



**OFFLU Steering and Executive Committee virtual meeting
20 January 2022 (13h – 14h Paris/Rome)**

1. OFFLU Executive Committee new member (all)

Dr Nicola Lewis completed her full term as member of the OFFLU Executive Committee in December 2021. The Committee proposed Dr Timm Harder from FLI, Germany as the new member to replace Dr Nicola Lewis.

Action: OFFLU Secretariat to write an official letter for agreement and confirmation from Timm Harder.

2. OFFLU Scientist recruitment status (Lidewij)

The job description for the OFFLU scientist post was drafted by FAO and ready to be posted. The Committee was asked to share the job description widely with suitable candidates.

3. WHO vaccine composition meetings (VCM) contribution for February 2022 (Amelia)

The deadline for the data collection for the February VCM 2022 was over and good submissions of sequence data from different contributors were received. The data collation is ongoing, and the analysed information will be presented in the OFFLU pre VCM teleconference planned next week with the contributors for comments. The Committee discussed the contributions from key affected countries of different regions and how to mobilize data using direct contacts with experts or through reference centres.

4. Poultry VCM concept update (Les Sims)

A two-page concept note on 'Characterisation of avian influenza viruses to support poultry vaccination (avian influenza vaccine antigen updates)' is being prepared for submission to USAID. The document will be shared with the OFFLU Steering/Executive committees and parent organisations for comments before submission.

Action: OFFLU Steering and Executive Committee to provide a quick round of comments once the concept note is circulated before submission

5. H9N2 nomenclature update (Frank)

IZSve, Italy is finalising the draft H9N2 nomenclature document for circulation to a small OFFLU expert group for comments. The Committee discussed the names of suitable experts previously considered and recommended to the IZSve covering the different regions including Asia.

Action: Dr Yanbing Li will inform the name of suitable expert from Harbin to include in this group

6. OFFLU PT update (Frank)

Final report of the OFFLU PT 2021 was disseminated to the eleven participants. Dr Les Sims added a one pager summary providing high level comments to the output of laboratory performance which was included as an annex to the original report. The PT report will also be shared with the OIE Biological Standards Commission in February 2022.

Action: OFFLU Secretariat to encourage the participation of new Reference Labs in Rep. of Korea and Egypt to participate in the next round.

7. OFFLU cleavage site document update (David/Amelia)

The OFFLU cleavage site document was updated in January 2022 and distributed to all the network contributors.

<https://www.offlu.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Influenza-A-Cleavage-Sites-Final-04-01-2022.pdf>

8. OFFLU network evaluation survey results (Amelia)

A survey was conducted to get feedback on OFFLU network current role and future directions from reference and national lab experts, contributors, parent and regional representatives, and other stakeholders who are involved in animal influenza and human-animal interface activities. The survey results were shared with the committees.

There was a general agreement that OFFLU network is very active and successful in its current role and objectives set which include diversity of technical experts; good expertise and communication; prompt sharing of data and publications, improved contributions to WHO vaccine composition meetings; harmonization of laboratory protocols and guidance to different laboratories.

Also, there were comments indicated that OFFLU could do more on providing training, facilitate exchange of biological materials, improve activities on epidemiology, surveillance, environmental aspects and research agenda; recommendations and guidelines on poultry AI vaccines; improve website for dissemination of influenza documents.

The committee noted that OFFLU cannot provide trainings directly as a network rather it can share the information on trainings offered by the network members. Currently the network is primarily serving as an open volunteer network and facilitates open discussion and sharing of information as reactive to emerging and important events. The survey results and expectations need to be carefully considered as OFFLU network does not have funding commitments for activities/projects to carry out some of the tasks mentioned. The Committee recommended that the outputs of the survey be consulted with the lead of OFFLU technical activities and concrete action plans be drafted.

Action: The Committee recommended to share the survey results with group leads of all technical activities to reflect and get their feedback and develop a plan of action to submit to the Committee for comments.

9. OFFLU annual report 2021 (Gounalan)

The OFFLU annual report 2021 is under preparation to highlight the network activities performed during the year 2021.

Action: To circulate the OFFLU annual report 2021 for OFFLU committee comments before finalization and dissemination.

10. AOB

Dr Swayne updated the Committee members on the progress of the meeting organized by International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS) on 'Vaccination strategies to prevent and control HPAI: Removing unnecessary barriers for usage' at OIE Headquarters in October 2022 (<https://www.iabs.org/documents/2022-meetings-and-webinars/hpai-high-pathogenicity-avian-influenza/program-iabs-hpai-meeting-october-2022/?layout=default>)