

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

2012 - EPIZONE European Research Group

11-10-2011 10:00:06

By January 1st 2012, after the ending of the EU funded period of the network, EPIZONE will turn into a European Research Group (ERG). A sustainable network of veterinary research institutes working on epizootic animal diseases. · CVI...

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Ilaria Capua, Penn Vet World Leadership Award winner

11-10-2011 10:07:55

"Award winner recognized for forward thinking" and "helped prevent avian influenza spread, called for greater information sharing" are some of the qualifications mentioned. Dr. Capua was honoured with the 2011 Penn Vet World Leadership Award. Ilaria...

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6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Brighton, UK

10-3-2011 16:54:08

The 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Viruses on the move" will take place 12 - 14 June 2012 in Brighton, UK. This next Annual Meeting will not be funded by the EU and must be mainly self-supporting. It will be hosted by the Institute for Animal Health. It...

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Keynote Speakers 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE

11-10-2011 12:20:10

Keynote speakers, scientific programme on the 13th and 14th of June 2012 will be: James Wood, Cambridge University UK; "Evolution of Influenza Viruses". Sarah Cleaveland Glasgow University UK; "Virus infections at the wildlife-livestock interface:..."

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Building Bridges Workshop, Beijing, 2-4 July 2011

11-10-2011 10:09:04

As a follow up of the workshops - "Building Bridges for Research in Swine Diseases", 6-9 July 2008, Shanghai and -"New generation researchers in pig viral diseases : building bridges from labs to policy and the farms" 12 -14 July 2010, Madrid, EPIZONE...

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Workshop on metadata and data sharing in the veterinary field

11-10-2011 10:10:51

The workshop "Metadata and Data Sharing in the Veterinary Field" will be held in Mira, Italy, on 3-4 November 2011. The workshop is organised by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve) in the framework of the EPIZONE project. The...

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Workshop on Classical and Molecular Veterinary Virology

11-10-2011 10:54:49

A workshop on Classical and Molecular Veterinary Virology is organised from 28 November - 9 December 2011, Vienna, Austria. This workshop will promote the application of classical virology and multiple pathogens detection methods in veterinary diagnostic...

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Short term mission Sarah Welby from CODA-CERVA, Belgium

11-10-2011 10:56:03

Sarah Welby from Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (VAR), Belgium visited the Friedrich-Loeffler Institut from 1-4 August 2011. The purpose of my visit to the Epidemiology Institute (IfE) of the FLI was to exchange our experience in monitoring...

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Short-term mission Björn Abendroth from FLI Insel Riems

11-10-2011 10:57:09

Björn Abendroth from FLI Insel Riems visited two weeks between 28 February - 11 March 2011 the

Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Weybridge (UK). The reason of my visit was to improve my knowledge on the usage and handling of the (EPIZONE) Pan-Viral...

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Activity Agenda

12-10-2011 12:54:41

28 Nov - 9 Dec 2011 - Workshop "Classical and Molecular Veterinary Virology", Vienna, Austria. 3-4

November 2011 - Workshop "Metadata and Data Sharing in the Veterinary Field" Mira, Italy. 12-14 June

2012 - 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE,...

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Contact information:
E-mail: epizone.cvi@wur.nl
www.epizone-eu.net

EPIZONE is the Network of Excellence for Epizootic Disease Diagnosis and Control, supported by funding under the Sixth Research Framework Programme of the EU.

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2012 - EPIZONE European Research Group

By January 1st 2012, after the ending of the EU funded period of the network, EPIZONE will turn into a European Research Group (ERG). A sustainable network of veterinary research institutes working on epizootic animal diseases.

- CVI will be the first coordinator of the ERG
- The mission of EPIZONE will stay largely the same.
- The new coordinating forum will decide on the first network activities.
- The focus will be on research networking and primary aims are likely to include:
 - keeping up the EPIZONE website,
 - the newsletter,
 - the Young EPIZONE programme,
 - the short term missions and
 - the maintenance of the EPIZONE databases.
 - EPIZONE will also continue its annual meetings: The next one will be in Brighton UK 12-14 June 2012.

All interested present partners of the network, will be the founding partners of the ERG and will support it with annual fee of € 5000.

New additional ERG partners and associates

A call for new additional ERG partners and associates is foreseen in summer 2012. Information about this will be available on the website at the time. Through creation of the EPIZONE European Research Group we hope we will be able to keep the successful EPIZONE community together and even enlarge it. Continuing the fruitful cooperations should also enable us to generate extra research funding and launch new research programmes.

