

Ian Brown is a designated OIE expert on Avian Influenza, Swine Influenza and Newcastle Disease. He is a founder member of the OFFLU Laboratory Network and has taken the lead on a number of key international issues related to the work of this group both on the avian and swine subgroups. He provides a broad range of disease consultancy at both national and international level on all the aforementioned diseases, specialising in laboratory application as relevant to disease control. His specific research interests include the epidemiology, pathogenicity, transmission and infection dynamics in relation to the control of influenza in animal hosts, with the primary interest historically being centred on influenza in pigs, although the main focus of his work has become much more orientated towards avian influenza and Newcastle disease in recent years. It was for his research into swine influenza that he gained his PhD in 1996. He currently has a visiting Professorship position in Avian Virology at the University of Nottingham. In relation to the support of OFFLU he contributed to global initiatives during the emergence of H5N1 subsequent to 2003 with global threat, and also in relation to the emergence of the pandemic H1N1 virus which raised many questions about the ecology, evolution and epidemiology of influenza in the pig population around the globe. He has a wide experience of virology in over 38 years, primarily working on virus infections of poultry and pigs in both diagnostic, surveillance and research laboratories. He has a team of over 40 staff that carry out diagnostic surveillance and active programmes of research for avian virus diseases and mammalian influenza with strong emphasis on influenza. He is director of the EU/OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for both Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease specifically providing advice and serves on numerous International committees including:

Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data (GISAID) Scientific Advisory board.

Member of WHO/OIE/FAO H5N1 Evolution Working Group

He has published widely especially in relation to influenza, with a Researcher index – H value of 29

(Total number 169: Peer reviewed articles 125; Books and chapters 10; Non-peer reviewed 34).