OIE Collaborating Centres Reports Activities

Activities in 2015

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Title of collaborating centre:	Research, Diagnosis and Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens
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Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (formally OIE Contact Point):	Jonathan Sleeman, MA, VetMB, Dipl. ACZM, Dipl. ECZM, MRCVS Center Director USGS, National Wildlife Health Center 6006 Schroeder Road Madison, WI 53711 Tel: (608) 270 2401 Fax: (608) 270 2415 Email: jsleeman@usgs.gov
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ToR: To provide services to the OIE, in particular within the region, in the designated specialty, in support of the implementation of OIE policies and, where required, seek for collaboration with OIE Reference Laboratories

ToR: To identify and maintain existing expertise, in particular within its region

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by the OIE

Epidemiology, surveillance, risk assessment, modelling	
Title of activity	**Scope**
Avian Influenza Surveillance by the NWHC	In 2015, the USGS National Wildlife Health Center tested 1,133 birds as part of the US avian mortality surveillance program. From these tests, 160 birds were avian influenza virus (AIV) matrix gene-positive, including 20 that were positive for the AIV H5 gene; 15 of which were positive for the icA group of highly pathogenic AIVs. In addition, we performed 1,260 RT-PCR tests for AIV in support of Departments of Interior and Agriculture initiated surveillance in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. From these tests, 174 samples were AIV matrix gene-positive, including 21 that were positive for the H5 gene and four that were positive for H7. Eleven of the H5-positive samples were positive for the icA group of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses. The NWHC also participated in the US Government Interagency Avian Influenza Surveillance Program and testing results will be reported by the US Department of Agriculture.
Training, capacity building	
Title of activity	**Scope**
Expert Consultation to the Republic of Korea	(NWHC) National Wildlife Health Center Director Jonathan Sleeman conducted a 5-month detail at Seoul National University in South Korea. Dr. Sleeman conducted research on a nationwide wildlife disease risk analysis to assess disease risks to Korea. Dr. Sleeman's work resulted in transfer of knowledge and skills to Korea which will assist them in managing wildlife diseases that affect the Korean Peninsula.
Vaccines	
Title of activity	**Scope**

Field Trials of a Recombinant Vaccine for Sylvatic Plague in Prairie Dogs	The USGS National Wildlife Health Center, along with numerous state and federal partners, completed the third year of a four-year field study on the efficacy of a recombinant oral sylvatic plague vaccine (SPV) for prairie dogs. In 2015, over 100,000 baits containing either SPV or a placebo were distributed at 29 paired sites (58 prairie dog colonies) in 12 locations in 7 western states, covering more than 2200 acres. Prairie dog survival and population densities will be compared between SPV and placebo treated pairs. Concurrent evaluations are being conducted in associated small rodents that also consume the baits.

ToR : To propose or develop methods and procedures that facilitate harmonisation of international standards and guidelines applicable to the designated specialty

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the surveillance and control of animal diseases, food safety or animal welfare

Proposal title	Scope/Content	Applicable area
US National Response to White-Nose Syndrome in Bats	The USGS National Wildlife Health Center serves on the Executive and Steering Committees of the US National Plan for the Management of White-Nose Syndrome. The NWHC also Chairs the Diagnostic Working Group to standardize diagnostic testing for this disease.	☒Surveillance and control of animal diseases ☐Food safety ☐Animal welfare

ToR: To establish and maintain a network with other OIE Collaborating Centres designated for the same specialty, and should the need arise, with Collaborating Centres in other disciplines

ToR: To carry out and/or coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other centres, laboratories or organisations

3. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other OIE Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of OIE CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
The NWHC and CWHC are in consortium as a joint Collaborating Centre	Saskatoon, Canada and Madison, Wisconsin, USA	☐Africa ☒Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East	We have several joint activities including the NWHC serving on the CWHC Executive Committee and the NWHC had a representative attend the CWHC Annual Meeting 4/22-23/2015, represented the Center,to discuss current wildlife health topics, and present a science update to attendees. This meeting was held in Abbotsford, Canada.

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other OIE Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of OIE CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas National Veterinary Services Laboratories	Ames, Iowa, USA	☐Africa ☒Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East	The USGS National Wildlife Health Center serves on the US Interagency Wild Bird Avian Influenza Steering Committee to standardize surveillance for this disease and also serves as an affiliate member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network to standardize diagnostic testing for this disease.

ToR: To place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE.

5. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE?

Yes

Name of expert	Kind of consultancy	Subject
Frederick (Ted) Leighton	OIE wildlife working group	Wildlife disease

ToR: To provide, within the designated specialty, scientific and technical training to personnel from OIE Member Countries

6. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by the OIE, to personnel from OIE Member Countries?

Yes
a) Technical visits: 0
b) Seminars: 2
c) Hands-on training courses: 0
d) Internships (>1 month): 5

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Content	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
b	NWHC co-hosted a 1/2 day symposium on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in North America at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference (Winnipeg, Manitoba) in October 2015 in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services, and several state wildlife agencies (WA, OR, MN). Speakers from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the US Dept. of Interior One Health Group also participated. The symposium was co-sponsored by the TWS Wildlife Disease Working Group.	USA and Canada	100

ToR: To organise and participate in scientific meetings and other activities on behalf of the OIE

7. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE?

No

ToR: To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate data and information relevant to the designated specialty

8. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by the OIE that may be useful to Member Countries of the OIE

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals: 105

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Counihan, K. L. Skerratt, J. C.Franson, T.Hollmen. 2015. Phylogenetic and pathogenic characterization of novel adenoviruses from long-tailed ducks (Clangula hyemalis). Virology (485) 393-401.

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