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VIRvOLT

VIRology Operational Laboratories for drug Testing



Newsletter

June 2026 #7

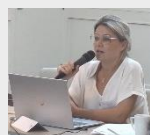
VIRvOLT in Brussels !



4th VIRvOLT Workshop



- An opportunity to get to know our new Italian member : INMI, National Institute for Infectious Diseases, Lazzaro Spallanzani» I.R.C.C.S - Roma represented by Dr Sberna
- A chance to have Karen Brengel-Pesce from bioMérieux
 - (i) presenting in details the results of the SARS-CoV-2 External Quality Assessment and the pleasure to see them on the screen all in line with expectations.
 - (ii) explaining the next challenge with the Multiplex SARS-CoV-2/Flu A & B/RSV EQA to be performed in Autumn.
- A promising diagnostic tool presented by our colleague from the Hospices Civils de Lyon, Sophie Trouillet-Assant



Nasal Type I Interferon Response: A Novel Diagnostic Tool for Respiratory Viral Infections - Sophie Trouillet-Assant, HCL/CIRI

Sophie Trouillet-Assant has presented a study carried out in the framework of the [REVIDA](#) chair whose aim is to propose innovative diagnostic solutions for respiratory infections.

Type I IFN measurement could improve virological diagnostic practices by rapidly orienting diagnosis toward viral infections. The IFN-I response can be assessed within 45 minutes directly from routine nasopharyngeal swab samples. This approach may help identify highly contagious patients early and limit the spread of clusters in hospital wards. Type I IFN also represents a promising tool for preparedness against future pandemics caused by emerging viruses. In the context of pathogen surveillance, it could facilitate the detection of missed infections in symptomatic patients and contribute to the identification of previously unrecognized pathogens. As a screening tool, Type I IFN could help prioritize samples most likely to contain undiagnosed or emerging viruses. However, further validation studies are needed using samples collected from patients in different regions of the world, in particular in countries where viral diversity and host genetic backgrounds vary (Brazil, Southeast Asia, DR Congo, Cameroon...).

"We greatly value the opportunity to actively participate in the VIRvOLT laboratory network, which provides an excellent platform to benchmark key molecular diagnostic assays across European laboratories. It enables assessment of inter-laboratory operability and supports the harmonisation and standardisation of molecular diagnostic approaches. VIRvOLT activities are essential to strengthening confidence in cross-border surveillance capacity and implementing a coordinated and cohesive strategy for pandemic readiness and rapid response to emerging viral threats »

Pr Virginie Gautier, UCD Centre for Experimental Pathogen Host Research (CEPHR), School of Medicine, University College Dublin

Feedback on the VIRvOLT experience by members

Main assets

Harmonization
Quality and confidence
European Preparedness

Main challenges

Administrative burden
Staff workload without budget
Integration into routine workflow

Key message

VIRvOLT, a valuable European laboratory community that strengthens harmonization, quality improvement and preparedness

NEXT STEPS

Multiplex EQA : Autumn 2026
EU-SYNDACT trial : Early 2027

EU-RESPONSE PUBLICATION

[High Nasopharyngeal SARS-CoV-2 Load and Delayed Clearance in Hospitalized Patients With Blood Autoantibodies Neutralizing Type I Interferons](#) – April 2026



The EU-RESPONSE and PROACT EU-RESPONSE projects have received funding from the European Union. However, the contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Union.

<https://proact-response.eu/virology-network/>