



--

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2024

This report has been submitted: 4 février 2025 23:02

CENTRE INFORMATION

*Title of WOAHC Collaborating Centre	Research, Diagnosis and Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens
*Address of WOAHC Collaborating Centre	Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, 52 Campus Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4
*Tel:	+1 306 966 5151
*E-mail address:	national@cwhc-rscf.ca
Website:	https://www.cwhc-rscf.ca/
*Name Director of Institute (Responsible Official):	Damien Joly
*Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point):	Damien Joly, PhD, Chief Executive Officer Directeur Général, Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative Réseau Canadien pour la Santé de la Faune (CWHC)
*Name of the writer:	Damien Joly

TOR 1 AND 2: SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHC

Category	Title of activity	Scope
		Active surveillance: targeted surveillance

Epidemiology, surveillance, risk assessment, (true)	Targeted and scanning surveillance for diseases of importance to wildlife conservation, domestic animal health and human health.	for diseases of conservation, economic, and health importance, such as Avian Influenza, White Nose Syndrome, Rabies, Chronic Wasting Disease, and SARS-CoV-2 etc. Scanning surveillance: necropsy of wild animal submissions nationwide to ascertain cause of death, reportable diseases, and diseases of scientific interest. All information generated from surveillance is distributed to stakeholders through necropsy reports, website reporting, technical and scientific reports, and individual reports as necessary.
Training, capacity building (true)	Teaching	Various wildlife health-related courses taught at the five veterinary schools across Canada to veterinary students, typically in 3rd or 4th years.
Zoonoses (true)	Surveillance	Surveillance for and identification of different zoonotic diseases as part of targeted and scanning surveillance.
Wildlife (true)	Surveillance	The CWHC and NWHC deal almost exclusively with free-ranging wildlife, with a small number of cases of rehabilitation animals and zoo animals included.
Avian diseases (true)	Surveillance	Through passive and active surveillance, the CWHC and NWHC monitor for a wide number of disease in avian species, such as HPAI, West Nile Virus, Avian Botulism, Avian Cholera, Newcastle Disease, Trichomonosis etc.
Aquatic animal diseases (true)	Surveillance	The CWHC initiated a marine mammal health surveillance program (in 2023), monitoring marine mammal health on both eastern and western coasts of Canada. Further, we have initiated a capacity building project to improve capacity in Canada's Arctic to train wildlife officers and community members to safely collect biological specimens from marine mammals in the Arctic. The NWHC Honolulu Field station

--

		<p>provides technical assistance and applied research to elucidate causes of wildlife disease and mortality in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin, including such issues as diseases affecting fish, marine birds, marine invertebrate and sea turtles.</p>
--	--	---

TOR 3: HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the main focus area for which you were designated

Proposal title	Scope/Content	Applicable Area

3. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAHP?

No

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOAHP Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

No

TOR 4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

5. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOAHP Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOAHP CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
Wildlife Health Information Network	Global	Africa Americas Asia and Pacific Europe	<p>The Wildlife Health Intelligence Network (WHIN) is a consortium of organizations that all believe that the solutions to scaling wildlife health surveillance globally go beyond the capacity of a single organization. The CWHC and NWHC participate in ongoing WHIN networking sessions and manuscript development.</p>
			<p>The Collaborating Center, through the auspices</p>

WOAH Twinning Program: Thailand National Wildlife Health Center	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia and Pacific	of the WOAHP Twinning Program, completed a twinning exercise with the Thailand National Wildlife Health Center to enhance wildlife health capacity in Thailand and the Southeast Asia Region. The results and lessons learned were published in a scientific journal: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/veterinary-science/articles/10.3389/fvets.2024.1462280/full
---	-------------------	------------------	---

TOR 6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

6. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAHP?

No

TOR 7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

7. Did your Collaborating Centre provide advice/services to requests from Members in your main focus area?

No

8. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHP, to personnel from WOAHP Members?

No

TOR 8: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

9. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings related to your main focus area on behalf of WOAHP?

Yes

National/International	Title of event	Co-organiser	Date	Location	No. Participants
Internationally	WOAHP Twinning Program - Thailand National Wildlife Health Centre Twinning Closeout Workshop	Thailand National Wildlife Health Centre	2024-01-15	Bangkok, Thailand	20

TOR 9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

10. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHP that may be useful to Members of WOAHP

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

89

The Collaborating Centre's recent (2024) publications cover a broad range of wildlife health issues, including emerging infectious

diseases, pathogen transmission dynamics, conservation-focused vaccination, and the impacts of climate change on disease ecology. Key topics include avian influenza in wildlife, chronic wasting disease, amphibian chytridiomycosis, white-nose syndrome in bats, wildlife health surveillance capacity building, and the role of environmental stressors in pathogen emergence across diverse taxa.

b) International conferences:

As a distributed Collaborating Centre (e.g., 6 Regional Centres in Canada and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in the US), it is problematic to track all scientist and student attendance at conferences. That said, our members routinely attend and present at national and international conferences.

c) National conferences:

As a distributed Collaborating Centre (e.g., 6 Regional Centres in Canada and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in the US), it is problematic to track all scientist and student attendance at conferences. That said, our members routinely attend and present at national and international conferences.

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

The Collaborating Centre supports our host countries' surveillance programs for avian influenza in wildlife, and play a significant role in publicly disseminating the results of this surveillance (e.g., the Canadian wildlife data are available here: https://www.cwhc-rscf.ca/avian_influenza.php .

In addition to our scientific publications, both the CWHC and the NWHC produce periodic lay publications (e.g., <https://healthywildlife.ca/> and <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/wildlife-health-bulletins>)

11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?

A significant activity for the Collaborating Centre is the development of standardized wildlife disease case definitions to be made publicly available. A publicly available ongoing series, the intent is to ultimately develop standardized case definitions for several dozen important wildlife diseases. Completed case definitions are available here: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/tm19>

12. Additional comments regarding your report:

There have been significant leadership changes at both the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). At the CWHC, leadership has transitioned from Dr. Craig Stephen, subsequently to Mr. Patrick Zimmer, and then recently to myself, Dr. Damien Joly (as of 1 November 2024). Similarly, leadership at the NWHC transitioned from Dr. Jonathan Sleeman to Dr. C. LeAnn White (as of February 2024).

Dr. Joly (CWHC) and Dr. White (NWHC) have begun discussions on how best to improve our contributions and meet our obligations as a Collaborating Centre, particularly in the context of a changing fiscal and political climate. A particular path to improving our international contributions has been the nascent discussions about adding the Wildlife Conservation Society to the Collaborating Centre; their global reach will facilitate increased international activity at the Centre.

These discussions will culminate in a proposed strategic plan for the next 5 year period, for discussion with and approval by WOA. H.