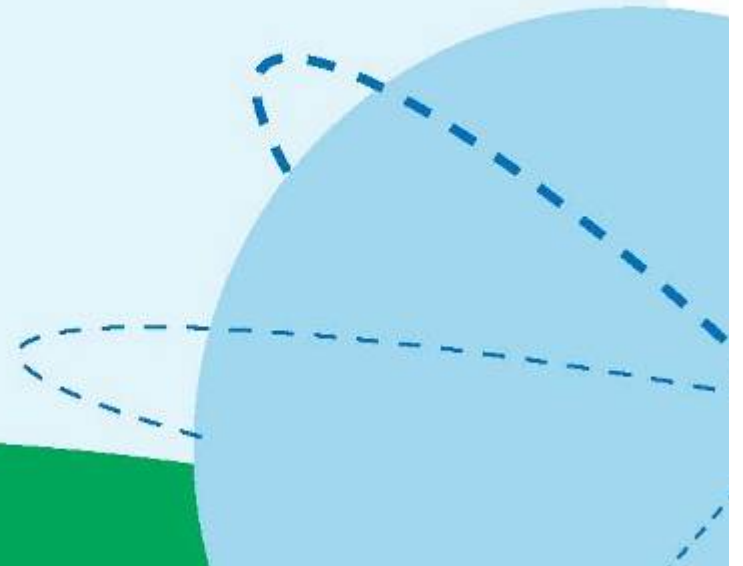


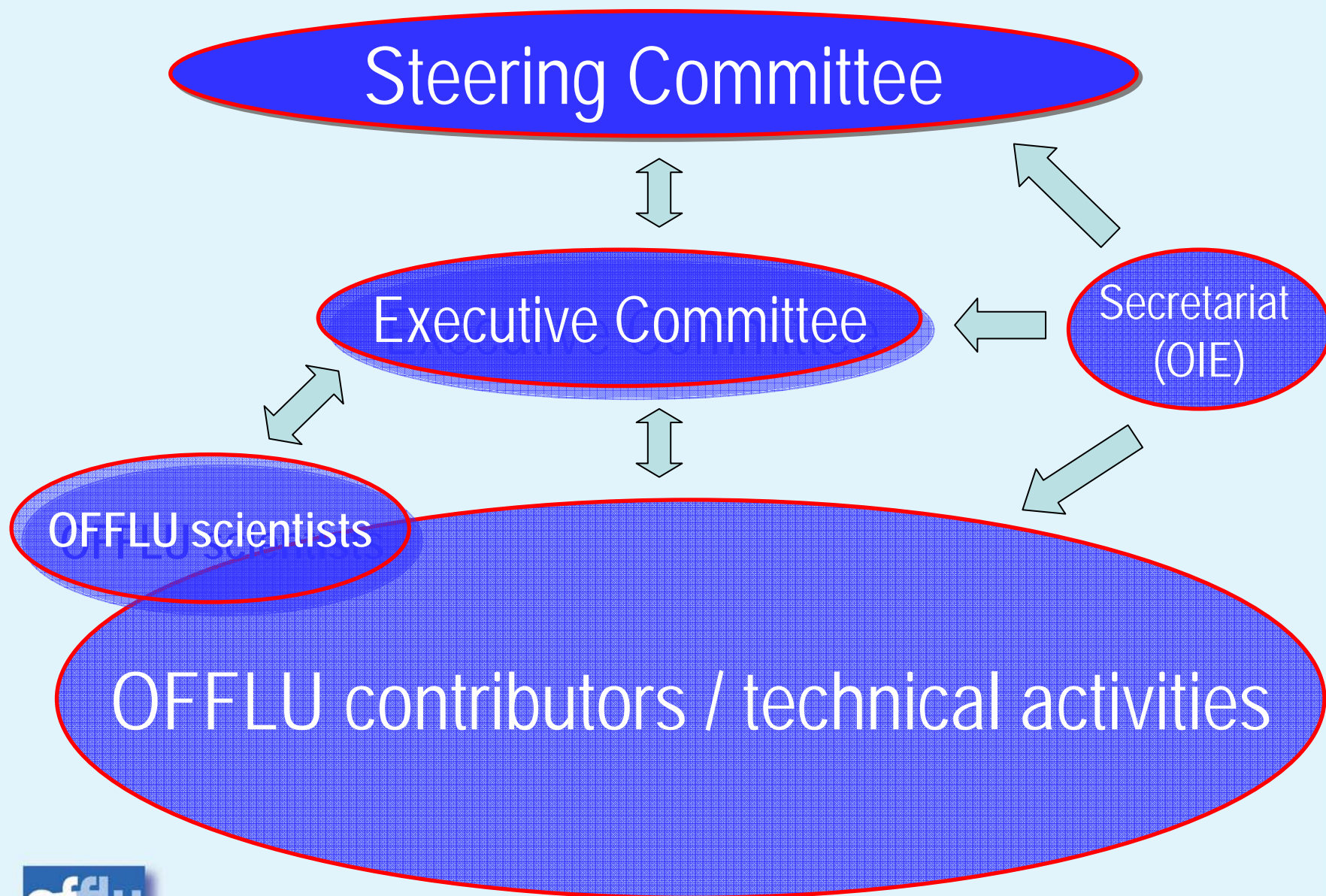


Keith Hamilton
OIE Scientific and Technical Department,
OIE Paris



OFFLU Objectives

- To exchange scientific data and biological materials (including virus strains) within the network, to analyse such data, and to share the information with the wider scientific community
- To offer technical advice and veterinary expertise to Member Countries to assist in the prevention, diagnosis, surveillance and control of animal influenza
- To collaborate with the WHO influenza network on issues relating to the animal-human interface, including early preparation of human vaccine
- To highlight animal influenza research needs, promote their development and ensure co-ordination.



