



OFFLU meeting
18 April 2018
Brighton, UK

Taki Saito

National Institute of Animal Health, Japan

**Swine Influenza Technical
Activities**



Background considerations

- **What opportunities does the OFFLU network offer to investigators, that would not be available to institutions working alone, or regionally?**
 - Sharing ideas and being productive, scientific advantages especially when we focus on things that are useful and advance our flu surveillance, control, treatment and research
- **How is any activity going to be conceived, planned, coordinated, implemented and reported**
 - Focus on fewer things that can be delivered in a reasonable time (with a timeline provided) and useful
- **What are the resources already available?**
 - Home institution support
- **What advocacy or changes of approach are needed ?**
 - Evaluate assignments by more frequent check ins (calls) to re-evaluate

Swine TA breakout session brainstorming

- 1) activities that the Swine TA network will undertake
 - 1) Stating the need and the potential benefit to be gained from the activity
- 2) The members or institutions who will lead:
 - 1) Consider allocating tasks and agreeing timelines
- 3) Ideally each TA will develop a workplan or plans that indicate(s)
 - Action items (what/who/when)
 - 1 year objectives
 - 3 year objectives

Group Updates

- Amy Vincent – USDA, USA
 - Evolutionary genetics, surveillance, antigenic cartography, interspecies transmission and vaccine studies
- Sharon Brooke – 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

Group Updates

- **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

Group Updates

- Nicola Lewis – UK – APHA, RVC
 - 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

OFFlu Swine Document Updates

- Surveillance algorithm – One Year Goal
 - Gaelle and Sabrina/John to review what needs to be done
 - Important to look at whether or not the current human seasonal H3 strains will be picked up by swine assays
 - Ultimate/Futuristic Goal – Three Year Goal????
 - Share Human proficiency virus panel with Swine labs – likely needs a regional approach if we are to share Swine proficiency virus panel with Human labs

OFFlu Swine Document Updates

- Technical Disease Card
- Poster – does it need to be updated??
 - Original intent was to promote swine surveillance at places where surveillance is needed; advocate for surveillance
 - Three year plan for Amy for 2020 IPVS Brazil
 - Independent from private sector but okay to be in reference laboratory/reference research tables
 - Ultimate goal to promote IAV-sw surveillance in areas in under surveilled areas (funding sources diminishing) so advocacy is important. Raise this back up to the Executive Committee

OFFlu Swine Doc

- Technical Disease Card - KVR and YKC to update in 1 year
http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Health_in_the_World/docs/pdf/Disease_cards/SWINE_INFLUENZA.pdf
- FAO documents
 - If they need updating, the Swine TA Group would be available to help

Reagent Sharing

- Encouraged and supported
 - Will continue 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
- USA to Australia, to Japan, to Belgium, to France
- Belgium to UK, France to USA
- Within and between country, 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.
- Gaps exist in available viruses and reagents from swine important regions – global support needed on that and championed by Exec committee and FAO liaison, committed swine disease expert from critically important regions needed on

National / Regional Laboratory Collaboration

- Linking in South America
- Linking in Asia
- Develop a three year plan to do this
 - Whole group but with FAO lead
- Will require a funding source (funding for IAV-sw surveillance is diminishing)

WHO VCM

- Support WHO VCM as needed
 - Typically very focused on avian → human but swine → human also important
 - Our annual global update on predominant IAV strains circulating in swine are shared with the WHO VCM representative (which usually focuses on sw→hu strains and information on antigenic relatedness)
 - Frank Wong will consult with Todd Davis and Richard Webby to determine what more or different information they need from the swine TA group and what sort of format they would like that information. Is this a good idea? Reporting new reassortments or outliers etc? Global tree and summary table. – Check in with Frank in July