Ilaria Capua, Penn Vet World Leadership Award winner

"Award winner recognized for forward thinking" and "helped prevent avian influenza spread, called for greater information sharing" are some of the qualifications mentioned.

Dr. Capua was honoured with the 2011 [Penn Vet World Leadership Award](#).

Ilaria Capua: "When H5N1 hit the fan, my group was one of a few in the world that had managed a real outbreak of avian influenza. We knew a lot about outbreak management and about the virus itself. We were involved in an international task force that was in place to try and manage the epidemic."

Dr. Capua is director of the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie in Legnaro, Italy and participant in the EPIZONE Network of Excellence. Her staff of more than 70 provides diagnostic expertise globally and conducts cutting-edge research on influenza viruses and viral zoonoses. About a decade ago, her Italian laboratory helped turn the tide in the fight against the spread of H5N1 avian influenza, and she served as the catalyst for greater information sharing among laboratories, particularly between the animal health and public health disciplines.

For her efforts in these areas, Dr. Capua was honoured with the 2011 [Penn Vet World Leadership Award](#). The unrestricted award of \$100,000 is given annually to a veterinarian who has dramatically changed the practice and image of the profession and substantially influenced the lives and careers of others.

6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Brighton, UK

The **6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE "Viruses on the move"** will take place **12 - 14 June 2012 in Brighton**, UK. This next Annual Meeting will not be funded by the EU and must be mainly self-supporting. It will be hosted by the Institute for Animal Health. It is aimed to have about 200-250 attendees. The venue of the Annual Meeting will be the [Brighton Dome](#), a historic building providing dynamic conference and meeting facilities situated in the heart of Britain's cosmopolitan city-by-the-sea, Brighton (Pavilion Theatre, Founders Room, Corn Exchange, Foyer Bar).

Viruses on the move

The theme of the 6th Annual Meeting "Viruses on the move" reflects the ever changing virus landscape. This poses continuing and new threats to animal and human health and food security and provides challenges for control of animal diseases. The meeting will address the latest developments aimed at monitoring and understanding the evolution, emergence, transmission and spread of epizootic viruses. Focus will remain on EPIZONE themes aimed at improved disease control through integration and collaboration of research in diagnosis, intervention strategies, risk assessment, surveillance and epidemiology.

Special topic "African swine fever and other emerging virus diseases"

African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating, highly fatal disease of pigs which has severe socio-economic consequences in affected countries. The recent spread of ASF to the Trans Caucasus region and Russian Federation emphasises the risks for further global spread and the threat posed to global food security. There is an urgent need for coordinated action and development of improved tools and knowledge to control ASF. Other emerging viruses present similar challenges.

From 15th January 2012, abstract submission, hotel reservation and registration will be **open on the EPIZONE** website.

Deadlines 2012

Abstract submission - 29 February

Early registration - 1 April

Registration - 1 May

Hotel - 11 May

Registration fees:

From EPIZONE Member Institutes: Early 200 Euros, Late 250 Euros.

From Non-EPIZONE Member Institutes, Early 300 Euros, Late 400 Euros.

To include Drinks Reception evening 12th, Lunch, Coffee and Tea 13th and 14th, Social Dinner evening of 13th, Abstract Book, Full scientific programme 13th and 14th June. Small meetings rooms available on 12th.

Hotel reservation should be by individuals using the link to hotel sites from EPIZONE website.

Keynote Speakers 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE

Keynote speakers, scientific programme on the 13th and 14th of June 2012 will be:

- James Wood, Cambridge University UK; *"Evolution of Influenza Viruses"*.
- Sarah Cleaveland Glasgow University UK; *"Virus infections at the wildlife-livestock interface: rabies, FMD and MCF"*.
- Stuart Nichol, Special Pathogens Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta USA; *"Rift Valley fever: hitting a moving target with a One Health approach"*.
- Christian Drosten, University of Bonn, Germany; *"Bats as reservoirs for virus infections"*.
- Oliver Pybus, University of Oxford UK; *"Viral evolution: endless forms most probable"*.
- Carmina Gallardo, CISA/INIA, Madrid, Spain; *"African swine fever in Africa: The role of the African indigenous pigs in the transmission of the disease"*.

Besides this there will be sessions for offered papers on:

- The EPIZONE themes: Diagnostics, Intervention Strategies, Epidemiology and Emerging Diseases, Risk Analysis
- and the special themes of this meeting: African swine fever and Next Generation Sequencing Technologies.

