OE Regional Seminar for
OIE Focal Points on Veterinary Laboratories
18 – 20 September 2018, Tunis, Tunisia

Final Remarks

Jennifer Lasley, MPH
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
Thank you to the Hosting Country, Tunisia

also to
- You
- Our Speakers
- Our Donors
- Our Interpreters
- OIE staff and especially SRR Tunis
ToRs for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories

- Establish national network of laboratory experts
- Establish dialogue with Competent Authorities
- Determine training and capacity-building needs
- Compile responses to OIE requests
- Organise consultations on OIE draft standards
- Prepare comments for the Delegate
- Maintain contacts with other Focal Points
- Collaborate with OIE Reference Centres
- Connect VS and Laboratory Twinning proposals
Rights and Responsibilities of the OIE Delegate, related to laboratories

• Present a report on the health position (WAHIS)
• Ensure that the animal health legislation in his or her country is based on the reference standards of the OIE and on a scientific risk analysis
• The resolutions of the World Assembly are applied
• Ensure that the Veterinary Services and that animal disease diagnostic laboratories of his or her country are kept updated on OIE standards
• Ensure that they are aware of the existence of the OIE worldwide network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres so that scientific and technical cooperation in this field can be developed
• Designate national focal points to provide him or her with support
Main Competencies Required

Implementation of OIE International Standards

Networking, Interaction & Communication

Support the OIE Delegate

Of TOR of Laboratory Focal Points
Session 1
Transport of samples

General Introduction
For new and experienced FPs
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Biological risk analysis

Session 3
Quality management systems
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Session 5
Reflecting on Laboratory focal points’ role

A culture of safety and quality is created and nurtured
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A culture of safety and quality is created and nurtured
What you should remember...

Top 10 take home messages
Laboratories provide an evidence base and are critical to decision making in the Veterinary Services. Since laboratories are so essential, the challenges related to sample transport, biorisk analysis, quality management systems, and laboratory networking become even more critical to address.

Resources: Definition of Laboratory in glossary of the TAHC Article 3.4.7 of the TAHC
The easiest place to start is at the beginning!

If the information you have heard and the things you have learned this week make it seem like you have an great task in front of you, just remember to start at the beginning.

Communication and collaboration with those collecting samples in the field—or those sending samples to OIE Reference Laboratories for confirmation—is crucial for producing accurate results.
While it may seem simple and straightforward, **biological material transport** is a complex process with many actors with different perspectives and objectives.
Shipment of biological samples

Cold Chain

International organisations: IOs and NGOs

Sending Laboratory

Receiving Laboratory

Carriers

Courriers

Customs

FAO

OIE
Understanding what is working (and not working) in your country's sample transport chain to ensure safety and quality.

Convening a multidisciplinary discussion with stakeholders and key actors in the sample transport chain as we did here may improve the service that your laboratory provides.

Resources: ad hoc Group on Biological Material Transport reports in the Biological Standards Commission (BSC) semiannual reports.
Biosafety

People

Pathogens
Biosecurity

People

Pathogens

Fungus

Virus

Bacteria
CHAPTER 1.1.4.

BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY: STANDARD FOR MANAGING BIOLOGICAL RISK IN THE VETERINARY LABORATORY AND ANIMAL FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1.1.1 Management of Veterinary Laboratories outlines the overall requirements and responsibilities to be addressed in the management of veterinary laboratories, of which management of the biological risks associated with the operation of a laboratory is an important aspect. This chapter outlines the principles on which the specific management of biological risks associated with veterinary laboratories and experimental animal handling facilities should be based. The terminology is aligned with the OIE nomenclature for risk analysis, including the four components, namely hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication, used in Chapter 2.1 Import Risk Analysis of both the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code. In this way the process is consistent with and standardised against risk analysis processes already used by OIE Member Countries.
Understanding which pathogens are housed in your laboratories and in your country through regular pathogen inventory exercises are essential measures towards eradication efforts.

The laboratory plays a crucial role in assuring the world that we will stay free of diseases like rinderpest and PPR.

10 REASONS FOR NOT KEEPING THE RINDERPEST VIRUS IN LABORATORIES

A single release of rinderpest virus could:

- Kill millions of cattle
- Undermine international veterinary biosecurity
- Decrease food security
- Restrict local and international commerce
- Delay other development goals
- Endanger valuable wildlife
- Threaten animal welfare
- Reduce rural livelihoods
- Cost millions of dollars to re-eradicate
- Reverse a historical achievement

CONTACT
Rinderpest-Secretariat@fao.org

www.fao.org/ag/rinderpest.html
www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/rinderpest
Remember you are not alone!

