



OFFLU (WOAH-FAO Expertise on Animal Influenza) Meeting

23 June 2025

14:00–16:30

**At the venue of 11th International Symposium on Avian Influenza
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada**

The OFFLU (WOAH/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza) www.offlu.org is a global network of expertise aimed at sharing scientific evidence to support the prevention and control of animal influenza worldwide. It brings together experts from various disciplines, including the human/animal interface, applied epidemiology, and socioeconomics technical activities as well as the avian, wildlife, equine and swine influenza groups. The network plays a crucial role in enhancing global preparedness and response to influenza outbreaks.

Utilizing the opportunity of 11th International Symposium on Avian influenza, St. John, Canada, where a number of influenza experts are expected to attend from various disciplines, OFFLU hosts a special half-day side meeting on 23rd June (14h – 16.30h) at the same venue.

Agenda of the meeting:

https://www.offlu.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Agenda_OFFLU-Workshop-ISAI-2025-final.pdf

Purpose of the meeting:

1. To inform the value and outputs of key OFFLU activities
2. Open discussion with participants to optimize support for stakeholders involved in influenza management at global, regional and national levels
3. Strengthen collaboration among experts
4. Discuss future research topics and proposals for OFFLU network
5. Build new partnerships with pharma for HPAI vaccines

Who can attend: The OFFLU meeting is open to all, those active in network and also to others who might like to get involved or have a passing interest in a topic(s)/work we do.

Confirm attendance: By sending an email to secretariat@offlu.org with your professional details by 1 June 2025. We sincerely hope that you will join us in this important dialogue.

Kind regards,

Professor Ian Brown, Chairman of OFFLU Steering Committee

Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom



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11th International Symposium on Avian Influenza

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

14:00–14:05 (5 min) – Welcome and Opening Remarks

14:05–14:15 (10 min) – 20 Years of the OFFLU Network

Presenter: Ian Brown (Chairman of OFFLU Steering Committee)

A retrospective on two decades of OFFLU's contributions to animal influenza research, highlighting how the network has grown and adapted to the dynamic epidemiology of the virus over time.

14:15–14:35 (20 min) – OFFLU Contribution to WHO Vaccine Composition Meetings

Presenter: Francesco Bonfante & Lorcan Carnegie (OFFLU Scientist)

Insight into OFFLU's role in WHO vaccine composition meetings for recommending zoonotic influenza candidate vaccine viruses. The presentation will also outline future directions to strengthen this contribution.

14:35–15:15 – OFFLU Avian Influenza Matching (AIM) for Poultry Vaccines (20 min presentation and 20min stakeholder panel discussion)

Presenters: Ashley Banyard & Lorcan Carnegie (OFFLU Scientist)

An overview of the AIM initiative, focusing on antigenic characterization of contemporary avian influenza strains. The session will emphasize maximizing impact on animal health through close collaboration with industry stakeholders.

15:15–15:20 (5 min) – Quick Break

15:20–15:50 (30 min) – OFFLU Nomenclature and Genotyping

H5 Global Genotyping Tool (10 min presentation and 5 min open discussion)

Presenter: Erik Karlsson (Chair of OFFLU Avian Technical Working Group)

Introduction to the global H5 genotyping tool currently being developed under the OFFLU consortium, including the approach for a standardized naming system and strategies for regular genotype updates.

H9 Global Nomenclature (10 min presentation and 5 min open discussion)

Presenter: Alice Fusaro

Overview of the proposal for a global classification and nomenclature system for A/H9 influenza viruses, including the tooling developed and recently endorsed by OFFLU.

15:50–16:10 (20 min) – OFFLU Wildlife Group Updates

Presenter: Marcela Uhart

Insights into recent outputs from the Wildlife Group, including an overview of the impact of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on wild bird populations and updated guidance on wildlife surveillance approaches.

16:10–16:30 (20 min) – Open Discussion

Final discussion on the presented topics. Attendees will have the opportunity to propose future research directions and identify areas for strengthened collaboration across the OFFLU network. An opportunity for institutes/colleagues not currently active in OFFLU to raise topics where they might support.