

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

### **Project extension approved**

27-2-2012 10:06:24

The Commission agrees to our request to modify the contract. EPIZONE coordinator Wim van der Poel received in February 2012 the letter from the Commission for approval of the EPIZONE JPA5 and the extension of the project to a duration of 70 months (final...

[Read more >>>](#)

### **7th Annual Meeting EPIZONE 2013**

26-2-2012 13:34:40

[Read more >>>](#)

### **Abstract submission deadline 6th Annual Meeting**

26-2-2012 13:55:09

7th March 2012 is deadline abstract submission 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE. The 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE will take place on 12th, 13th, and 14th of June 2012 in Brighton, United Kingdom. Abstracts can be submitted for the 6th Annual Meeting sessions:...

[Read more >>>](#)

### **NEW! Satellite symposium "Schmallenberg virus"**

27-2-2012 9:51:06

EPIZONE will organize after the 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE a Satellite Symposium on the topic 'Schmallenberg virus', 15 th of June 2012 in Brighton. Schmallenberg virus (SBV) is a novel orthobunyavirus first identified in cattle in Germany in Autumn...

[Read more >>>](#)

### **Merial Poster prizes**

27-2-2012 10:52:46

The best scientific posters displayed at the 6th EPIZONE Annual Meeting and the Schmallenberg virus Satellite will be rewarded with a poster prize sponsored by the gold sponsor Merial. The election has to be done in cooperation with Young EPIZONE....

[Read more >>>](#)

### **New Young EPIZONE Leader**

26-2-2012 13:58:55

Josephine Golding is the new leader of Young EPIZONE\*. She is in her third year of her PhD at the Institute for Animal Health in Pirbright, UK. The research is focused on the innate immune response to African Swine Fever Virus, and what role interferon...

[Read more >>>](#)

### **Young EPIZONE meeting 12th June and bursary**

26-2-2012 14:03:20

Young EPIZONE is organising a meeting on 12th June 2012 in the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton. Young EPIZONE bursary EPIZONE will award a bursary to cover registration fees to a limited number of applicants. To be considered for this bursary please submit...

[Read more >>>](#)

### **Short term mission Dr. Lihong Liu from SVA**

26-2-2012 14:09:18

Dr. Lihong Liu from The National Veterinary Institute (SVA) Department of Virology, Immunobiology and Parasitology (VIP), Sweden, visited the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI) in China during 13th to 24th September 2011. The aim of the...

[Read more >>>](#)

### **Short Term Mission Hayley Steedman and Samantha Waddington from IAH**

26-2-2012 14:15:05

Hayley Steedman and Samantha Waddington from the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, United Kingdom, visited the Institute of Diagnostic Virology, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Insel Riems, Germany,

for a week in May 2011. We were pleasantly...

[Read more >>>](#)

## Activity Agenda

*27-2-2012 12:09:03*

1 April 2012 - Launch of EPIZONE ERG. 12-14 June 2012 - 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Brighton, UK. 1- 4 July 2012 - second EAVLD Congress on veterinary diagnostics, Kazimierz Dolny, Poland, hosted by National Veterinary...

[Read more >>>](#)

Contact information:  
E-mail: [epizone.cvi@wur.nl](mailto:epizone.cvi@wur.nl)  
[www.epizone-eu.net](http://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.

To unsubscribe for the EPIZONE Update please send an e-mail to: [epizone.cvi@wur.nl](mailto:epizone.cvi@wur.nl)

Copyright (C) 2008 EPIZONE All rights reserved.

## **Project extension approved**

The Commission agrees to our request to modify the contract. EPIZONE coordinator Wim van der Poel received in February 2012 the letter from the Commission for approval of the EPIZONE JPA5 and the extension of the project to a duration of 70 months (final ending date March 31st 2012). The EPIZONE management has sent an information letter to all partners, the CF members and financial officers of the partner institutes.

### **November 2011**

In consultation with all partner institutes EPIZONE has decided to request a project extension without extra budget, until March 31st 2012. Therefore a letter to request for a project extension, without extra budget, until March 31st 2012, was sent to the Commission in the end of November 2011. Also the year 5 Joint Programme of Activities (JPA5) was adjusted: The work packages will now end in month 70 and the final deliverables of the extended work packages now have been scheduled for month 70. This should enable partners to complete all scheduled deliverables and spend budgets entirely, according to JPA5. The Commission has now agreed to our request to modify our contract.

### **EPIZONE, European Research Group (ERG)**

By April 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.

February 2012 the agreement document will be finished and March 2012 the final agreement will be sent to all partner institutes.

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.

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.

## **7th Annual Meeting EPIZONE 2013**

We are very happy to inform you that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting EPIZONE will be held in Belgium and hosted by CODA. Date and place will be announced on the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting EPIZONE in Brighton.

## Abstract submission deadline 6th Annual Meeting

**7th March 2012 is deadline abstract submission 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE.** The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting EPIZONE will take place on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 in Brighton, United Kingdom.