There are many people in your country, subregion, region, at the OIE and around the world who are ready to help you by sharing experiences, finding solutions, & providing expertise.

There are tools and support to assist you in the implementation of OIE standards.

Resources: OIE Reference Centre Network, regional and subregional laboratory networks, mentors, OIE Twinning Programme
Understand what is working (and not working) in your country's sample transport chain to ensure safety and quality.

Convening a multidisciplinary discussion with stakeholders and key actors in the sample transport chain as we did here may improve the service that your laboratory provides.

Resources:
- ad hoc Group on Biological Material Transport reports in the Biological Standards Commission (BSC)
- semiannual reports
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Resources: Terrestrial Manual Chapter 1.1.4
CHAPTER 1.1.5.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN VETERINARY TESTING LABORATORIES

SUMMARY

Valid laboratory results are essential for diagnosis, surveillance and trade. Such results are achieved by the use of good management practices, valid test and calibration methods, proper techniques, quality control and quality assurance, all working together within a quality management system. Laboratory quality management includes technical, managerial and operational elements of testing and the interpretation of test results. A quality management system enables the laboratory to demonstrate both competency and an ability to generate consistent technically valid results that meet the needs of its customers. The need for mutual recognition of test results for international trade and the acceptance of international standards such as ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC, 2005) requires good laboratory quality management systems. This chapter is not intended to reiterate the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, nor has it been endorsed by accreditation bodies. Rather, it outlines the important issues and considerations a laboratory should address in the design and maintenance of its quality management system, whether or not it has been formally accredited.
Strategic thinking, setting priorities, and optimizing activities with a view towards sustainability in the short, medium- and long-term helps to better manage existing laboratory resources.
Laboratory networking is a true tool in assisting all laboratories in reaching their goals.

- Knowing what your laboratory network does well, as well as its limits
- Recognizing expertise, nurture it, and call upon it when needed
- Your laboratory network doesn't have to do everything
- It isn't just about expertise, but also strategy and optimizing resources

Resources: WAHIS & WAHIS+, OIE Reference Centre Network, regional and subregional laboratory networks, mentors
Chapter Number and Title:

Country making the comments:

Date:

It would be appreciated if the following guidance is followed when making a reply:

1. Comments may be general or specific, but specific comments are more valuable. General comments should be such that some conclusion and action can be taken in response to them. For example, instead of stating “This test is no longer used in our laboratory”, indicate the reasons the test is no longer used and what test is used instead.

2. Specific comments should be identified by indicating the line number in the text, to facilitate the editorial process.

3. Highlighting typing or technical errors is welcome, but the correct word or figure should be indicated in its place. For example, instead of indicating simply “0.8 M is too high”, the preferred value should also be indicated.

4. Bear in mind that the introductory chapters (Part 1 of the Terrestrial Manual) are not intended to be exhaustive, and indeed none of the chapters can give a completely comprehensive cover of the subject, otherwise the Terrestrial Manual would be too long. However, assistance in indicating priorities is always helpful.
Get out of the laboratory and talk about your work!

Communication with all partners and stakeholders in the work of the laboratory is crucial to maintaining a good collaboration and reputation.

None of us can do our work alone!
Main Themes to be considered for the next Laboratory Focap Point seminar

1. WAHIS+ training
2. QMS implementation
3. Biological risk assessment and management
4. Status of the implementation of Lab FP Terms of Reference
5. Others.....?
What you could do once back home...
TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE OIE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR VETERINARY LABORATORIES

OIE has requested Delegates to nominate national focal points for disease notification, wildlife, veterinary products, animal production, food safety, animal welfare, aquatic animals and communication. The OIE global focal point network is currently active for these topics. The OIE is now initiating focal points for veterinary laboratories and asking Delegates to nominate individuals with high level laboratory expertise to support him in fulfilling his rights and responsibilities to OIE.

As detailed in the final report of the 76th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates in May 2008, the responsibilities of all focal points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate. Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate. This practice would equally apply if focal points are located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, as from a legal perspective the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.

