

OFFLU Technical Activities / Projects / Resources (updated September 2016)

OFFLU focal point	Technical Activity and Leader	Purpose	Deliverables	Progress	Status
GD/GP	Diagnostic activities (Ian Brown)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and extend ring trials for frontline diagnostics - Improved serological tools - Development of validated cell culture system for influenza A to reduce reliance on eggs - Facilitate dissemination and promote full rapid genome sequencing and latest tools for enhanced analyses 	Fit-for-purpose diagnostic test development, validation; proficiency testing/ring trials and experience sharing	A new three year plan for diagnostic technical activity was put forward by Dr Ian Brown, the team leader in the April 2015 OFFLU technical meeting at Athens, Georgia, USA	ONGOING
GD	Epidemiology (Dirk Pfeiffer)	<p><u>Risk Assessment</u></p> <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; <p><u>Surveillance</u></p> <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; 	<p>Consultancy advice as needed</p> <p>Publications</p>	<p>Earlier Applied epidemiology group outputs:</p> <p>Teleconference and guidance on issues around pH1N1 surveillance at the HAI http://offlu.net/OFFLU%20Site/survofflu_final.pdf</p> <p>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</p> <p>OFFLU animal influenza surveillance strategy document completed and posted on line http://offlu.net/OFFLU%20Site/OFFLUsurveillancepH1N1_180110.pdf</p>	<p>The concept note was approved by the Steering and Executive Committee.</p> <p>Concept note further refined by the team leader and awaited for further comments</p>
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 	<p>Consultancy advice as needed</p> <p>Publications</p>	Teleconferences conducted at regular intervals to share the situation update and action items followed up.	ONGOING

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 			
GP	<p>OFFLU Swine influenza virus group</p> <p>(Nicola Lewis/Marie Culhane)</p>	Coordinate and harmonise global swine influenza surveillance	OFFLU SIV group	<p>Fifth annual meeting held at OIE Headquarters in December 2015.</p> <p>The meeting minutes and presentations are being finalised for posting on the website.</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	<p>OFFLU Research Agenda</p> <p>(David Swayne)</p>	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 • 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 		<p>OFFLU vaccination technical meeting was conducted at Beijing during 4 – 6 December 2013.</p> <p>Meeting documents including recommendations of the meeting are posted on the OFFLU website http://www.offlu.net/index.php?id=303</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>Update as needed.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 			
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 PD	<p>MTAs and Code of Conduct and PIP framework</p> <p>(Peter Daniels)</p>	<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>In February 2016, OFFLU responded to The World Health Organization’s Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (PIP Framework) draft proposal on the best process for handling influenza genetic sequence data for submission to the World Health Assembly.</p> <p>Draft document entitled “Optimal characteristics of an influenza genetic sequence data sharing system under the PIP Framework</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>Discussion with WHO if needed</p>
9 GD	<p>Training</p> <p>(Giovanni Cattoli)</p>	<p>- draw lessons learnt in terms of AI testing training</p> <p>- develop/select e-learning systems and define the possible applications (eg. pre-requisite for an international training)</p>	<p>Training material Recommendations</p>	<p>Following activities carried out:</p> <p>(i) A specific training tab was created in the OFFLU website to post various influenza related training materials that may be endorsed by OFFLU executive committee</p> <p>(ii) Posted videos on AI sampling procedures and lab techniques (IZSve-FAO)</p>	<p>ON HOLD</p> <p>Update as needed</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 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 	
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
GP	<p>Evaluation of a modified LAMP specific for H5-gene and testing its suitability under field conditions</p> <p>(Anja Globig)</p>	<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 bath and SYBR Green for visualization</p> <p>Testing the efficacy of the LAMP in regional</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

		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
GD/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