6th Veterinary Data Stakeholder Forum

10 November 2026
EMA, Amsterdam

The annual edition of the Veterinary Big Data Stakeholder Forum is scheduled for 10 November 2026, as part of the implementation of the EU veterinary big data strategy.

Data and innovative technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), offer new opportunities to support regulatory decision-making, animal health and public health. Building on previous years, this event takes a veterinary lens to look at real-world challenges and applications in the use of data and AI.

Participants will gain insights into:

- practical applications of data and AI;
- experiences and case studies from regulators, industry and academia;
- opportunities and challenges related to the use of veterinary data;
- future developments under the Veterinary Data Strategy.

This year's forum will also mark the launch of the public consultation on the next phase of the Veterinary Data Strategy, building on the European Veterinary Big Data Strategy 2022-2027.

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12:45 Joining and technical checks

13:00 Welcome remarks

Presentation **10'**
Franck Fourès (European Medicines Agency)

13:10 Session 1: The regulatory perspective

Chair: Jana Schalansky, European Medicines Agency

Year in review and launch of the Veterinary Data Strategy consultation **15'**
Paul Damien Lynn (European Medicines Agency)

AI at EMA **20'**
Luis Pinheiro (European Medicines Agency)

Data simplification: from governing data to making data usable **20'**
Athanasios Demiris (European Environment Agency)

Q&A session **15'**

14:20 Networking coffee break

14:45 Session 2: The industry perspective

Chair: Paul Damien Lynn, European Medicines Agency

From data inventory to AI-ready knowledge architecture **20'**
Cat Stirling *(Elanco)*

Building AI literacy across the veterinary medicines ecosystem **20'**
Ruth Gross (Phibro)

AI-Supported Real-World Evidence in Veterinary Medicines **20'**
Charles Bagarie (Boehringer Ingelheim)

The use of artificial intelligence in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry: drawbacks and challenges in the current scenario **20'**
Jyoti Soni-Gupta (Association of Veterinary Consultants)

Q&A session **15'**

16:20 Networking coffee break

16:45 Keynote speech

Towards a shared vision for companion animal health and welfare surveillance: challenges and opportunities **30'**

Heather Grieve (University College Dublin)

17:15 Closing remarks

Wrap up **10'**

Franck Fourès (European Medicines Agency)

List of speakers

Athanasios Demiris	European Environment Agency
Catrina Stirling	AnimalhealthEurope
Charles Bagarie	AnimalhealthEurope
Franck Fourès	European Medicines Agency
Heather Grieve	University College Dublin
Jana Schalansky	European Medicines Agency
Jyoti Soni-Gupta	Association of Veterinary Consultants
Luis Pinheiro	European Medicines Agency
Paul Damien Lynn	European Medicines Agency
Ruth Gross	AnimalhealthEurope



Athanasios Demiris

Head of Unit, European Environment Agency

Athanasios Demiris is Head of Unit at the European Environment Agency (EEA), working in data and digital services, with a background in biomedical informatics. His unit is responsible for key aspects of the transformation of EEA's data landscape, spanning data governance and management, geospatial information, data infrastructure and digital services. A major focus is the EEA Data Simplification initiative, which aims to make environmental data easier to discover, access, combine and reuse, while ensuring strong governance, provenance and accountability. His particular interests include interoperability, cross-domain use of data, and building the foundations for emerging AI-enabled services. Before joining the EEA in his current role, he led the Data Governance Office at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).



Dr Catrina Stirling

Senior Director - Global Regulatory Project Lead, Elanco

Dr Catrina (Cat) Stirling graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a degree in Virology before doing a PhD in Veterinary Immunology at the Pirbright Institute/University of Sussex. She then spent 4 years as a post-doc at Pirbright working on DNA vaccines for FMDV and ASFV immunology before joining the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). After 2 years at VMD, she moved to Pfizer Animal Health, later to Zoetis, focusing on regulatory affairs. She is currently Senior Director - Global Regulatory Project Lead at Elanco. She is an expert in immunological and biological product development and registration, as well as 3Rs aspects of vaccine release.



