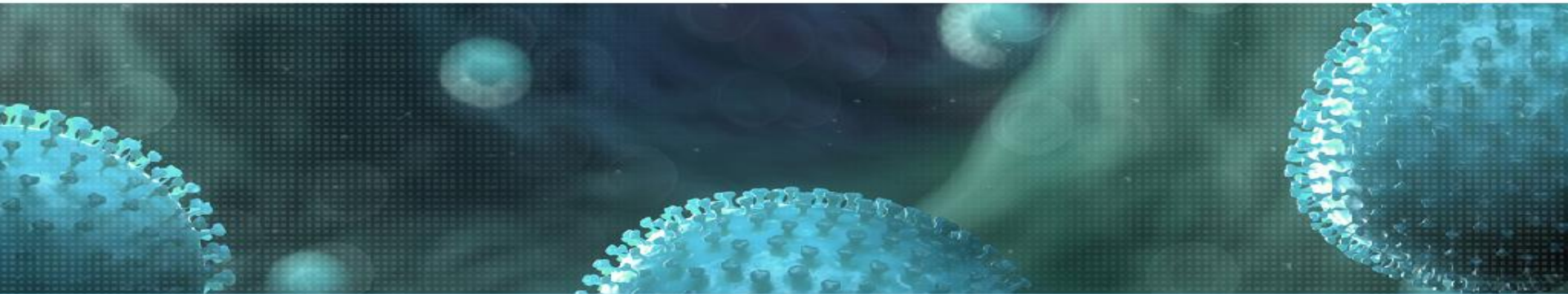


Erasmus MC



**Viroscience lab**

WHERE SKILLS MEET TO STUDY & PROTECT



## Losing the upper hand: Establishment of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wildlife

**Thijs Kuiken**

*BWDS-DSWH joint conference, 13 October 2022*

# Conclusions

- Paradigm shift: rather than unaffected vectors of spread, wild birds are hapless victims of Gs/Gd virus, with mortality levels of potential concern to wild bird populations
- International responsibilities regarding migratory bird populations should stimulate national authorities to prevent future HPAI outbreaks not only in poultry and humans but also in wild birds (*Kleyheeg et al. 2017 Emerg Infect Dis; Kuiken & Cromie 2022 Science*)
- Important not only to take appropriate measures to reduce virus spread in seabird colonies (and elsewhere), but also to register number of dead birds and collect appropriate samples for virological analysis as factual evidence for policymakers

