Newly designated OIE Reference Centres and their areas of expertise

**OIE Collaborating Centres**

**Biological Threat Reduction**  
Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD)  
1500 Research Parkway, Suite 130B, College Station, Texas 77843-2129, USA  
Tel. +1-979 845 26 55; Fax +1-979 845 65 74  
E-mail: fazd@ag.tamu.edu; TBeckham@tvmdl.tamu.edu  
Website: http://iiad.tamu.edu/risk101/

As an OIE Collaborating Centre with the specialty of biological threat reduction, the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, a member of the Texas A&M University System, carries out research to develop decision-support technologies, workforce-development and capacity-building programmes, and diagnostic tools. These are all designed to strengthen early detection, rapid response and quick recovery in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

**Food-Borne Parasites from the Asia–Pacific Region**  
Institute of Zoonosis, Jilin University  
5333 Xian Road, 130062 Changchun, People’s Republic of China  
Tel. +86-431 87 83 67 02  
E-mail: liumy@jlu.edu.cn; liumy36@163.com  
Website: www.jluhp.edu.cn/zuzhijigou/yanjusuo/

This centre has the independent capabilities and skills to perform diagnostic tests and to characterise parasites transmitted by food: helminths (*Trichinella* sp., cysticercosis, *Clonorchis* sinensis) and protozoa (*Toxoplasma*, *Cryptosporidium*). It also works to develop new diagnostic methods and produce reference reagents. Moreover, it can provide training, expertise and scientific and technical support to laboratories in the People’s Republic of China and other countries in the Asia–Pacific region, if requested; as well as advising on national or regional control policies and related educational material at the national or regional level.

**Food-Borne Zoonotic Parasites from the European Region**  
Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l’alimentation, de l’environnement et du travail (ANSES)  
27-31 avenue du Général Leclerc, 94701 Maisons-Alfort, France  
Tel. +33 (0)1 49 77 13 50; Fax +33 (0)1 49 77 26 26  
E-mail: isabelle.vallee@ANSES.fr; questions@ANSES.fr
Food Safety

A tri-partner consortium formed by:

Veterinary Public Health Centre (VPHC), Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA)
10 Perahu Road, Singapore 718837, Singapore
Tel. +65-6795 2832; Fax +65-6861 9491
E-mail: Chua_Tze_Hoong@ava.gov.sg
Website: www.ava.gov.sg/FoodSector/FoodTestingAndCertification/TestingOfFoodAndFoodProd/

Division of Health and Environment Sciences (DHES), School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University
582 Bunkyoudai-Midorimachi, Ebetsu, Hokkaido 069-8501, Japan
Tel. +81-11 388 47 61
E-mail: kmakita@rakuno.ac.jp
Website: www.rakuno.ac.jp/dep05/

and the current OIE Collaborating Centre:

Research Center for Food Safety (RCFS), Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo
Yayoi 1-1-1, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 113-8657, Japan
Tel. +81 50 37 97 18 60; Fax +81 48 600 2372
E-mail: aksugiur@mail.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Website: www.frc.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp

This Collaborating Centre is a tri-partner consortium. Its aim is to promote food safety; in particular, food safety at the animal production phase in Asia. It provides services to OIE Member Countries in food safety risk assessment; food-borne zoonoses; antimicrobial resistance; the analysis of chemical, biological and physical hazards in food; and other food safety issues, through collaborative research, technical cooperation and workshops.

Laboratory Biorisk Management

Sandia National Laboratories, International Biological Threat Reduction Program
10600 Research Road SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123, USA
Tel. +1-505 284 94 89; Fax +1-505 284 06 09
E-mail: jmgaudi@sandia.gov
Website: www.biosecurity.sandia.gov/ibtr/home.html

This centre will support the OIE’s mission by providing expertise in laboratory biorisk (biosafety and biosecurity) for facilities that handle animal and zoonotic pathogens and for associated field work. Specific examples of SNL/IBTR’s technical assistance include risk assessments, risk-based laboratory design, programming, master planning, and the implementation of biorisk management systems. SNL/IBTR has an extensive library of training modules and customisable templates, among other tools, that an international facility can use to develop a sustainable biorisk management program based on the facility’s specific needs, risk assessments, local national and international regulations and guidelines, and the resources available.

