RINDERPEST POST-ERADICATION:
IMPLICATIONS FOR LABORATORIES

**B. SCHMITT**
Biochemical Standards Commission, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Paris, France

Rinderpest was declared as eradicated world-wide in May and June, 2011, by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Animal Health Organisation (OIE). This was the first time a pathogen of great veterinary consequence was eradicated from a livestock population on a worldwide basis. This enormous achievement has led to subsequent concerns regarding the location and biosecurity of rinderpest virus holdings around the globe. In 2011, the FAO/OIE convened a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) on rinderpest to specifically address these concerns by moving towards sequestration of and limited research with the virus in a few selected facilities as supported by OIE Resolution 18 from May, 2011. The JAC has developed criteria, submission and evaluation materials for laboratories that are interested in becoming rinderpest virus holding facilities and for applications for research with the virus. Applications for holding facilities are being evaluated per OIE Resolution 23 and inspections are anticipated to commence this year. Rinderpest virus holding laboratories will be jointly approved by the FAO and OIE with an expectation that rinderpest virus in non-approved facilities will be moved to these facilities for safe keeping or be destroyed. The overall intent of these activities is to protect the world’s cattle population from re-introduction of this devastating disease.