Details on proposed tasks of the national focal point for veterinary laboratories:

1. to establish a network of experts in the country on veterinary laboratory issues and/or to communicate with existing networks;

2. to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for veterinary laboratories in the country, including facilitating cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility for veterinary laboratories is shared. This would also incorporate facilitating cooperation and communication with Competent Authorities of other National Laboratories, including those in other government Ministries. Keep updated on the legislation and activities of the National Veterinary Laboratories to verify that they are in conformity with the standards and guidelines of the OIE;

3. to serve as focal point for the OIE in topics related to the National Veterinary Laboratories, including contributing to determining the training and other capacity building needs for the National Veterinary Laboratories in the country;

4. to compile responses to requests for information required by the OIE in coordination with National Veterinary Laboratories that provide specific competence in the subject of consultation;

5. if prompted, to organize consultations with recognized experts in the area of veterinary laboratories in the country on OIE draft standards and/or guidelines and country proposals to the OIE of new standards;

6. to prepare comments for the Delegate on all relevant OIE draft standards and/or guidelines and country proposals of new standards to the OIE, reflecting the points of view and the scientific positions of the OIE Member Country or the region;

7. to maintain contact with the other OIE national focal points for veterinary laboratories that belong to regional networks and with experts of OIE Reference Laboratories present in the Region;

8. to collaborate with OIE Reference Centres worldwide;

9. to prepare proposals for participation of National Veterinary Laboratories in the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme when relevant.
2 Share the knowledge you have acquired with:
- the other FPs in your country (why not have a meeting to kick off?)
- the VEE: does the veterinary curriculum contain sufficient/adequate information on VL?

[it is very important that the next generations be fully prepared]
Take any steps to implement OIE standards (Terrestrial and Aquatic Manuals) in particular in the fields of sample transport; biological risk analysis; quality management systems; laboratory management)

(check notably if legal basis is adequate)
4. Take steps to implement the recommendations of the OIE Global Conferences (always reference to laboratory support)
Be active in the OIE standard setting process and have a look at the new/revised chapters of the OIE Codes when they become available (provide comments in support of your Delegate)

Check out the ad hoc Group reports on Biobanking and High Throughput sequencing in the BSC semiannual reports!
Use the **Network of OIE Reference Centres** to have access to high quality expertise needed for rapid and accurate pathogen confirmation and characterisation.(Read the RCs’ Annual Reports relevant to your region at http://www.oie.int/our-scientific-expertise/reference-laboratories/annual-reports/)
7 Use the **Network of OIE VL FPs** to ask questions and/or share your best practices
Be involved in other OIE VL activities and read available reports on:

- OIE Competency Guidelines for VPPs
- OIE Laboratory Twinning Projects
- OIE PVS Laboratory Missions
- The timely notification of animal diseases (transparency through WAHIS)

(Use your PVS and Gap Analysis Reports to better understand gaps and address them in the national laboratory network)
Lets not forget **the welfare of laboratory animals**...

(link with the AW FP and refer to Chapter 7.8 of the OIE Terrestrial Code on the Use of animals in research and education)
Be **OIE Ambassadors** by

- Promoting OIE Global Network of RCs
- Ensuring that OIE Standards and recommendations are recognised as the leading global standards and guidance for the animal health sector (zoonoses included) to reduce international threats from animal pathogens, including from natural, accidental, and deliberate release.
Recommendations for OIE Delegates – New Delegate Training

• Whenever appointing a Focal Point, ensure his/her expertise comply with the relevant Terms of Reference

• Whenever appointing a Focal Point, ensure the stability of his/her position and dedicated time to OIE activities

• Ensure the appropriate transition of his/her knowledge and responsibilities when a new Focal Point is appointed; and

• Regularly notify to the OIE any new appointment/change of contact details of National Focal Points in order to allow the successful transmission of all information
Recommendations for OIE Delegates – New Delegate Training

- Ensure that Focal Points receive reports by OIE specialist commissions and ad hoc groups

- To organize regular meetings between Delegates and the different categories of Focal Points

- Ensure the Focal Points provide a feedback after each training received

- Give to the Focal Points the credentials to access the Delegates website for both acceding to reports and monitor any activity relevant to the respective domain
If funding permits, we give you **RDV in 2 years**, where hopefully we will be able to share many success stories.

(Is there a candidate country for hosting the next FP seminar?)
• Can you, as a region, **commit to implementing some selected activities** in order to fulfil your ToRs?

• According to you, which activities are **priorities and achievable** in the next 2 years?

Some possible examples:

• Comment on the next draft chapters?
• Maintain connection with the Lab FP network in between seminars?
• Establish contact with Customs authorities to facilitate sample transport?
• Conduct a multisectoral debriefing on the shipment of biological materials?
• Meet with your Delegate in person 4 times/year? If in another Competent Authority, work with your supervisor to develop a plan to facilitate collaboration?
• Map (or update) your network and current expertise?

_In the next seminar, we will check how these commitments have been implemented and ask you to present on your experiences_
For any questions:

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**OIE Headquarters** - j.lasley@oie.int & s.muset@oie.int

Our speakers and Partners (list of participants)

(including the *Manual* chapters and many other great resources!)
Last but not the least...

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

We certify that

Budimir Plavsic

attended

the Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories

Kranj, Slovenia

27 – 29 June 2017

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The END!

Thank you