that we require a short registration at [europeansepsisalliance.org/annualmeeting](https://europeansepsisalliance.org/annualmeeting).

The European Sepsis Alliance was founded in 2018 with the aim to raise awareness about sepsis as well as to reduce the burden of sepsis in Europe. The ESA is one of the regional sepsis alliances of the Global Sepsis Alliance and has been established to enhance the implementation of the [70.7 WHA Resolution “Improving the prevention, diagnosis and clinical management of sepsis”](#) from 2017.

The GSA is a non-profit charity organization with the mission to provide global leadership to reduce the worldwide burden of sepsis. The GSA is the initiator of World Sepsis Day on September 13 and World Sepsis Congress, a series of free online congresses bringing knowledge about sepsis to all parts of the world, among other initiatives.

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