

PRESS RELEASE



HUB_VPH

Lyon Veterinary Public Health Initiative

The first worldwide hub in Veterinary Public Health created in Lyon



With the creation of an international VPH (Veterinary Public Health) hub, Lyon aims to establish itself as the leading territory in veterinary public health. This is an outstanding public-private initiative.



Two and a half centuries after the creation of the first veterinary school in the world, initiated by Claude Bourgelat, Lyon continues to innovate. In preparation since several months, the project to create an international hub in Veterinary Public Health (VPH) is officially launched.

This new initiative, which is the result of a successful collaboration between public and private partners⁽¹⁾, reinforces the image of excellence of the Lyon metropolitan area in terms of veterinary public health. It is a strategic field for future generations because of the emergence, rapid spread and multiplication of animal epidemics (epizootics) and their transmission to humans⁽²⁾.

“Our ambition is to build a public-private network around veterinary public health for analysis and action in order to catalyze the strengths of research, innovation, education and industry in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. By facilitating exchanges, developing advanced research and creating disruptive solutions, we will be able to meet the important public health challenges associated with major animal worldwide epidemics. This is a unique approach, likely to promote the territory at the national and international level.” explains Emmanuelle Soubeyran, Dean of VetAgro Sup and spokesperson for this new international VPH cluster.

The preparatory meetings between teachers, researchers, Healthcare companies, clusters and international experts confirmed the relevance of Lyon’s site and the importance of forging new links between animal health and human health in an interdisciplinary approach based on the concept of “global health”.

With this in mind, the priorities of the “Lyon VPH Hub” will initially focus on four main axes:

1. **The promotion** of the Veterinary Public Health **concept** and **animation of a community of international experts**.
2. **The creation of a teaching chair in Veterinary Public Health**. This initiative, led by Boehringer Ingelheim, the CNRS, the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 and VetAgro Sup, is part of the IDEX (Future Investments Program Excellence Initiative) “Biosanté & Société” project.

The Chair seeks to promote Veterinary Public Health by setting up a transdisciplinary training course for diversified and international audiences (international Master’s degree, short courses, etc.).

“In addition to interdisciplinary training course, the Chair will have a high-level research unit in evaluative and predictive epidemiology and socio-economics in animal health” says Frédéric Fleury, President of the University Lyon 1.

3. Organized by Aderly, **the reinforcement of the attractiveness of the Grand Lyon territory** by hosting innovative start-ups in the fields of veterinary public health.
4. Finally, the hub will encourage **apprenticeship and training** in order to effectively and reactively meet the challenges of companies in this sector. In this context, a pilot project, coordinated by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, is launched to address the recruitment needs in biomanufacturing technicians for the Boehringer Ingelheim group’s future veterinary vaccine site in Lyon-Jonage, scheduled to be in service by 2022.

Other initiatives are currently being evaluated, including the organization of a **major international conference by 2021**.

- (1) *Founding partners: Aderly, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, BIOASTER, Boehringer Ingelheim, Institut Mérieux, Lyonbiopole, Métropole de Lyon, Université de Lyon and VetAgro Sup.*
- (2) *In the next 30 years, the world population is expected to increase by almost a third to reach 10 billion people, resulting in an increase in food requirements of more than 50% compared to 2010.*



Definition (Académie vétérinaire de France)

“Veterinary Public Health (VPH) is the set of actions that are directly or indirectly related to animals, their products and by-products, since they contribute to the protection, conservation and improvement of human health. That is to say, their physical, moral and social human well-being. It presents increasing challenges at the global level.”



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