### Abstracts can be submitted for the 6th Annual Meeting sessions:

- **Diagnostics**
- **Intervention Strategies,**
- **Epidemiology and Emerging Diseases,**
- **Risk Assessment,**

and the special topics

- **African swine fever and**
- **Next generation sequencing.**

**BREAKING NEWS:** after this meeting EPIZONE will organize a Satellite Symposium with the topic ‘Schmallenberg virus’ on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

Schmallenberg virus (SBV) is a novel orthobunyavirus first identified in cattle in autumn 2011 and there are still a lot of questions to be answered.

Scientists within Europe need to work together and exchange knowledge to control this new epizootic in Europe. This is the reason for

EPIZONE organising this Satellite Symposium.

**An interesting programme** will be scheduled for both meetings. Keynote speakers will be invited, selected oral as well as poster presentations will be held, and there will be scheduled time for discussions and networking.

We invite you to submit your abstracts for both meetings on the [abstract submission tool](#) of the 6th Annual Meeting website, [klick here](#).

### The deadlines for abstract submission:

-6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE: **7th March 2012**

-Schmallenberg virus Satellite Symposium: **31th March 2012**

Registration deadlines for both meetings, 6th Annual Meeting and Schmallenberg virus Satellite Symposium:

-Early registration: 1st April 2012

-Late registration: 1st May 2012

More information can be found at the [6th Annual Meeting website](#)

## NEW! Satellite symposium "Schmallenberg virus"

EPIZONE will organize after the 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE a Satellite Symposium on the topic 'Schmallenberg virus', 15 th of June 2012 in Brighton. Schmallenberg virus (SBV) is a novel orthobunyavirus first identified in cattle in Germany in Autumn 2011. In dairy cows in Germany and The Netherlands signs of infection included fever, diarrhoea and a drastic reduction in milk production. Now it has also been detected in sheep and goats, and it has shown up at dozens of farms in The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, and France. The new virus causes fetal malformations and stillbirths in cattle, sheep, and goats.

**The virus is most likely transmitted by midges** (Culicoides spp.), and infections likely occurred in summer and autumn of last year, but fetuses that were exposed to the virus in the womb are only now being born. Many more cases are expected to appear, especially in cattle, because bovine fetuses infected in summer 2011 would be expected to be born in February and March. A risk assessment for public health was issued by the European Centre for Disease Prevention, saying it is unlikely that this new orthobunyavirus can cause disease in humans. Veterinary Institutes have been able to isolate the virus, several strains have been sequenced and the first animal experiments have been performed.

**Still a lot of questions remain to be answered.** Which vector species is transmitting the disease? Can animals infect each other directly? And of course, where did the virus come from? What can be done to control the virus and can we develop a vaccine? Scientists within Europe need to work together and exchange knowledge to control this new epizootic in Europe. That is the reason for EPIZONE to organise this Satellite Symposium.

**An interesting programme will be scheduled.** Keynote speakers will be invited for lectures on all aspects of the Schmallenberg virus, such as diagnostics, vaccine development, epidemiology, and risk assessment. Oral and poster presentations will be given , and there will be scheduled time for discussions and networking.

**You are invited to send in your abstract.**

To have the latest results presented on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, make sure you [submit your abstracts](#) for the Schmallenberg virus satellite symposium on the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting website by **31th of March 2012**. Registration form and hotel reservation page can also be found on this 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting website, [klick here](#).

**Scientific committee** Schmallenberg virus Satellite Symposium:

Linda Dixon	IAH
Martin Beer	FLI
Brigitte Caj	CODA
Simon Carpenter	IAH
Trevor Drew	AHVLA
Dirk Pfeiffer	RVC
Wim van der Poel	CVI
Stephan Zientara	ANSES

## **Merial Poster prizes**

The best scientific posters displayed at the 6th EPIZONE Annual Meeting and the Schmallenberg virus Satellite will be rewarded with a poster prize sponsored by the gold sponsor Merial.

The election has to be done in cooperation with Young EPIZONE.

## New Young EPIZONE Leader

**Josephine Golding is the new leader of Young EPIZONE\***. She is in her third year of her PhD at the Institute for Animal Health in Pirbright, UK. The research is focused on the innate immune response to African Swine Fever Virus, and what role interferon alpha plays in restricting virus replication. Josie takes over the Young EPIZONE leadership from Eefke Weesendorp (CVI).

**Also new members** have joined the Young EPIZONE core group. The core group members are spread throughout Europe and include: Elisabetta Razzuoli from IZSLER, Femke Feenstra from CVI, Grzegorz Wozniakowski, Ewa Borzym, Kinga Urbaniak and Pawel Trebas from NVRI, Shahid Hussein from SVA, and finally Susanne Röhrs and Michael Eschbaumer from FLI.

### Primary goal

Last December the first meeting of the new Young EPIZONE core group took place at Schiphol. The primary goal remains that of the previous core group – to network with one another and senior scientists. At the upcoming annual meeting in June, we shall hold various workshops aimed to improve the communication of your science to others. The Young EPIZONE day, June 12<sup>th</sup>, will allow us to discuss our research within an informal setting, as well as having the benefit of expertise from experienced senior scientists.

