

OFFLU Technical Activities / Projects / Resources (updated February 2015)

OFFLU focal point	Technical Activity and Leader	Purpose	Deliverables	Progress	Status
GD/FC /KH	Diagnostic activities (Ian Brown)	- Development of Standardized Reference Materials (Ian Brown) - To establish through a collaborative exercise amongst OFFLU partners a global reference standard serum for H5 influenza A virus	A reference standard H5 antisera	Selection of 2 antisera. Preliminary batch of serum sourced to one strain, other currently in production. Standard serum x2 and their respective antigens to be distributed amongst consortium for final testing to ensure fitness for purpose and standardisation Provide a report.	ONGOING
		- Proficiency Testing / Ring trial for OFFLU avian influenza labs (Nichole Hines/Timm Harder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance diagnosis of avian influenza worldwide through consistency in diagnostic testing ● Develop guidelines for proficiency tests for harmonization purposes ● Complement the Manual chapter on Laboratory Proficiency Testing 	Recommendations to support harmonization among PT providers.	Third OFFLU ring trial completed. NVSL, USDA prepared sample production and shipment. 9 OIE/FAO reference centres and 11 national or regional labs participated in this exercise. Results were analysed by NVSL and FLI and shared with the labs and OFFLU committees. FAO prepared a comparison of AI/ND PT schemes in different regions (America, Africa, Asia, Europe)	ONGOING Request sent to AAHL, Australia for coordinating the next ring trial.
GD	Epidemiology (Dirk Pfeiffer)	<u>Risk Assessment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify risk factors to make such information available to countries and the scientific community; ● Provide advice to countries/institutions for performing national or regional risk assessment; <u>Surveillance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review and appraise animal influenza surveillance and control activities globally; ● Produce recommendations for animal influenza surveillance: general or targeted, e.g. by species or by strain (H5N1 HPAI, AI A(H7N9)), high path / low path, etc.; ● Encourage countries to share influenza surveillance results and provide/suggest mechanisms or a platform for sharing; ● Propose approaches on applied molecular influenza surveillance; 	Consultancy advice as needed Publications	Earlier Applied epidemiology group outputs: Teleconference and guidance on issues around pH1N1 surveillance at the HAI http://offlu.net/OFFLU%20Site/survofflu_final.pdf Questionnaire on global AI surveillance projects – responses (Africa vs Europe) currently complete. At FAO's request revised and reposted on OFFLU website. http://offlu.net/OFFLU%20Site/OIE%20surveillance_study_final.pdf OFFLU animal influenza surveillance strategy document completed and posted on line http://offlu.net/OFFLU%20Site/OFFLUsurveillancepH1N1_180110.pdf	New group being formed with updated activities under two subheadings to cover surveillance and risk assessment. A new concept note with probable names circulated for finalization.

GP	Wildlife/wild bird influenza surveillance (Billy Karesh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide a platform for discussion, coordination, and data sharing between key wildlife experts involved in influenza surveillance and research - Regular review of the OFFLU Research Priorities on Avian Influenza: Wild Birds - To review existing findings from 10 years of extensive wild bird surveillance and highlight the main outputs - To explore and answer specific technical questions - To decide whether there is a need to develop/coordinated a low-cost targeted wild bird surveillance strategy at a global level accounting for existing surveillance programmes - To provide OFFLU with technical expertise on influenzas in wild animals 	<p>Consultancy advice as needed</p> <p>Publications</p>	Concept note and members of the group finalized.	New technical activity
KH/GP	OFFLU Swine influenza virus group (Kristien Van Reeth/Ariel Pereda)	Coordinate and harmonise global swine influenza surveillance	OFFLU SIV group	<p>Fourth annual meeting held on 19 - 20 March 2014.</p> <p>The meeting minutes and presentations available at http://www.offlu.net/?id=311</p> <p>Manuscript on "Review of influenza A virus in swine worldwide: a call for increased surveillance and research" was accepted for publication in Zoonoses and Public Health journal.</p>	ON GOING
DS	OFFLU Research Agenda (David Swayne)	A comprehensive list of Research Priorities for equine, avian, and swine influenza surveillance		<p>OFFLU – STAR IDAZ partnered to develop a global animal influenza research agenda in 2014 http://www.offlu.net/fileadmin/home/en/publications/pdf/300714/OFFLU_STAR-IDAZ_Executive_Summary_final.pdf</p> <p>OFFLU research agenda developed in 2010</p> <p>An editorial was prepared for publication in Influenza and other Respiratory Viruses journal.</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>Update as needed</p>
DS	Vaccination (David Swayne)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a source of scientific expertise and advice to OIE, FAO and WHO on matters relating to the design and assessment of AI vaccines and their use in poultry 		OFFLU vaccination technical meeting was conducted at Beijing during 4 – 6 December 2013.	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>Update as</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop an international system for comparing vaccine antigens with field strains in regions or situations where vaccination is undertaken, and for recommending candidate antigens for inclusion in vaccines •Act as a source of scientific advice on vaccine efficacy •Act as a source of scientific advice for assessment of vaccine effectiveness in field situations 		<p>Meeting documents including recommendations of the meeting are posted on the OFFLU website</p> <p>http://www.offlu.net/index.php?id=303</p>	needed.
KH/GP	Biosafety (Bev Schmitt)	To provide guidance on minimum standards for handling AI viruses in veterinary laboratories	Practical biosafety guidelines	<p>Biosafety guidance for handling HPAI viruses – published in OIE Diagnostic Manual and OFFLU website http://offlu.net/OFFLU%20Site/biosafety.pdf</p> <p>Biorisk management guidelines for handling avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses in veterinary laboratories http://www.offlu.net/fileadmin/home/en/guidance/pdf/Biosafety_guidelines_H7N9.pdf</p>	<p>ON HOLD</p> <p>Update as needed.</p>
7 KH	MTAs and Code of Conduct and PIP framework (Peter Daniels)	<p>Working group to develop a code of conduct for virus and information sharing (alternative to MTAs) focussing on collegial values and trust</p> <p>Working group involves with WHO and CDC to study the PIP framework implications for animal health laboratories</p>	<p>A user friendly alternative to MTAs</p> <p>Implications of WHO PIP framework on sharing of influenza biological material between animal health laboratories and WHO GISRS laboratories</p>	<p>OIE-FAO statement about the use/non-use of MTAs drafted, approved and disseminated</p> <p>PIP framework technical group finalised a summary document with recommendations for consideration to OIE and FAO. The document was sent to WHO for clarification.</p> <p>WHO provided its clarification to the OFFLU letter</p>	<p>ON HOLD</p> <p>Discussion with WHO if needed</p>
9 GD	Training (Giovanni Cattoli)	<p>- draw lessons learnt in terms of AI testing training</p> <p>- develop/select e-learning systems and define</p>	Training material Recommendations	<p>Following activities carried out:</p> <p>(i) A specific training tab was created in the OFFLU website to post various influenza related training</p>	<p>ON HOLD</p> <p>Update as</p>

