

Biography of Herman Goossens.

Herman Goossens, MD, is a professor of Medical Microbiology at the University of Antwerp in Belgium, director of the research Laboratory of Medical Microbiology at the University of Antwerp, and director of the Laboratory of Clinical Biology of the University Hospital Antwerp. He was part-time professor at the University of Leiden from 2000-2008 and has a part-time position since 2017 at the University Medical Centre Utrecht.

He earned his PhD in Biomedical Sciences at the Free University of Brussels in 1990 and worked as a visiting scientist at the University of Utrecht, Geneva and Tokyo.

He received several honours and awards, including the 2006 Leadership Award by the American Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics for his translational research and European policy work, and the medical sciences award of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine for the period 2011-2015. Herman Goossens is an author and co-author on more than 650 full papers listed in SCI-JCR and NIH Medline (>18,000 citations and 72 H-index) and he published more than 25 chapters in textbooks.

He is the Founder and Chair of the Belgian Antibiotic Policy Co-ordination Committee (BAPCOC). Herman Goossens was a member of the ICAAC Program Committee (2001 – 2005) and of the ECCMID Programme Committee (2005 – 2008). He was the Founding Coordinator of the European Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption (ESAC) project (moved to ECDC in July 2011). He coordinated several initiatives to collect antimicrobial use data in outpatients and inpatients across the globe. He was the coordinator of Genomics to Combat Resistance against Antibiotics in Community-acquired LRTI in Europe (GRACE) and Development of RAPid Point-of-care test Platforms for Infectious Diseases (RAPP-ID). He currently coordinates the Platform for European Preparedness Against (Re-) emerging Epidemics (PREPARE), LAB-Net of the Combating Bacterial Resistance in Europe project (COMBACTE), New Diagnostics for Infectious Diseases (ND4ID), the value of diagnostics to combat antimicrobial resistance by optimising antibiotic use (VALUE-Dx) and the European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases – Business Plan (ECRAID Plan). Herman Goossens was the organiser of the European Conference on Antibiotic Use in 2001 on behalf of the Belgian EU Presidency, of the International Workshop on Educational Campaigns regarding antibiotic resistance in 2004, of the European Workshop on indicators for quality prescribing in primary care in 2005, and of the European Conference on Health Care Associated Infections and Antibiotic Use in 2010 on behalf of the Belgian EU Presidency. He is a member of the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (WHO-AGISAR). He is the founder of the annual European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) and chairs the Technical Advisory Committee at ECDC for the EAAD. He also serves on the Advisory Panel for the Longitude Prize for an inexpensive rapid point-of-care antibiotic diagnostic. Herman Goossens was elected chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance by his peers. Herman Goossens received the Methusalem award of the Flemish government in 2008 for a period of 14 years. His professional goal is to bridge the gap between basic and clinical research, with a major focus on antibiotic resistance, to enhance the standard of healthcare, public health and professional standards, for the good of the public in large. His vision is to build a sustainable infrastructure for clinical research on infectious diseases in Europe. He is a popular resource person and opinion leader, much sought after by local and international media for views on matters related to public health and infectious diseases.