

## SESSION SPOTLIGHT:

# The Convergence of Human and Animal Health Innovation

### Key Takeaways

- Innovation is increasingly flowing in both directions between human and animal health
- Rising global demand for animal protein reinforces the importance of healthy livestock populations
- The One Health framework is becoming central to preventing future pandemics
- Technologies such as mRNA vaccines and monoclonal antibodies are expanding treatment possibilities in animal health
- AI, sensors and predictive analytics are enabling continuous monitoring and earlier disease detection

At AHNTI EU, Rob Kelly, SVP Global Operations at MSD Animal Health, explored how advances in human health are increasingly shaping the future of animal health innovation.

Drawing on insights from MSD's global human pharmaceutical organisation, Kelly outlined how breakthroughs in vaccines, biologics, data science and predictive analytics are creating new opportunities across the animal health sector.

One of the key shifts he highlighted is the growing convergence between human and animal medicine. Historically, innovation flowed primarily from human health into veterinary medicine. Today, that relationship is becoming more reciprocal, with animal health playing an increasingly integrated role in global public health strategies.



Kelly pointed to major global trends reinforcing the importance of animal health. Demand for animal protein continues to rise, particularly in low and middle-income countries where population growth and rising incomes are reshaping diets. Ensuring healthy livestock populations will therefore be essential to supporting food security and global stability.

At the same time, the growing importance of the One Health approach is reshaping how governments and organisations think about disease prevention. With around 75 percent of emerging infectious diseases in humans originating in animals, stronger surveillance, vaccination and prevention strategies in animal populations are becoming critical tools for protecting human health.

Kelly also highlighted several scientific and technological trends that could significantly accelerate innovation in animal health. In vaccines, the rapid development of mRNA technologies in human medicine is creating new possibilities for both preventing and potentially treating disease. Meanwhile, biologics such as monoclonal antibodies are becoming a major growth area in therapeutics, driven by advances in oncology and immune science.

Alongside these biological innovations, digital technologies are transforming how animal health is delivered. Artificial intelligence and predictive analytics are enabling continuous monitoring of animal health, moving diagnostics from episodic testing toward real-time data-driven insights. Systems such as connected sensors and wearable technologies now allow producers to monitor animals at scale, improving disease detection, welfare and productivity.

For Kelly, these developments signal a broader transformation. The future of healthcare will increasingly be built at the intersection of human health, animal health and digital intelligence.

*"The future of global health will not be built in silos. It will be built at the intersection of human health, animal health and digital intelligence."*

– Rob Kelly, SVP Global Operations, MSD Animal Health

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