Snakebite
From science to society

International, multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral conference on the medical and social impact of snake bites

21 & 22 June 2018
Leiden – the Netherlands
What is the problem?

Every year, more than 125,000 people die as a result of a venomous snakebite. The number of people who suffer from serious permanent injury or disability is another two to three times higher. That’s over 450,000 new victims per year. And not only the victims are affected by snakebites, it also influences the family, community and local economy around the victims.

Globally, the greatest burden is experienced in the poor African and Asian countryside. Due to lack of infrastructure and lack of effective, affordable and safe antivenom (serum), many hundreds of thousands of victims go untreated. Accurate data on the medical and socio-economic consequences of snakebites are missing, necessary for the establishment of effective health care. And most governments and international health organizations do not have snakebites – in contrast to Ebola, Malaria, HIV and Tuberculosis – on their agenda as a public health challenge.

What are our goals?

Scientific knowledge exchange at the highest international level
We’ll invite the top of international snake(bite) research, ranging from antivenom discovery to ecology. But we also invite scientists from relevant other disciplines like social research, technology, informatics and data science.

Practical solutions
By bringing together a great variety of experts and students in science disciplines, applied science, government, humanitarian aid organisations/NGO’s and industry, we want to create think tanks/hackathons to co-create actual solutions for specific issues.

Raising awareness
We also want to inform the public and the media, as far beyond the Netherlands as we can reach. Naturalis has developed an exhibition on venom which runs from October 2017 onwards.
Who is attending?

Naturalis is aiming at 500 participants, consisting of:

- **Science, applied science, tech & humanities**
  Professors, researchers and students, not only in the field of snakes and anti-venom, but much wider: technology, ICT, infrastructure, behaviour, innovation

- **Business & Industry**
  Pharma-companies, consultants, innovation/R&D institutes, start-ups, SMEs in the field of Life Sciences and High Tech

- **Government & Non-profit**
  Directors, policy officers, advisers from stakeholders in the target countries in Africa and Asia, but also from the Netherlands, the EU and other important countries like Costa Rica. NGO’s, humanitarian aid organisations

Program

**Confirmed speakers are:**
- Manjunatha Kini – National University of Singapore
- José Maria Gutierrez – University of Costa Rica
- Don Gerson – PnuVax Inc.
- David Warrel – University of Oxford
- Abdulrazaq Habib – Bayero University Nigeria
- Andreas Laustsen – Technical University Denmark
- Bernadette Abela-Ridder – World Health Organisation

**Themes we will be discussing are:**
- Basic research
- Clinical aspects
- Follow up care
- Production and distribution
- Antivenom
- New therapeutics
- Frontier Technology
- Policy
- Cultural Issues
- Prevention
- Public Education
- Snake conservation
Naturalis Biodiversity Center is a national research institute and national research infrastructure employing over 100 scientists. It hosts the world’s 5th largest natural history collection (42 million specimens) and is also a major natural history museum, receiving over 400,000 visitors per year. We focus on Taxonomy, Morphology and Evolutionary Developmental Biology, Phylogenetics and Horizontal Genomics, Biogeography and Global Change Biology. Venomous animals and poisonous plants have our specific interest. We have a long term collaboration on venomous snakes with the University of Leiden, Leiden University Medical Centre, VU University and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Naturalis currently hosts the international exhibition ‘Poison!’ on poisonous plants and venomous animals.

We do not ask an entry fee but only a contribution for food & beverages of €35 per person per day. Registration, program updates and background information can be found on snakebite.naturalis.nl.

Snakebite: from science to society | 21 & 22 June 2018 | Leiden, the Netherlands snakebite.naturalis.nl | snakebite@naturalis.nl