



OFFLU Executive Committee meeting 28th January, 2008 IZSve, Padova

Present: Ilaria Capua, Keith Hamilton and Gwenaelle Dauphin

Summary:

This was the first meeting of the OFFLU Executive Committee.

Following the OFFLU Steering Committee meeting of 18th October 2007 it was agreed that the new organisational structure of OFFLU should be adopted. The Executive Committee is the newly appointed operational body of OFFLU, implementing the decisions of the Steering Committee. OFFLU is promoting a more inclusive membership for its open list of contributors, from which working groups will be formed.

The Executive Committee drafted and agreed terms of reference for the Executive Committee and for the proposed technical 'ad hoc working groups'. The Committee proposed topics for 4 priority working groups, together with leaders and core members. Leaders were chosen based on their known area of expertise, leadership qualities and to provide better regional representation. In addition three other areas that require attention were also identified.

It was agreed that these terms of reference and proposed working groups would be sent to the OFFLU Steering Committee for agreement/approval by 14th February. The proposed leaders could then be approached before the meeting of experts from Reference Laboratories (5th March).

It was acknowledged that laboratories within the OFFLU network should be reminded about the importance of sharing data and material, including systematic release of cDNA sequences into the public domain. The Reference Laboratory meeting of 5th March will be a good opportunity to address this obligation and discuss ways forward with the experts.

It was suggested that the OFFLU Scientist (Bhudipa Choudhury) should consider ways of gathering data (constructing a database) on the whereabouts of (recent) avian influenza viral isolates and note which isolates had been shared with other institutes (particularly WHO collaborating centres). This should allow a more coordinated response to requests for information from WHO.

A date for the meeting of the next OFFLU Steering Committee will need to be agreed.

1st February, 2008