Building Bridges Workshop, Beijing, 2-4 July 2011

As a follow up of the workshops

- "Building Bridges for Research in Swine Diseases", 6-9 July 2008, Shanghai and

- "New generation researchers in pig viral diseases : building bridges from labs to policy and the farms" 12 -14 July 2010, Madrid,

EPIZONE organised in cooperation with Partner LVRI and EU-project Conflutech the workshop

- **"Promoting Scientific Cooperation between China and Europe to Combat Epizootic Diseases"**, 2-4 July, Beijing.

Around 50 persons from Asia, Europe and the Middle-East participated in this 3-day workshop, hosted by Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, and kindly accommodated by CAAS at their offices in Beijing. The large amount of young scientists involved in this workshop were able to interact and exchange views among them and with senior scientists on their research activities in a relaxed and fruitful atmosphere.

Nine Young EPIZONE members were selected to go to the workshop and present the latest issues and developments concerning FMDV, swine and avian influenza and CSFV. Even more than in the previous workshops, this workshop also dealt with the importance to introduce European and Asian scientists to each other and encourage cooperation. As Professor Hong Yin described it: "We are here to meet, then become friends and this will be followed by a lifelong cooperation." The main question raised in the final discussion was how to improve cooperation. Some difficulties were identified like the language barrier, cultural differences and a variance in available techniques and knowledge. However, possibilities were also mentioned. The exchange of PhD's or postdocs, together with meetings was highly rated by Asian and European participants. This seems the best way to meet people and make contacts for the future.

Workshop on metadata and data sharing in the veterinary field

The **workshop “Metadata and Data Sharing in the Veterinary Field”** will be held in Mira, Italy, on **3-4 November 2011**. The workshop is organised by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve) in the framework of the EPIZONE project.

The workshop is the follow-up to the workshop "Data and Information Sharing within the Veterinary Scientific Community: Legislative State of the Art and the Role of EPIZONE", which was held in Mira, Venice, in March 2011.

Minutes of the workshop Data and Information sharing, [here](#).

The workshop falls within Theme 2 (“Strategic Integration”) of the EPIZONE project. It is intended to be a forum on practical experience and ideas for future developments, in line with the promotion of information and data sharing which is pivotal to the achievement of the EPIZONE objectives.

Selected scientists and representatives from EPIZONE Member Organizations as well as relevant non-EPIZONE members will take part in the discussion (around 20 participants).

The workshop will provide:

- An outline of the state of the art of available technical solutions for describing information resources (metadata definition) and their adaptability to the veterinary field within the framework of the INSPIRE directive
- An opportunity to gain first-hand experience and to discuss practical ways for documenting information resources
- Further prospects for data/information sharing

More information: Marta Vettore, mvettore@izsvenezie.it

Workshop on Classical and Molecular Veterinary Virology

A **workshop on Classical and Molecular Veterinary Virology** is organised from **28 November - 9 December 2011**, Vienna, Austria. This workshop will promote the application of classical virology and multiple pathogens detection methods in veterinary diagnostic laboratories of Africa, Asia and Central and Eastern European countries. This workshop is designed for scientists from veterinary institutes, diagnostic laboratories and universities with moderate experience in classical and molecular virology. Well-recognized experts will lecture on principles and applications of classical and molecular virology. Practical laboratory sessions on well established procedures that have been harmonized for virus detection and multiplication and viral diseases surveillance will be provided. The workshop is planned for 20 active participants.

Workshop location:

1st week: Animal Production and Health Laboratory, Joint FAO/IAEA Division, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), A-2444 Seibersdorf

2nd week: University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Veterinaerplatz 1, 1210 Vienna.

The workshop is organised by:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations through the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and the Animal Health Service (FAO-AGAH),
- The University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna,
- The European Society for Veterinary Virology (ESVV),
- The European Union Epizone project FP6-2004-Food-3-A, the Network of Excellence for Epizootic Disease Diagnosis and Control (EPIZONE),
- The European Union project FP6-2005-SSP-5B-INFLUENZA - Capacity building for the control of avian influenza through technology transfer and training (ConFluTech),
- The European Union-funded AniBioThreat project, a project for developing and improving the EU's bio-preparedness for risks in the livestock sector and linked to the new EU action plan for hazardous materials.

More information: Professor N. Nowotny, norbert.nowotny@vetmeduni.ac.at

Short term mission Sarah Welby from CODA-CERVA, Belgium

Sarah Welby from Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (VAR), Belgium visited the Friedrich-Loeffler Institut from 1-4 August 2011.