From left to right: Dr Chua Tze Hoong (VPHC, AVA, Singapore), Dr Kohei Makita (DHES, Japan), Dr Paul Chiew King Tiong (VPHC, AVA, Singapore) and Prof. Katsuaki Sugiura (RCFS, Japan)
Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

A consortium formed by

China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC), Ministry of Agriculture
369 Nanjing Road, Qingdao 266032, People’s Republic of China
Tel. +86-532 85 63 72 37; Fax +86-532 85 65 37 16
E-mail: huangbx@cahec.cn; huangbaoxu@hotmail.com
Website: www.cahec.cn

and the current OIE Collaborating Centre

EpiCentre, Massey University
P/Bag 11 222, Palmerston North 4442, New Zealand
Tel. +64-6 35 05 195
E-mail: T.E.Carpenter@massey.ac.nz;
N.P.French@massey.ac.nz
Website: http://epicentre.massey.ac.nz

CAHEC specialises in animal disease prevention and control strategies; animal health policy and the evaluation of animal health status; outbreak investigation for emerging animal diseases and zoonoses; risk analysis for transboundary animal diseases; value chain analysis and eco-zone approaches to the control of diseases and management of animal movements.
CAHEC will provide training on veterinary epidemiology for veterinarians in the field, give technical support for epidemiology research, and conduct multilateral collaborations on epidemiological approaches for all OIE Member Countries.

Veterinary Public Health

PANAFTOSA-Pan American Health Organization, Veterinary Public Health
Av. Governador Leonel de Moura Brizola 7778, Parque São Bento, CEP 25040-004, Duque de Caxias, RJ, Brazil
Tel. +55 21 36 61 90 02; Fax +55 21 36 61 90 01
E-mail: cosivio@paho.org; cosivio@panaftosa.ops-oms.org
Website: www2.paho.org/panaftosa

Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics

Medical Research Council, University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (CVR)
464 Bearsden Road, Glasgow G61 1QH, United Kingdom
Tel. +44-141 330 25 41
E-mail: Massimo.Palmarini@glasgow.ac.uk
Website: www.bioinformatics.cvr.ac.uk

This centre will specialise in developing bioinformatic tools and providing training in their application to facilitate the open sharing and analysis of viral genomic data across the animal health community.
Aquatic animal diseases

Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus
Laboratorio de Patología Acuícola, Laboratorio de Genética e Inmunología Molecular, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso
Avda. Universidad 330, Curauma, Valparaíso, Chile
Tel. +56-32 227 48 28
E-mail: smarshal@ucv.cl; diagnostico@ucv.cl
Designated reference expert: Dr Sergio Hernán Marshall González

This Reference Laboratory specialises in the diagnosis, surveillance, prevention and control of infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV). Molecular tools for accurate and reproducible diagnoses have been developed and validated, including all forms of polymerase chain reaction (conventional, real-time reverse-transcription, in situ); high-resolution melting (HRM) and denaturant gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE); together with the design, synthesis and validation of peptide and nucleic acid probes. Research to understand the biology of the virus infection is also carried out.

White spot disease
College of Bioscience and Biotechnology, National Cheng Kung University
No.1, University Road, Tainan City 701, Chinese Taipei
Tel. +886-6 275.75.75 ext. 31010; Fax +886-6 208.36.63
E-mail: gracelow@mail.ncku.edu.tw
Designated reference expert: Dr Grace Lo

This laboratory provides OIE Member Countries with reference materials for the diagnosis of white spot disease, as well as providing consultations on its control. To develop potentially useful measures to control white spot disease, the laboratory often develops partnerships with public institutions and the private sector within OIE Member Countries to collaborate on the following research topics:

a) the strategies evolved by white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) to thwart host defences and ensure successful virus replication in cells
b) analysis of the WSSV viral protein interaction networks and the stress response induction mechanisms in shrimp, and
c) the development of platform technologies and resources for studying WSSV itself and WSSV-host interactions to advance our understanding of WSSV and the pathogenesis of WSSV infection.

The OIE and its partners
Terrestrial animal diseases

Avian chlamydiosis (Chlamydia psittaci)
Laboratory for Immunology and Animal Biotechnology, Ghent University, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Department of Molecular Biotechnology
Coupure links, 653, 9000 Ghent, Belgium
Tel. +32-09 264 59 72; Fax +32-09 264 62 19
E-mail: Daisy.Vanrompay@ugent.be
Designated reference expert: Prof. Dr Daisy Vanrompay

This laboratory specialises in Chlamydia psittaci diagnosis, pathogenesis, prevention and vaccine development. Different culture techniques (embryonated eggs and various cell cultures) are available, as are molecular and serological tools, such as real-time PCR for specific detection of the agent and genotyping, and recombinant enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for antibody detection in various bird species. An important part of the work is providing consultancy and training to veterinarians and students.