Charles Bagarie

AI, Data and Digital Transformation Manager, Boehringer Ingelheim

Charles Bagarie, PMP®, CISSP®, is an AI, Data and Digital Transformation Manager at Boehringer Ingelheim, with over seven years of international experience leading strategic initiatives in highly regulated environments. With a background in biomedical engineering, he works at the intersection of artificial intelligence, data strategy, cybersecurity, governance and technology innovation. His expertise spans enterprise AI adoption, advanced analytics, digital transformation, data governance and risk management, with a strong focus on secure, responsible and scalable solutions. He contributes to global AI and digital strategies in GxP environments, bridging emerging technologies, regulatory requirements and business objectives to support innovation and operational excellence across mission-critical industries.



Dr Franck Fourès

Head of Veterinary Medicines Division, European Medicines Agency

Dr Franck Fourès graduated from the National Veterinary School of Toulouse and holds a doctorate in sociology from Sciences Po Paris, where his thesis examined the determinants of the emergence of health crises in the human and veterinary fields. As Inspector General in Veterinary Public Health, Franck has held positions on veterinary public health issues in France and internationally. His previous roles include Director of the French Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products, Deputy Director of Risk Assessment at the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES), Deputy Director of Agriculture and Forestry in French Guyana, and Health and Phytosanitary Counsellor at the French Embassy in Brasilia. On 1 September 2026, Franck became the Head of the Veterinary Medicines Division at EMA.



Dr Heather Grieve

Assistant Professor, University College Dublin

Dr Heather Grieve is an Assistant Professor in Companion Animal Health and Welfare Surveillance at University College Dublin (UCD). Her research interests span the practical application of informatics approaches to support veterinary research and disease surveillance, including veterinary pharmacovigilance. At UCD, Heather is leading the development of a companion animal health and welfare surveillance system to provide population-level insights into the health and welfare of companion animals in Ireland.



Jana Schalansky

Head of Veterinary Strategic Support Office, European Medicines Agency

Jana Schalansky is the head of EMA's Veterinary Strategic Support Office, where she provides strategic advice to all levels of management at the division. Jana holds a BA in Business Administration and Psychology from Europäische Fernhochschule Hamburg. She joined the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2003 as an assistant in the Veterinary Medicines Division and has subsequently worked in various roles in the division. From 2016, she held the role of programme manager for the EMA's Veterinary Change Programme, where she supported the preparation and implementation of the Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) Regulation.



Dr Jyoti Soni-Gupta

Consultant, ZIVA Health Regulatory Consultancy

Jyoti is President of the Association of Veterinary Consultants, a global organisation representing 70 independent veterinary consultants from 21 countries across 6 continents. Jyoti is an accomplished animal health professional with over 20 years of experience in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry. She is a veterinarian and holds a PhD degree in veterinary medicine from University College Dublin, Ireland. She also holds qualifications in regulatory affairs, quality management and statistics, and pharmaceutical manufacturing technology. She works as a veterinary pharmaceutical consultant.



Luis Pinheiro

Senior Epidemiology Expert, European Medicines Agency

Luis Pinheiro is a Senior Epidemiology Expert at the European Medicines Agency, in the Real-World Evidence Workstream of the Data Analytics and Methods Taskforce. He is a co-lead in the Guidance, Policy and Product Support stream of the Multi-annual AI Workplan, the EMA scientific co-lead of the Special Interest Area on Data Science and AI of the European Specialised Expert Community, and coordinates the Health Data Lab.



Paul Damien Lynn

Data Scientist, European Medicines Agency

Paul studied at Trinity College Dublin and the University of Cambridge and has spent the last decade working in data and digital transformation. He has led major data initiatives in decision-making in the UK, Denmark, and the Netherlands, delivering scalable analytics solutions and accelerating regulatory reporting.

Paul is the lead data scientist in EMA's Veterinary Medicines Division, leading veterinary data initiatives at a European level. His current work focuses on the use of data and the opportunity of new technologies to support innovation, evidence-based decision-making, and better outcomes across the veterinary regulatory domain.



Dr Ruth Gross

AI Director, Phibro Animal Health

Dr Ruth Gross is a veterinarian turned AI Director at Phibro Animal Health, proving that when AI democratizes access to knowledge, unexpected career paths become possible. Her career spans clinical practice, medical leadership in global pharma and business development in biotech, focusing on AI-driven drug discovery. At Phibro, Ruth leads the company's AI strategy, building AI literacy and accelerating responsible adoption across the organisation while advancing strategic AI solutions that transform business processes and create value.