The purpose of my visit to the Epidemiology Institute (IfE) of the FLI was to exchange our experience in monitoring and surveillance programs implemented in both countries and the tools used to evaluate these surveillance systems. The focus was on epidemic vector borne diseases (such as Bluetongue (BT)) as well as for endemic diseases (as Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)). The issues discussed and worked on were: i) collection and centralisation of data ii) data analysis (tools and software, codes) iii) comparison of methodologies used (scenario tree analysis and epidemic curve analysis) iv) eradication of former list A diseases v) diagnostic tests used and available.

The first day, Dr. Jörn Gethmann explained the theoretical background of the epidemic curves he developed for the BT situation in Germany in 2006, 2007. He also explained and demonstrated GIS software used in the FLI. In special he explained how to visualize geographic data and how to carry out simple data analysis (e.g. delimit the buffer zones around outbreaks). I explained in detail the principles and formulas behind the scenario tree methodology with a practical application for BT in Belgium in 2006, 2007.

The second day we mainly prepared data to enable analysis with the methods described during the first day. I had the opportunity to practice the GIS software using my own data and data he provided me. I also had the opportunity to meet Dr. Detlef Höreth-Böntgen, who explained me the eradication programs in the different Federal States of Germany, already in place since a few years, and the issues with regard to different approaches in each State. It was for me the occasion to expose the Belgian situation and the questions arising with the start of this compulsory eradication programs we are setting up in Belgium.

The third day we discussed about the final draft of our manuscript comparing both methodologies epidemic curves and scenario tree analysis to evaluate efficiency of surveillance systems programs in terms of early detection and freedom of disease: "Efficiency of Bluetongue surveillance programs in Belgium and Germany: Comparison and validation of two different approaches".

The last day mainly consisted in wrapping up all the last points with regard to our common study and plan the future milestones for the common publication.

A lot of knowledge and information

This short term mission was an extremely useful and rich experience. Having the opportunity to work during 4 intensive days enabled us to understand better each other's approaches and all the issues with regard to data collection, analysis, and communication of results. Also during these 4 days I had the opportunity to familiarise with the different software and methods used by practicing with my own data and data they provided me.

Also, I particularly enjoyed meeting the colleagues of the FLI and spending time with them, as it allowed me to discuss with them and learn about the way surveillance programs work in Germany, and the way they manage with the issues we encounter. I am delighted to have learned all these things during my stay as I now come back with new tools to evaluate and implement surveillance systems and conduct risk analysis, which will certainly profit me and my institute.

Further collaborations in the future

Both institutes work in the same area and future collaboration will be helpful to improve the methodology in analysing animal diseases and this will help to improve animal disease management in both countries.

The IfE group is a very friendly and I felt really welcome in the group. I am positive that my visit will result in further collaborations in the future. I would certainly recommend this Short Term Mission program to anyone wanting to expand their skills and expertise and extend their network of collaborations.

Short-term mission Björn Abendroth from FLI Insel Riems

Björn Abendroth from FLI Insel Riems visited two weeks between 28 February - 11 March 2011 the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Weybridge (UK).

The reason of my visit was to improve my knowledge on the usage and handling of the (EPIZONE) Pan-Viral chip established in WP4.2. At the Virology department, I was trained in microarray methodologies and related techniques. The training at VLA was very helpful for the establishment and validation of this kind of chip as a diagnostic tool at the FLI and for the preparation for a ring trial in WP4.2. The idea was also to learn about all workflows and techniques of the EPIZONE microarray on site at VLA. Important results of this short term mission were e.g. the improvement of both the protocol and the workflow for a better use of the Pan-viral DNA-chip.

Great opportunity

During this short term mission I had also the great opportunity to improve my laboratory skills and knowledge on microarray techniques in a prestigious institute abroad. I benefitted from helpful discussions and excellent supervision by experts at the VLA. I could pick up many new ideas for further investigations for the microarray validation procedure and developed concepts how to put these ideas into practice. The close contact to my collaborators will be very helpful for future discussions of ideas and how to solve problems that might arise during further validation steps of this array.

Exchange information and knowledge

I can fully recommend such a short-term mission to everyone as it offers a great opportunity to exchange information and knowledge with other scientists very direct and effectively, and give a unique possibility to learn techniques on site.

Björn Abendroth, FLI Insel Riems.

Activity Agenda

28 Nov - 9 Dec 2011 - Workshop "Classical and Molecular Veterinary Virology", Vienna, Austria.

3-4 November 2011 - Workshop "Metadata and Data Sharing in the Veterinary Field" Mira, Italy.

12-14 June 2012 - 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Brighton, UK.

20-24 August 20 - ISVEE 13th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology & Economics, Maastricht, The Netherlands.