



Infectious Diseases: preparing for the future

– using science to fight the evolving
threat to humans, animals and plants.

A conference on the International Foresight
project on the detection, identification and
monitoring of infectious diseases.”

Opening address by Sir David King
Chief Scientific Adviser to UK Government

Keynote address by Lord Bach of Lutterworth
Parliamentary Under-Secretary for
Sustainable Farming and Food

3 May 2006

The Royal Society

6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG

Foresight is run by the Office of Science and Technology under
the direction of the Chief Scientific Adviser to HM Government.
Foresight creates challenging visions of the future to ensure
effective strategies now.



Foresight Project –

Infectious Diseases: preparing for the future

– using science to fight the evolving threat to humans, animals and plants

The Foresight project and the conference

Infectious diseases are one of the challenges of the 21st century. They are currently estimated to account for about a quarter of deaths worldwide, and cost billions in their management and impacts. However, the situation is evolving as societies change, and as new diseases emerge. The question is what can we expect, and what should we do about it?

The UK Office of Science and Technology has conducted a major international project on infectious diseases. This has looked across plants, animals and humans to assess the following:

- How the threat could evolve over the next 10-25 years – and the factors driving change. UK and sub-Saharan Africa were used as exemplars.
- What new science is emerging that could help in the fight – the project has performed state-of-the-art reviews in 10 diverse scientific fields.
- How the new science could be brought together to meet the future challenge – specifically in new systems for disease detection, identification and monitoring.
- The societal and governmental contexts within which new systems for disease management will need to operate.

This conference will present the key findings of the project, and discuss the implications for the development of policies for managing diseases.

What is different about this project?

It brings fresh thinking and new insights by bringing together an unprecedented range of experts and stakeholders:

- It has engaged the human, animal and plant disease communities.
- It draws on diverse areas of science – from earth observation to genomics, and from data mining to immunology.
- It has involved social scientists, experts on public perceptions of risk, and historians to provide historical perspectives.

Around 350 experts from over 20 countries, as well as leading international organisations have been involved.

Who should attend?

The event will be of interest to a wide range of experts and stakeholders involved in the management of infectious diseases in humans, animals and plants. It will be of relevance to policy makers in government, stakeholder organisations, physical, social and economic scientists, and anyone interested in looking at the future use of science in society.

If you wish to attend please submit the attached form by post or email to foresight@rslive.co.uk. For further details regarding booking please contact Nicki Bird on 0845 363 1478 – for further information on the event please contact Robert Bernard 0207 215 6731.



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Programme:

09:00 *Coffee*

- 09:30**
- Opening address: Sir David King, Chief Scientific Adviser to UK Government
 - Keynote address: Lord Bach of Lutterworth, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Sustainable Farming and Food

Session A: Future risks – Chair, Professor Catherine Peckham

- The future risks of infectious diseases: Professor Joe Brownlie and Professor Mark Woolhouse
- The drivers of change: Professor Joyce Tait
- Discussion

Coffee

Session B: Future science and systems for detection, identification and monitoring

- Future science and how it can be combined into systems for detection, identification and monitoring: Professor Jeff Waage
- Roadmaps to future systems: Dr Penny Wilson
- Discussion

Lunch

Session C: Societal contexts for managing diseases in the future – Chair, Professor Joyce Tait

- Culture and governance and their effect on systems to detect, identify and monitor diseases – case examples involving sub-Saharan Africa, China and the UK: speaker to be confirmed
- Public perceptions of risk – comparing the UK and Africa: Dr Wenzel Geissler
- Discussion

Coffee

Session D: Stakeholder perspectives

- Representatives from national and international stakeholder organisations will be asked to give short presentations responding to the findings of the project.
- Panel discussion: the implications of the project for stakeholders.

Closing remarks

16.30 **Drinks reception**