		<p>the possible applications (eg. pre-requisite for an international training)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop recommendations on AI training - develop a train the trainers program - develop/compile common OFFLU training material (including videos) - develop a database of trainees (to be managed then by the OFFLU secretariat) - identify training needs based on overall PT results - envisage perspectives of common human health/animal health training and lab/epi training 		<p>materials that may be endorsed by OFFLU executive committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Posted videos on AI sampling procedures and lab techniques (IZSVe-FAO) (iii) Collection and posting of training materials available and potentially useful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e-learning course (Flu-Train), - several books - DVDs - other web-based trainings freely accessible (iv) Development and posting of the influenza chapter of an FAO glossary of new and updated diagnostic assays. Proposed as future OFFLU document 	needed
GP	RNA standard (Timm Harder)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop an RNA standard 	Universally usable RNA standard initially for H5 avian influenza virus targeted PCR assays	<p>FLI have developed an RNA standard. To obtain RNA standard contact tim.harder@fli.bund.de or Christian.grund@fli.bund.de and ask for RNA standards. Material can be supplied as run-off RNA transcripts at a fixed copy number (which may decrease upon shipping) or as plasmids for own production of run-off RNA. RNA is provided for the Spackman M1.2, the AHVLA recommended H5 and the FLI developed N1, NP and H7 assays.</p>	COMPLETED
No.	OFFLU projects and Leader	Purpose	Deliverables	Progress	Status
KH	Evaluation of a modified LAMP specific for H5-gene and testing its suitability under field	<p>Evaluation and validation of a modified LAMP in ready-to-go tubes with lyophilized Mastermix (provided by IAEA) with different H5-strains</p> <p>Further evaluation by boiling instead of conventional extraction and by use of water</p>	Robust and cheap diagnostic technology	<p>This OIE funded project started on 1 December 2010 and the final report submitted in October 2013.</p> <p>Final report posted on the website</p> <p>http://www.offlu.net/fileadmin/home/en/offlu-projects/pdf/offlu-lamp-final_report.pdf</p>	COMPLETED

	conditions (Anja Globig)	bath and SYBR Green for visualization Testing the efficacy of the LAMP in regional laboratories, e.g. Nepal, Ghana by use of region-specific H5-strains including training of lab-staff			
DS	An assessment of components of global avian influenza control programmes (David Swayne)	A comprehensive evaluation to identify the strengths and weaknesses of control strategies used in different countries and regions in varying contexts. A frame work describing which components should be considered for future control strategies.	Scientific and technical review and recommendations	Project completed. Findings presented to OFFLU. Two manuscripts on the project published in the OIE Scientific and Technical Review http://web.oie.int/boutique/extrait/18swayne839870.pdf http://web.oie.int/boutique/extrait/02pavade661671.pdf	COMPLETED
OFFLU focal point	OFFLU resources and Leader	Purpose	Deliverables	Progress	Status
GP	OFFLU information brochure	Leaflet to introduce about OFFLU and its activities	Nice colourful informative brochure	Completed http://www.offlu.net/fileadmin/home/en/about-us/pdf/OFFLUleaflet.pdf	COMPLETED
GP	OFFLU newsletter	To summarise OFFLU activities every year for wider dissemination	Annual report of OFFLU	2014 report published. http://www.offlu.net/fileadmin/home/en/publications/pdf/OFFLU_Annual_Report_2014.pdf	ON GOING
OFFLU -WHO focal point	Human-animal interface activities	Purpose	Deliverables	Progress	Next Actions
FC/GP/TB	Vaccine Composition Meetings	Contribution to the WHO Vaccine Composition Meeting	Biannual slides and report	OFFLU contributes biannually animal influenza data to WHO vaccine composition meetings for pandemic preparedness http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/characteristics_virus_vaccines/en/ OFFLU extend the collaboration of agreement on the contribution of animal health data for an additional period of five years	ON GOING