**A limited amount of bursaries** will be available to those that have submitted an abstract and have shown an interest in attending the Young EPIZONE day on June 12th. If you require any further information or wish to be considered for the bursary then please do not hesitate to contact me [josephine.golding@iah.ac.uk](mailto:josephine.golding@iah.ac.uk).

\*

Young EPIZONE is a section of EPIZONE that represents PhD students, new postdocs, and research assistants.

## Young EPIZONE meeting 12th June and bursary

Young EPIZONE is organising a meeting on 12th June 2012 in the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton.

### Young EPIZONE bursary

EPIZONE will award a bursary to cover registration fees to a limited number of applicants. To be considered for this bursary please submit an abstract by 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and e-mail [josephine.golding@iah.ac.uk](mailto:josephine.golding@iah.ac.uk) to acknowledge your interest to attend the Young EPIZONE day on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Successful applicants will be notified about the bursary soon after the abstract deadline date.

### Program Young EPIZONE meeting 12th June 2012

- 9:30 - Welcome to Young EPIZONE
- 11:00 - Presentation Workshop - Introducing your science to an audience and advice on how to present to others
- 13:00 - Lunch
- 14:00 - Poster Workshop - Useful tips and advice on how to create a scientific poster
- 15:45 - Career Workshop - Invited senior scientists from various fields will discuss how they got to where they are and how you can achieve this too
- 17:00 - End of the program
- 19:00-late! -Social event

**Register** by sending an e-mail to [josephine.golding@iah.ac.uk](mailto:josephine.golding@iah.ac.uk)

## Short term mission Dr. Lihong Liu from SVA

Dr. Lihong Liu from The National Veterinary Institute (SVA) Department of Virology, Immunobiology and Parasitology (VIP), Sweden, visited the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI) in China during 13th to 24th September 2011.

**The aim of the visit** was to see how the Chinese national reference laboratory for foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease is dealing with this devastating disease in China and set up collaborations in the future.

### Hospitality

I think the most wonderful thing of my visit was the hospitality of the Institute. From my arrival, seeing the reference and other research laboratories, meeting different people, the social dinner and to my departure, everything was arranged perfectly. My additional request to see the BSL-3 lab and vaccine production unit was partially met and I was guided by the person who explained every step in detail. I was even able to listen to how newborn bovine serum was tested against bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV). Everything seemed quite normal for them, but it was so different for me after being away from China for many years and used to the way of living in a different culture.

### More and more competitive

While talking to senior scientists I was glad to see a strong desire from everyone to perform high-level scientific research. The institute is now equipped with most advanced instruments that are often seen in most European laboratories. Therefore, the institute is expected to becoming more and more competitive in academia.

The visit was so nice and I surely recommend to others.

## Short Term Mission Hayley Steedman and Samantha Waddington from IAH

Hayley Steedman and Samantha Waddington from the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, United Kingdom, visited the Institute of Diagnostic Virology, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Insel Riems, Germany, for a week in May 2011. We were pleasantly surprised by the beautiful location of the institute and were also impressed by the new development of the island's facilities. We instantly felt welcomed by our host, Dr Michael Eschbaumer and his colleagues, everyone was very helpful and we learnt a great deal in the short period of time that we were there.

**The purpose** of the short term mission was to gain experience and receive training in alternative BTV diagnostic methods performed at the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) and to improve co-operation between the two BTV diagnostic labs at FLI and the Institute for Animal Health (IAH).

**The main reason** for our visit was BTV-26, a new serotype of BTV recently isolated from sheep in Kuwait. One of the main aims of our mission was to determine the capability of BTV RT-PCR assays used in Europe to detect this serotype. The FLI did not have access to BTV-26 prior to our visit and so we supplied BTV-26 and demonstrated our IAH assays in parallel with assays currently being used at FLI.

**The results were very interesting**, of three pan specific BTV assays only two detected BTV-26 with different levels of sensitivity. Isolation of BTV-26 in Vero cells and titration indicated that a BTV anti NS1 mAb capable of detecting BTV serotypes 1 to 24 failed to detect BTV-26, suggesting that the epitope for this mAb was not present on the BTV-26 NS1.

**As junior technicians**, learning these techniques first hand was much more informative than attending a training course with numerous participants. Michael was an excellent teacher and did not get bored of our constant questions.

Being given the opportunity to experience lab-life on Insel Riems was invaluable, not only on a personal development level but also for scientific networking.

### Further cooperation

We would highly recommend a short term mission to others, as we believe it is beneficial in strengthening relationships between fellow laboratories with similar interests and thus gains further cooperation for improving techniques and developing future collaborations.

## Activity Agenda

1 April 2012 - Launch of EPIZONE ERG.

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

1- 4 July 2012 - second EAVLD Congress on veterinary diagnostics, Kazimierz Dolny, Poland, hosted by National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI).

20-24 August 2012 - ISVEE 13th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology & Economics, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

See info website EPIZONE - [events](#)