OFFLU technical activities

- Have a purpose
- Provide results - answers, guidance, diagnostic reagents...
- Strengthen links within the animal health network and with the human health network
- Lead to exchanges of information and material

OFFLU technical activities

- Each is a small group of leading experts from the network
- Address pertinent issues or questions specific to influenza that are identified by experts
- Function on a temporary or ongoing basis
- Flexible

OFFLU technical activities

- Biosafety and biosecurity*
- Applied epidemiology*
- Animal – human interface*
- Diagnostic kits
- Standard H5 sera
- RNA standard*
- Vaccination
- Proficiency testing*

* activities which involve WHO

Collaboration with WHO

- Ongoing
- Several of the technical activities
- Joint technical discussions (A/H1N1)
- Reciprocal involvement in meetings
- Good day to day dialogue

Sharing of information and material

- OIE Resolution
- Encourage the use of several publicly available databases
- Ongoing collaborative projects and exchanges
- Supporting shipment of materials
- MTA available on OFFLU website
- Role of the OFFLU Scientists

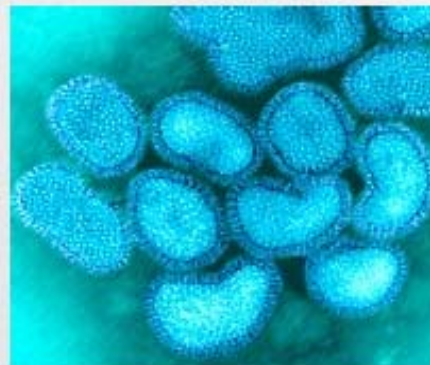
OFFLU	+
Technical activities	+
Influenza sequence databases	+
Sharing of information and material	+
HPAI HA0 cleavage site - aa sequences	+
Avian influenza diagnostics	+
Diagnosis of influenza in swine	+
Influenza Laboratories	+
Outbreak information	+
Biosafety guidance	+
Vaccination in birds	+
Animal-human interface	+
Training	+
OFFLU meetings	+
Links	+



About OFFLU



OFFLU is the joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on influenza, established in 2005 to support international efforts to monitor and control infections of avian influenza in poultry and other bird species, and to share biological material and data to support early development of human pandemic vaccines. With the emergence of H1N1 virus in humans in 2009, containing genetic components similar to swine and avian elements, the network resources are being mobilised to support international efforts to combat this new threat. OFFLU will strengthen links within our animal health network and will collaborate with the existing WHO influenza network on all matters relevant to public health



News:

[A/H1N1-Mobilising OFFLU](#)

[A/H1N1-Publicly Available](#)

[Databases](#)

[A/H1N1-List of Diagnostic](#)

[Laboratories](#)

[Phylogenetics](#)

[swine and human H1N1 isolates](#)

Recent Meetings:

- [Steering Committee,](#)

[May 14, 2009](#)

- [Lab diagnostics of new A/H1N1 in swine](#)

- [Human-animal interface aspect](#)

Expanded mandate of OFFLU

- In response to novel influenza A/H1N1
- To cover 'animal influenza' viruses
- To address technical issues relating to swine influenza and novel A/H1N1
- Share information about diagnostic protocols quickly
- To collaborate with WHO - GIP and provide them with relevant information to minimise public health risks

Expanded mandate of OFFLU

Technical consultations

- Human animal interface aspects of the current A/H1N1 situation (OFFLU/WHO)
- Laboratory diagnosis of novel A/H1N1 in swine (OFFLU/WHO)
- Proposed origin of novel A/H1N1 (OFFLU/WHO)
- Surveillance issues around novel A/H1N1 and the human animal interface (OFFLU/WHO)
- Algorithm for laboratory detection
- Nomenclature of 'the virus'

OFFLU Key achievements 2008 - 2009

- OIE Resolution – ‘Sharing of avian influenza viral material and information in support of global avian influenza prevention and control’
- Head of avian influenza Reference Laboratories meeting
- 8 technical activities
- Practical guidance on minimum biosafety requirements for handling avian influenza viruses

OFFLU Key achievements 2008 - 2009

- Advice to Indonesia and Egypt on selection of avian influenza vaccine strains using antigenic cartography
- Assessment of genetic sequence databases
- Joint meetings and stronger links with WHO – GIP; Verona, technical activities, PCR meeting
- Rapid mobilisation of experts for novel A/H1N1
- Guidance on lab detection of novel A/H1N1 in pigs

Plans -2009

- Maintain momentum with technical activities
- Further technical discussions about novel A/H1N1; surveillance follow up to brainstorming, guidelines for lab diagnostics
- Technical meeting of heads of RLs and SIV experts 15-16 September inc. other networks
- Another technical consultation at the HAI

Acknowledgements

‘The OFFLU scientific contributors’

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