

Swine Influenza Technical Activities – Meeting Notes from 18 April 2018 meeting in Brighton, England

Co-Chairs: Taki Saito, National Institute of Animal Health, Japan
Marie Culhane, University of Minnesota, USA

Group Updates

Amy Vincent – USDA, USA

Evolutionary genetics, surveillance, antigenic cartography, interspecies transmission and vaccine studies

Sharon Brookes – APHA, UK

Swine surveillance (free farmer diagnostics and characterization), EU IAV-Sw projects, IAV-Sw toolbox development, intra- and interspecies transmission exp

Taki Saito – Japan

Nat'l lab for IAV-av and –sw – passive and active surveillance, vaccine studies in sw, collaboration with Thailand and Vietnam (SE Asia)

Frank Wong – Australia

OIE reference focal point for avian flu, border biosecurity (SE Asia), IAV-sw since 2009, officially since 2012 and IAV-Sw notifiable but not exotic

Lars Larsen – Denmark

Mink and swine flu, wildlife and sea mammals, passive surveillance paid for by farmer and further characterization paid for by DK gov't, vaccine efficacy studies, transitioning

Tianna Brand - OIE/OFFLU focal point

Joyce Jones – CDC

Zoonotic flu virus surveillance and diagnostics

Clement Meseko – Africa

IAV-Sw and Avian research and surveillance, increasing capacity in Africa for multiple species aff

Gaelle Simon – France

Swine virology and reference lab for IAV-S, active swine surveillance in cooperation with the gov't and farmers together, pathogenicity, immune response, and epidemiology

Kristien Van Reeth – Belgium

IAV-swine surveillance, pathogenesis and vaccination studies, and av→sw transmission and virology education

Nicola Lewis – UK – APHA, Cambridge

Antigenic cartography

Sabrina Swenson USA – stepping down from OFFLU and new member will be John Schiltz of USDA NVSL

– The reference laboratory for IAV-Sw

Ariel Pereda – Argentina

-Together with Janice Ciacci-Zanella (Brazil): they have made significant progress in forming a Latin American group of researchers from Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, and Mexico and are seeking out researchers that could represent Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Uruguay and Paraguay.

One Year Objectives:

Swine Technical Activities Group Annual Meeting

- To take place in November 2019
- Funding?
- Venue – likely Paris, France due to funding and group consensus.

OFFLU Swine Document Updates

- Surveillance algorithm
 - GS and SS/JS to review what needs to be done. It will be important to look at whether or not the current human seasonal H3 strains will be picked up by swine assays as described in the current algorithm.
- Technical Disease Card - KVR and YKC to update the card in 1 year. The card can be found at http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Health_in_the_World/docs/pdf/Disease_cards/SWINE_INFLUENZA.pdf

FAO document updates

- If they need updating, the Swine TA Group would be available to help.
 - TB to reach out to FAO.

Swine H3 Nomenclature tool development and launch

- AV will alert the group when the H3 nomenclature tool is released and the group will promote its use in publication and characterization of viruses.

Support WHO VCM as needed

- The WHO VCM is typically very focused on avian-to-human transmission of IAV but swine-to-human transmission of IAV is also important. The OFFLU Swine Technical Activities (TA) annual global update on predominant IAV strains circulating in swine are shared with the WHO VCM representative (which usually focuses on swine-to-human IAV strains and information on antigenic relatedness)
 - FW will consult with TD and RW to determine what more or different information they need from the OFFLU Swine TA group and what sort of format they would like that information. Are a global tree and summary table sufficient? We need to determine if reporting new reassortments or outliers is desirable. MC and TS to check in with FW in July 2018.

Three Year Objectives:

Share Human proficiency virus panel with Swine labs

- Develop a regional approach to share Swine proficiency virus panels with Human labs and vice versa

Promotion of collaborations between national and regional laboratories in South America and Asia

- Develop a plan to have more collaboration between veterinary laboratories in large continents
- The first South American meeting is planned for October 2018 to promote the OFFLU activities in the region

OFFLU Swine Poster and Promotion of OFFLU Swine Activities at International Swine Meetings:

- Note the original intent was to promote swine surveillance at places where surveillance is needed; advocate for surveillance. Therefore, one of our three-year objectives is to obtain an exhibitor table at the 2020 International Pig Veterinary Society Meeting in Brazil.

Continuous (Ongoing) Objectives:

- Promote IAV-sw surveillance in areas in under surveilled areas in light of diminishing funding sources.
 - There are gaps in available surveillance, viruses and reagents from swine important regions. Support from advocates within the OFFLU Executive and Steering Committees as well as from OIE and FAO are needed to recruit a committed swine disease expert from critically important regions (e.g. parts of Asia, and Central America).
- Reagent Sharing
 - Reagent sharing is encouraged and supported. The OFFLU Swine group will continue to share best practices for long distance (global) transport of viruses (peruse alternatives to dry ice are perhaps only successful when there is high titer to start with) on an ad hoc basis.
 - Note that within and between countries, animal health to public health lab sharing of reagents occurs periodically and the directionality of movement is occasionally cumbersome. Even when there is a collaborating agreement, customs and import (courier) issues may exist.