Peste des petits ruminants
National Diagnostic Center for Exotic Animal Diseases (CEAD), China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC)
369 Nanjing Road, Qingdao 266032, People’s Republic of China
Tel. +86-532 87 83 91 88; Fax +86-532 87 83 99 22
E-mail: wangzhiliang@cahec.cn; zwang111@163.com
Designated reference expert: Dr Zhiliang Wang

CEAD drafted the first national PPR surveillance and control plan, which is modified annually. Diagnostic kits are also provided, as well as national and international training.

Leishmaniosis
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia (IZSSI), Centro di Referenza Nazionale per le Leishmaniosi (C.Re.Na.L.)
Via Gino Marinuzzi 3, 90129, Palermo, Italy
Tel. +39-091 656 53 68; Fax +39-091 656 35 68
E-mail: fabrizio.vitale@izssicilia.it
Designated reference expert: Dr Fabrizio Vitale

This laboratory has held the role of National Reference Centre for Animal Leishmaniosis since 2003. As a new OIE Reference Laboratory, IZSSI has the capability to perform the serological tests (indirect fluorescent antibody test, ELISA) and molecular diagnostic tests (including real-time PCR) applied to animal leishmaniosis, such as the isolation and characterisation of strains. IZSSI uses its expertise to carry out research and confirmatory diagnostics on animals and also produces reference materials. It has an inter-laboratory proficiency testing programme and surveillance plans for the prevention and control of animal leishmaniosis.

Babesiosis and Theileriosis
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia (IZSSI), Centro di Referenza Nazionale per Anaplasma, Babesia, Rickettsia e Theileria (C.R.A.Ba.R.T.)
Via Gino Marinuzzi 3, 90129, Palermo, Italy
Tel. +39-091 656 53 41 ext. 219; Fax +39-091 656 53 35
E-mail: santo.caracappa@izssicilia.it
Designated reference expert: Dr Santo Caracappa

The activities of the OIE Reference Laboratory for Babesiosis include the use of diagnostic tools validated according to OIE standards, the development of procedures to increase the availability of diagnostic tests to identify pathogens, and research aimed at improving the performance
The Reference Laboratory for Theileriosis employs diagnostic methodologies validated according to OIE standards, develops new procedures to increase the availability of diagnostic tests to identify pathogens unequivocally, and conducts research on epidemiological surveys.

**Rabies**

**Centro Nacional de Servicios de Diagnóstico en Salud Animal (CENASA), Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA)**

Km 37.5 Carretera Federal México-Pachuca, 55740 Tecámac, Estado de México, Mexico

Tel. +52-55 5905 1000 ext. 53002

E-mail: juan_montano@virologiahoy.org; juan.montano@senasica.gob.mx

Designated reference expert:

**Dr Juan Antonio Montaño Hirose**

This laboratory conducts serological evaluations of vaccinated pets and has the capability to evaluate the efficacy of various national vaccination campaigns, whether bovine or canine.

CENASA also has expertise in the molecular tests applied to rabies diagnosis and genomic characterisation, as well as in epidemiological analysis of rabies cases for control purposes. The general goals of this laboratory are to collaborate with the diagnostic laboratories in Central America, to distribute an international standard for veterinary rabies vaccine produced in Mexico, and to improve our knowledge of the epidemiology of bovine rabies transmitted by vampire bats in Latin America.

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**Self-declaration by New Zealand of freedom from infection with equine arteritis virus**

submitted to the OIE on 24 June 2014, by Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New Zealand to the OIE, Director, Animal and Animal Products, Ministry for Primary Industries, Wellington

**History of infection with equine arteritis virus in New Zealand**

Equine arteritis virus (EAV) was first determined to be present in horses in New Zealand in 1988. The release of the virus was considered to have occurred from horses imported from North America. A serological survey carried out in 1989 showed that the virus had been circulating widely in the standardbred sector with 54% (95% confidence interval [CI], 45–63%) of standardbreds testing serologically positive. A low level of seropositivity was also detected in the thoroughbreds, with 3% testing positive using the virus neutralisation test (VNT) to antibody for EAV.