WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2023
Activities in 2023
This report has been submitted: 29 juin 2024 00:06

Laboratory Information

Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory: Scrapie

Address of laboratory: University of Bern, Division of Neurological Sciences, Vetsuisse Faculty, Bremgartenstrasse 109a, CH-3006 Bern, Switzerland

Tel.: +41-31 684 2206

E-mail address: torsten.seuberlich@unibe.ch

Website: https://www.neurologicalsciences.ch/

Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert: Prof. Dr. med. vet. Torsten Seuberlich

Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply: Academic institution

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

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)
   Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnostic Test</th>
<th>Indicated in WOAH Manual (Yes/No)</th>
<th>Total number of test performed last year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indirect diagnostic tests</td>
<td>Nationally</td>
<td>Internationally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct diagnostic tests</td>
<td>Nationally</td>
<td>Internationally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapie Western immunoblot</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapie reapid test (ELISA)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAH?
   No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAH Members?
   Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF REAGENT AVAILABLE</th>
<th>RELATED DIAGNOSTIC TEST</th>
<th>PRODUCED/ PROVIDE</th>
<th>AMOUNT SUPPLIED NATIONALLY (ML, MG)</th>
<th>AMOUNT SUPPLIED INTERNATIONALLY (ML, MG)</th>
<th>NO. OF RECIPIENT WOAH MEMBER COUNTRIES</th>
<th>COUNTRY OF RECIPIENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrapie positive brain material</td>
<td>TSE rapid test and Western blot</td>
<td>provide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10 ML</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?
Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAH Members?
Not applicable

**TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES**

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?
No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?
Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF THE NEW TEST OR DIAGNOSTIC METHOD DEVELOPED</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCES (PUBLICATION, WEBSITE, ETC.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrapie Western immunoblot signal detection by near-infrared fluorescence</td>
<td>Internal validation of new signal detection method</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?
No

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?
No

**TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES**

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAH Members?
No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAH Member?
No

**TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES**

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAH Members other than the own?
Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the study</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>PURPOSE OF THE STUDY</th>
<th>PARTNERS (INSTITUTIONS)</th>
<th>WOAH MEMBER COUNTRIES INVOLVED OTHER THAN YOUR COUNTRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eradication of Scrapie in Iceland</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Evaluation of eradication strategies for scrapie in Iceland</td>
<td>Network</td>
<td>FRANCE GERMANY ICELAND ITALY UNITED KINGDOM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAH?
No

**TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA**

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?
Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF THE ANSWER IS YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE DATA COLLECTED:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduction of passive surveillance in Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?
No

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

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:
8


b) International conferences:

2

Annual Meeting of the TSE/BSE EURL, Roma
TSE Network of the EFSA, Parma

c) National conferences:

1

Schweizer Laborleitertagung

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):
**TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING**

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAH Members?

No

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**TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE**

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality management system adopted</th>
<th>Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO 17025</td>
<td>We are running a QM System according to ISO17025. Accreditation of this system is currently on hold due to reorganisations of the Faculty. We are in the process of re-accreditation, which will likely be effective by end 2024.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

No

20. Does your laboratory maintain a “biorisk management system” for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

The biorisk management system is in line with national requirements (Ordonance on the containment of pathogens and genetically modified organisms)

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**TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAH?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAH?

No

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**TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAH REFERENCE LABORATORIES**

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

Yes

24. Do you network (collaborate or share information) with other WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NETWORK/DISEASE</th>
<th>ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)</th>
<th>NO. PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>PARTICIPATING WOAH REF. LABS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SciCE Project, Scrapie in Iceland</td>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>APHA, UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PURPOSE OF THE PROFICIENCY TESTS: 1</th>
<th>ROLE OF YOUR REFERENCE LABORATORY (ORGANISER/ PARTICIPANT)</th>
<th>NO. PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>PARTICIPATING WOAH REF. LABS/ ORGANISING WOAH REF. LAB.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrapie rapid test</td>
<td>participant</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>WOAH ref. lab. Torini/Roma Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapie Western immunoblot</td>
<td>participant</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>WOAH ref. lab. Torini/Roma Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSE discriminatory Western immunoblot BSE/Scrapie</td>
<td>participant</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>WOAH ref. lab. Torini/Roma Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapie immunohistochemistry</td>
<td>participant</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>WOAH ref. lab. Torini/Roma Italy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE OF THE PROJECT OR CONTRACT</th>
<th>SCOPE</th>
<th>NAME(S) OF RELEVANT WOAH REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
**TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING**

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOAH Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen?

**No**

**TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS**

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAH?

**No**

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

**Yes**

In the past years, requests for testing and consultancy regarding scrapie remained at a very low level. This is mainly due to strong activities of the European Union Reference Laboratory in our region that is funded by the EU and covers the needs of many WOAH member states in Europe. Nonetheless, we continue maintaining our expertise in this domain, also because of a strong link between Scrapie and BSE diagnostics and epidemiology. Currently our QM system is undergoing re accreditation which will be complete by the end of the year. Until then we continue working under ISO 17025 standards. Regarding the participation in interlaboratory proficiency testing themes, we would like to state that the schemes listed in TOR10 comprise WOAH reference labs as well as WOAH member states. The schemes can therefore also be listed under TOR11, however, the identity of the members states is not known. We therefore decided to not provide the information under TOR11.