

PROGRAM***Global Health, Local Strengths:
Connecting Centers of Excellence in R&D and Pharma Logistics***

Event organised by the University of Antwerp and the Antwerp University Hospital on **Thursday June 19th** in the *Event Center in the Belgian Pavilion at the World Expo in Osaka*.

- 17.30 - 18.00: Registration**
- 18.00 – 18.10: Welcome by Julie Bynens**
(Secretary General, Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office)
- 18.10 – 18.20: Introduction of the first panel discussion by Prof. Steven Van Passel**
(Vice-Rector Valorisation and Sustainability, University of Antwerp)
- 18.20 – 19.10: *Flanders as a Logistics Pharma hotspot and ecosystem***
Panel discussion organised by University of Antwerp and Nippon Express
- 19.10 – 19.15: Introduction of the second panel discussion by Prof. Steven Van Passel**
(Vice-Rector Valorisation and Sustainability, University of Antwerp)
- 19.15 – 20.00: *Innovative health R&D synergies: Antwerp meets Japan***
Panel discussion organised by University of Antwerp, Antwerp University Hospital and University of Osaka
- 20.00 – 21.00: Networking reception**

The first panel session, ***Flanders as a Logistics Pharma hotspot and ecosystem***, explores Flanders as a premier logistics and pharmaceutical hotspot in Europe and beyond. Organised by the University of Antwerp and Nippon Express, the panel brings together leaders from academia, industry, and logistics to highlight the region's unique, end-to-end life sciences ecosystem. From cutting-edge research and vaccine development at institutions like Vaccinopolis and the Institute of Tropical Medicine, to advanced production facilities and world-class (cold) chain logistics at Brussels Airport, Flanders offers an integrated environment for pharmaceutical innovation and distribution. The discussion will focus on how this ecosystem supports the full chain — from design and development to production and global transportation — positioning Flanders as a critical node in the global health and pharma supply landscape.

Moderator

Prof. Wouter Dewulf - Academic Director Centre for Maritime & Air Transport Management, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Antwerp; Antwerp Management School

Panel members:

Prof. Roel Gevaers - Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Antwerp; Antwerp Management School

Prof. Pierre Van Damme - Director Vaccinopolis & Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Antwerp

Frank Van Gelder - Secretary General, Pharma.Aero

Representative Nippon Express: *to be confirmed*

Representative Japanese University: *to be confirmed*

During the second panel discussion, **Innovative health R&D synergies: Antwerp meets Japan**, the University of Antwerp and the Antwerp University Hospital will highlight how academic institutions can serve as fertile ground for cutting-edge research and successful valorization in life sciences R&D, particularly when embedded within a strong and dynamic ecosystem. Representatives from the Flemish Health Ecosystem will contribute to the panel discussion, illustrating how regional collaboration drives innovation. Following this, the session will explore the pivotal role of Japanese universities, like the University of Osaka, in R&D and the establishment of health ecosystems in Japan. To conclude, examples of ongoing R&D collaborations between Japanese and Flemish life science partners will be showcased, offering valuable insights and potential inspiration for future cross-border partnerships.

Moderator:

Prof. Patrick De Boever - Director of Research, Innovation & Valorization, Antwerp University Hospital

Panel members:

Prof. Christophe Deben - Head Tumourid Screening Lab / DrugVision.AI Screening Platform, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Antwerp; Co-founder Orbits Oncology and Sightera Biosciences

Prof. Kei Kamide - Vice Director of the International Exchange Center, Division of Health Sciences, University of Osaka Graduate School of Medicine

Ann Van Gysel - Chief Executive Officer, Biovia

Jan Verheyden - Vice President Strategic Partnerships, icometrix

Representative of one of the Flemish Research Institutes - *to be confirmed*