

# WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2024

This report has been submitted: 30 janvier 2025 21:05

## LABORATORY INFORMATION

<b>*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAHO Reference Laboratory:</b>	Anthrax
<b>*Address of laboratory:</b>	CFIA Lethbridge Lab, Township Road 9-1, Lethbridge Alberta, T1J3Z4
<b>*Tel:</b>	+14033825505
<b>*E-mail address:</b>	kingsley.amoako@inspection.gc.ca
<b>Website:</b>	
<b>*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):</b>	Dr. Kingsley Amoako, Laboratory Director
<b>*Name (including Title and Position) of WOAHO Reference Expert:</b>	Dr. Kingsley Amoako, Lab Director
<b>*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:</b>	Governmental

## 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)

No

Nil

## TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAHO?

No

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

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAHA Members?

No

## 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 WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

## TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHA Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHA Member?

Yes

Name of the WOAHA Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
NIGERIA	Discussion of lab capacity building for work with anthrax in Nigeria	The advice was provided via email and conference call.
CANADA	Consulted for technical advice on serological detection of anthrax	The advice was provided via emails and phone call.
KAZAKHSTAN	Consulted on the testing of anthrax vaccine	Advice was provided via email
GHANA	Consulted on anthrax diagnostics	Advice was provided remotely via phone calls

## TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs\* relevant for WOAHA?

Yes

**Research need : 1**

**Please type the Research need:** Emergency Response preparedness involving lab capacity building for work with Anthrax

**Relevance for WOA** Capacity Building,

**Relevance for the Code or Manual** Code,

**Field** Diagnostics,

**Animal Category** Terrestrial,

**Disease:**

**Kind of disease (Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases)** Zoonosis,

**If any, please specify relevance for Codes or Manual, chapter and title**

(e.g. Terrestrial Manual Chapter 2.3.5 - Minimum requirements for aseptic production in vaccine manufacture)

*Answer:*

**Notes:**

*Answer:*

## TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

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

No

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:

0

b) International conferences:

0

c) National conferences:

0

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

0

## TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

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

No

## TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO17025	PDF	asb_soa_15366_scope_v6_2023-10-13.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Anthrax testing program suspended	Standards Council of Canada

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

Yes

(See Manual of Diagnostic Tests and vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, Chapter 1.1.4)

## TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

No

## TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

Yes

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

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAHP REF. LABS
Anthrax	Participant	2	WOAHP Reference lab in Ames, Iowa, USA

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

Nil

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

No

## TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOA Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

Nil

## TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Consulted by WOA	Conference call	Lab twinning project with Nigeria to help build capacity for anthrax diagnostics

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

*In 2024, the WOA Reference lab for Anthrax in Lethbridge, Canada continued to provide technical advice for WOA member labs remotely as indicated in this Annual Report. The Reference lab continued to remotely support the Nigeria Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) in Nigeria in building capacity for diagnostic work with anthrax. The WOA Reference lab expert for anthrax at the Lethbridge Lab was able to work with the NVRI in Nigeria to successfully complete a Twinning research proposal and this has been submitted to the WOA commission for review and approval. This proposal was at the request of WOA. The Lethbridge WOA Reference laboratory for Anthrax remains active in providing scientific advice to other member WOA labs around the world. The high level of scrutiny on issues related to anthrax as a bioterrorism agent makes moving samples from one lab to the Reference lab or vice versa a huge challenge and this imposes a significant limitation on international collaboration and diagnostic testing activity. The CFIA is committed to maintaining and enhancing the WOA Reference Laboratory for Anthrax. Currently there is no diagnostic testing at the Reference lab. The lab continues to maintain close contact with the WOA Reference Lab in Ames, Iowa in the USA in the review and response to international requests. Furthermore, consultations are now ongoing with other Canadian Federal government stakeholders including the Environment Climate Change Canada, Public Health Agency Canada and Department of Defense to determine areas of potential collaboration to enhance the activities of the Reference lab. The Lethbridge WOA Reference Lab for Anthrax continues to work with the Ghana Veterinary services for anthrax diagnostic detection and readiness to respond to any potential biothreat event related to the use of anthrax. The WOA Reference lab for anthrax continues to lead the project on High-consequence pathogens detection which is funded by the Canadian Safety and Security*

### Kingsley Amoako - -

---

*Program (CSSP) under the leadership of Dr. Chad Laing. One of the pathogens of interest in the project is Bacillus anthracis. This project is exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence for front-line laboratories in preparing for high-consequence pathogens detection to reduce their risk. The Lethbridge WOAHA Reference lab for Anthrax will benefit from twinning with other WOAHA member labs in developing countries to share expertise, provide technical support, training and help build capacity for anthrax testing and diagnostics based on the experience gained in working with the Ghana Veterinary Services. This will also raise the level of support for international diagnostic testing activities and bioterrorism response preparedness related to the use of anthrax.*