This symposium aims to present the European research response to the Ebola outbreak, focusing on the challenges and opportunities it revealed for all research partners. The major funder of EU Ebola research, the European Commission, will present an overview of the various funding mechanisms mobilized for this outbreak including collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry, as well as the spectrum of research gaps addressed. Industry and academic researchers will then present the most important European research projects against Ebola, the multiple and diverse challenges they faced and how they managed to overcome them, as well as their results and implications for future research. The session will culminate in a discussion on the lessons learned from this outbreak. A paradigm on how established networks of cooperation among funders can facilitate a coordinated research response to an epidemic like Ebola will be presented.

CHAIR
Line Matthiessen
European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Brussels, Belgium
Bruno Gryseels
Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium

The EU Research Response to the Ebola Crisis
Line Matthiessen
European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Brussels, Belgium

Innovative Medicines Initiative: A Tool Also for Preparedness Research!
Angela Wittelsberger
Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI), Brussels, Belgium

Joining Forces with Industry: Vaccine Development
Johan van Hoof
Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Beerse, Belgium

Study Design Options for Therapeutic Trials — Ethics, Settings and Practicalities
Peter Horby
Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Trials of Convalescent Blood/Plasma
Johan van Griensven
Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium

The JIKI Trial
Denis Malvy
INSERM, Bordeaux, France

Questions on Clinical Trials
Cooperation between Funders Benefits Research
Penny Heaton
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, United States

The Way Forward: GloPID-R
Marc Ouallette
Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Infection and Immunity, Quebec City, QC, Canada