

OIE Reference Laboratory Reports Activities

Activities in 2020

This report has been submitted : 2021-01-22 18:11:50

Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated OIE Reference Laboratory:	Anthrax
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Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr. Kingsley Amoako
Name (including Title and Position) of OIE Reference Expert:	Dr. Kingsley Amoako, Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency Lethbridge Laboratory
Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

ToR 1: To use, promote and disseminate diagnostic methods validated according to OIE Standards

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

No

ToR 2: To develop reference material in accordance with OIE requirements, and implement and promote the application of OIE Standards. To store and distribute to national laboratories biological reference products and any other reagents used in the diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or disease.

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by the OIE?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (non OIE-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to OIE Member Countries?

Yes

Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic test	Produced/ provide	Amount supplied nationally (ml, mg)	Amount supplied internationally (ml, mg)	No. of recipient OIE Member Countries	Region of recipients
Culture Media Agar	Anthrax culture	Provide	Nil	1Kg	one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Africa <input type="checkbox"/> Americas <input type="checkbox"/> Asia and Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Middle East
10X TE Buffer	Anthrax Molecular Detection	Provide	Nil	1Litre	one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Africa <input type="checkbox"/> Americas <input type="checkbox"/> Asia and Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Middle East

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to OIE Member Countries?

No

ToR 3: To develop, standardise and validate, according to OIE Standards, new procedures for diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or diseases

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods validated according to OIE Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines according to OIE Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

ToR 4: To provide diagnostic testing facilities, and, where appropriate, scientific and technical advice on disease control measures to OIE Member Countries

8. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other OIE Member Countries?

No

9. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an OIE Member Country?

Yes

Name of the OIE Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
KAZAKHSTAN	Wanted advice on testing of anthrax vaccines for animals	Advice was provided via email
CANADA	Wanted advice on anthrax spore coat preparation	Advice provided via email and conference call
ARGENTINA	Wanted advice on anthrax carcass disposal	Advice provided via email
UZBEKISTAN	Wanted advice on methods for testing and confirmation of anthrax in animals samples	Advice provided via email
VIETNAM	Wanted advice on anthrax testing in animals	Advice provided via email

ToR 5: To carry out and/or coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories, centres or organisations

10. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with OIE Member Countries other than the own?

No

ToR 6: To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate epizootiological data relevant to the designated pathogens or diseases

11. Did your Laboratory collect epizootiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:
Reports on anthrax outbreak cases worldwide was collected from ProMed.

12. Did your laboratory disseminate epizootiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

If the answer is no, please provide a brief explanation of the situation:
No data disseminated.

13. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals: 1

Decontamination of Bacillus anthracis Spores at Subzero Temperatures by Complete Submersion.

Chad Laing, Timothy Janzen, Vladimir Blinov, Konstantin Volchek, Noriko Goji, Matthew Thomas, Melissa Telfer, Elizabeth Rohonczy, and Kingsley K. Amoako

Published Online: 19 Nov 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1089/apb.20.0067>

b) International conferences: 1

Dr. Amoako was invited and participated in the workshop on "Shaping a signature initiative to mitigate biological threats in Africa by strengthening biosecurity". Participants were from USA, UK, Africa, OIE and Canada.

c) National conferences: 0

d) Other:

(Provide website address or link to appropriate information) 0

ToR 7: To provide scientific and technical training for personnel from OIE Member Countries**To recommend the prescribed and alternative tests or vaccines as OIE Standards**

14. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other OIE Member Countries?

Yes

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

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
BSL 3 Lab safety practices	Ghana	3
Quality Assurance in diagnostic testing	Ghana	3

ToR 8: To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity relevant for the pathogen and the disease concerned

15. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)
ISO/IEC17025	ASB_LTR_15366_Notice-Reaccreditation-Letter_v1_2020-05-28.pdf

16. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Laboratory Procedures for the isolation and identification of Bacillus anthracis	ISO/IEC17025

17. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

(See *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, Chapter 1.1.4)

ToR 9: To organise and participate in scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE

18. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE?

No

19. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE?

No

ToR 10: To establish and maintain a network with other OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease and organise regular inter-laboratory proficiency testing to ensure comparability of results

20. Did your laboratory exchange information with other OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

21. Was your laboratory involved in maintaining a network with OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease by organising or participating in proficiency tests?

No

22. Did your laboratory collaborate with other OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

ToR 11: To organise inter-laboratory proficiency testing with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same pathogens and diseases to ensure equivalence of results

23. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease?

No

Note: See Interlaboratory test comparisons in: Laboratory Proficiency Testing at:
<http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/reference-laboratories/proficiency-testing> see point 1.3

ToR 12: To place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE

24. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE?

No

25. Additional comments regarding your report:

The year 2020 has been unprecedented with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our plans to continue training the staff on anthrax at the Veterinary Services at the Pong Tamale lab in Ghana which started in 2019 was put on hold as a result of this pandemic. However, the training we provided the Veterinary Services lab in Pong Tamale in Ghana in 2019 enabled the lab to respond to a surge capacity for Human COVID testing in Ghana. Here are some press releases for the participation of the Veterinary Laboratory in Pong Tamale in human COVID-19 testing (<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/chronicle-360/science-and-innovation/how-canada-paved-the-road-for-covid-19-testing-in-eng/1591120116849/1591120117203>) (<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Government-committed-to-help-Ghanaians-in-hard-times-Akufo-Addo-941113>). The veterinary Services Lab in Pong Tamale, Ghana is currently continuing testing for Human COVID-19. It is good to see that the training, equipment, PPEs and supplies provided to the team in Ghana for anthrax detection enabled the team to become a surge capacity testing site for Human COVID-19. It is anticipated that we will be able to continue to train the veterinary lab staff in Ghana when the COVID-19 situation improves. The COVID situation may also have slowed down work in other laboratories and this may have contributed to the overall reduction in international activities related to anthrax.