



Concerns: Newsletter 'The Antwerp Conference'

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is time to give you an update of our plans for the upcoming conference 'Quality in The Spotlight' in Antwerp, April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2021. This conference enlightens quality in diagnostic testing in medical laboratories on a high scientific level and 'out of the box'.

One of the things the current pandemic generates is a focus on diagnostic testing, however the quality aspect is underexposed. There is a definite task present for our scientific field which will be addressed in this conference. Insights and information on COVID-19 testing grow rapidly: during this conference we will update you.

Hybrid conference

For next year, we will organize a hybrid conference. We will meet in Antwerp for two days and challenge each other's ideas, inspired by world-class leaders in the field of diagnostic testing. To give you an idea: the preliminary program is attached.

We offer two options:

- on site registration and participation, 955 euro (855 euro early bird)
- digital registration and participation, 245 euro (195 euro early bird)

Using the 'on site' option, you can, if you wish be tested on the spot. Depending of the status of the pandemic in April next year a social distancing monitoring system will be available at the site.

Using the digital option, through a secure link, you will participate the full two days and be able to interact with the speakers as well as other participants.

The extensive conference materials will be available for both registrants. The final program will include the quality of COVID-19 testing. As well as subjects such as 'how to run a medical diagnostics service, when an infectious disease is present', will be discussed.

### Meet and Greet

What is the point of coming to Antwerp? We do have now some experience with scientific meetings in various formats. However 'the real thing', i.e. human interaction, is unbeatable. Even with a distance of 2 meters (6 feet), a flat computer screen is easily outclassed. To emphasize this we will create 'meet and greet' sessions with the speakers, poster presenters as well as sponsors.

So we are positive and optimistic! We hope we can count on your support. We highly appreciate the mails you did send to us with recommendations, suggestions or just to say hello. We also highly appreciate your participation as you can imagine. Although the conference is next year we really would appreciate your early registration! It provides us with a chance to make good assumptions with regard to numbers as well as, following your suggestions, to subjects to be discussed. And, important as well, it contributes to our motivation to organize an inspiring and groundbreaking conference.



Prof. Jim Westgard wearing an informative mouth mask.

Of course we wish you, your family and friends, all the best, stay in good health, stay positive!

The 'Quality in the Spotlight' team,

Lia Konings, secretary,  
Tjitze Dijkstra, project coordinator,  
Stacy Walz, co-chairman and  
Henk Goldschmidt, chairman