

# 4<sup>th</sup> Veterinary Big Data Stakeholder Forum

14 October 2024, 10:00 – 15:00 (CEST)  
**Virtual meeting / EMA, Amsterdam**

The annual edition of the Veterinary Big Data Stakeholder Forum is part of the implementation of the EU veterinary big data strategy. With presentations from representatives of EMA, veterinary industry and academia, the topics for the fourth edition include:

- A progress update on the HMA/EMA Veterinary Big Data work plan and planned activities for 2025.
- A report on the EU veterinary data landscape analysis and next steps.
- Discussions on developments and emerging themes in big data and artificial intelligence.

This event will be recorded and published on the EMA website. By registering for this event, you are consenting to EMA to process your data under [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#). [EMA data protection notice for the Cisco Webex Meetings and Webex Events participants](#) explains how personal data is processed by the Agency and via the tool Webex.

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## 10:00 Welcome and opening speech

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**Presentation** 5'  
*Ivo Claassen*

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## 10:05 Session 1: Veterinary Big Data: latest developments and the way forward

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*Chair: Jana Schalansky (EMA)*

**Update on Vet Big Data Strategy** 20'  
*Paul Damien Lynn (EMA)*

**Big Data in Veterinary Medicines Regulation: a data landscape analysis** 20'  
*Ewa Pacholewicz (Wageningen University & Research)*

**Towards a data space for animal health and welfare?** 20'  
*Diana Teixeira (AnimalhealthEurope)*

**Q&A** 45'

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## 11:50 Lunch break

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## 13:00 Session 2: Artificial intelligence in veterinary medicines regulation

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*Chair: Paul Damien Lynn (EMA)*

**Artificial intelligence at EMA: use cases** 20'  
*Laura Romero (EMA) and Luis Pinheiro (EMA)*

**Artificial intelligence tools in the regulatory domain** 20'  
*Elena Lucas Roldan (AEMPS, Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices)*

**Industry Use cases of artificial intelligence in the life cycle of veterinary medicines** 20'  
*Catrina Stirling (Zoetis)*

**Panel discussion:**  
**Artificial intelligence strategies: industry vs regulators** 50'

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## 14:50 Closing remarks and opportunity for engagements

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**Wrap up** 10'  
*Ivo Claassen (EMA)*

## List of speakers

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Catrina Stirling</b>   | Zoetis                                          |
| <b>Diana Teixeira</b>     | AnimalhealthEurope                              |
| <b>Elena Lucas Roldan</b> | Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices |
| <b>Ewa Pacholewicz</b>    | Wageningen Bioveterinary Research               |
| <b>Ivo Claassen</b>       | European Medicines Agency                       |
| <b>Jana Schalansky</b>    | European Medicines Agency                       |
| <b>Laura Romero</b>       | European Medicines Agency                       |
| <b>Luis Pinheiro</b>      | European Medicines Agency                       |
| <b>Paul Damien Lynn</b>   | European Medicines Agency                       |

## About the speakers

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### **Dr Catrina Stirling**

*Director Regulatory Affairs, Zoetis*

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, now Zoetis focusing on regulatory affairs, she is currently Director of Regulatory Affairs focusing on companion animal vaccines and biologicals. She is an expert on immunological and biological product development and registration as well as the 3Rs aspects of vaccine release.



### **Diana Teixeira**

*Public Affairs Manager, AnimalhealthEurope*

Diana Teixeira holds a master's in veterinary medicine, specialising in equine surgery. She gained international experience in equine hospitals, student associations, and as an EAEVE inspector.

Following a period in practice, she moved to Brussels, joining the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe. FVE. Since 2024, Diana has served as the Public Affairs Manager at AnimalhealthEurope. She has a strong interest in business and advocates for digital transformation in the veterinary sector.



**Dr Ewa Pacholewicz**

*Wageningen Bioveterinary Research*

Ewa holds a PhD from Utrecht University. Her expertise spans veterinary public health, foodborne zoonoses, and food sciences. She has held various research and development positions in both academia and industry. In 2018, she joined Wageningen Bioveterinary Research as a Scientist. Her current research focuses on investigating risk factors for foodborne pathogens, harmonising epidemiological and genomic data through a One Health approach, and integrating omics into risk assessment models. She is particularly interested in maximizing the value of existing data to enhance health assurance for both animals and humans.



**Elena Lucas Roldán**

*Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS)*

Elena Lucas Roldán graduated in Pharmacy, holds a master's degree in Drug R&D, and completed a specialized course in Big Data. She gained experience in the pharmaceutical industry across different departments. Elena joined the AEMPS five years ago, she has served as a Scientific Assessor in the veterinary department in the area of Safety and Residues. Recently, she became a member of the Veterinary Big Data Hub.



**Dr Ivo Claassen**

*Head of Veterinary Medicines, EMA*

Dr Ivo Claassen is head of the Veterinary Medicines Division and Deputy Executive Director at the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Since he joined the Agency in 2018, he has been responsible for the implementation of Veterinary medicinal products regulation. Furthermore, he was involved in the development of the Veterinary Regulatory Science Strategy and the EMA Veterinary Big Data strategy. He has also over 30 years of experience in vaccine production, QC/QA, R&D and regulatory affairs, both for human and veterinary vaccines.

**Jana Schalansky**

*Head of Veterinary Strategic Support Office, EMA*

Jana Schalansky 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.

In 2021, she was appointed head of the EMA's newly created Veterinary Strategic Support office where she provides strategic advice to all levels of management at the division.

**Laura Romero Fernández de Villavicencio**

*Veterinary data analyst, EMA*

Laura holds a bachelor's degree in biology and two master's degrees in biomedical and clinical research, with a special focus on immunological research and data analysis. She joined EMA's Veterinary Strategic Support Office in 2022 to work on the implementation of the Union Product Database Data Quality Framework (UPD DQF). Currently, she works as a veterinary data analyst, providing support on different data analytics activities, digital innovation, project management and research coordination. She is a member of the EU Veterinary Big Data Team working on the development of the European Veterinary Big Data strategy as UPD DQF project lead.

**Luis Pinheiro**

*Senior Epidemiology Expert, EMA*

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**

*Lead data scientist, EMA*

Paul studied at Trinity College Dublin and Cambridge University and built his career working with data and technology. In the last eight years, Paul has specialised in Big Data and Data Science, working on Big Data programs in the UK, Denmark and the Netherlands. His efforts have accelerated regulatory reporting processes and advanced multiple at-scale data analytics use cases.