World Organisation for Animal Health

Michael Baron - - UNITED_KINGDOM

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

***Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:**	Peste des petits ruminants
***Address of laboratory:**	Ash Road, Pirbright Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NF
***Tel:**	+44-1483 23.24.41
***E-mail address:**	michael.baron@pirbright.ac.uk
Website:	https://www.pirbright.ac.uk/our-science/non-vesicular-reference-laboratory
***Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):**	Prof. Bryan Charleston, Institute Director
***Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:**	Dr Michael D Baron, Honorary Institute Fellow
***Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:**	Research agency 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)

No

No samples submitted this year. Note that countries affected by the several outbreaks in Europe in 2025 are obliged to submit all samples to the EURL.

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?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAH Members?

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?

No

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

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

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?

Yes

Name of the WOAH Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Advice on reagent supply	email
BULGARIA	Advise on diagnostic test selection	Email, provision of SOPs

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

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

Yes

Research need : 1

Please type the Research need: There continues to be a lack of knowledge about the peristence of infectious PPRV in meat, fomites and the environment. A lot of our decisions about the risks posed by various products from potentially infected animals are guesswork. Educated guesswork, but guesswork nonetheless

Relevance for WOAH Disease Control, Standard Setting,

Relevance for the Code or Manual Code,

Field Epidemiology and Surveillance,

Animal Category Terrestrial,

Disease:

Peste des petits ruminants

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

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: Chapter: 14.7. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus

Notes:

Answer:

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

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

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:
We have updated our database of curated PPRV sequences, all of which are linked to available geographic location data, much of which is culled from publications and/or theses tracked down online. This database is made available through the WOAH PPRV Reference Laboratory Network and is updated annually.

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:
The datasets described in 14 are the result of significant pre-processing of available data, and are made available through the web site of the WOAH PPR Reference Laboratory Network.

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:

b) International conferences:

c) National conferences:

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

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO/IEC17025	see attached file	UKAS 4025 16June2025.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
cELISA for antibodies to PPRV (ID-VET)	UKAS
Real-time RT-PCR (Batten et al 2011)	UKAS
Real-time RT-PCR (Flannery et al 2019)	UKAS

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

Yes

All our management systems are built around UK legislation, some is based on WHO and WOAH, but not directly translatable as it's updated into UK law before it's applied. All facilities have their operational risk assessment and specific activity risk assessments where required. We have a process in place for reporting incidents relating to biorisk, including an investigation process and lessons learned. There is also an inspection and audit programme which monitors compliance with Biorisk related legislation including SAPO, COSHH (where it relates to human pathogens), and GM (contained use). We are inspected by the HSE as part of a proactive intervention plan, where parts of our biorisk management system are scrutinised and sampled to check compliance and we are also visited and inspected by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) to ensure any 'dual-use' materials are being held securely.

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

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. Are you a member of a network of WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAH REF. LABS
WOAH PPR Reference Laboratory network	Participant, member of the secretariat	32	The Pirbright Laboratory, UK; CIRAD, Montpelier, France; CAHEC, Qingdao, China; ICAR- NIVEDI, Bangalore, India

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

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOAH Ref. Labs/ organising WOAH Ref Lab
Harmonisation of diagnostic tests for PPR	Participant	16	Organiser: CIRAD, France

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?

No

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 during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons1	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
performance in detection of anti-PPRV antibodies in camel sera	participant	12	cELISA	BAHRAIN, FRANCE, GHANA, INDIA, OMAN, QATAR, SENEGAL, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM,
performance in detection of PPRV RNA	participant	41	RT-real-time PCR	ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BANGLADESH, BOTSWANA, CAMEROON, COTE D'IVOIRE, ESWATINI, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GHANA, GUINEA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MALAYSIA, MALI, MONGOLIA, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NIGER, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, SENEGAL, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, THAILAND, TUNISIA, UNITED KINGDOM, UZBEKISTAN, ZAMBIA,
Harmonisation of diagnostic tests for PPR	participant	16	RT-real-time PCR and cELISA	AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF), FRANCE, GERMANY, GHANA, INDIA, JORDAN, KOREA (REP. OF), MOROCCO, SENEGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Participation in WOAH mission	India	Dr Michael Baron was a member of WOAH team visiting 5 different states in India to assess and advise India on their PPR control programme.
Ad Hoc Group on revamping WOAH Register of Diagnostic Kits	Paris, France	Dr Carrie Batten was appointed as chair of the AHG.

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Although we organised a PPR training course for 2025, the attendee was unable to obtain a visa in time, and so the course was not held.

We are currently in negotiations with Saudi Arabia with respect to a twinning programme, to be funded by KSA, and including PPR; a preliminary visit to KSA has taken place.

We continue to make our large collection of PPRV isolates and related reagents available on request.

European countries affected by PPR (several in 2025) are obliged to use the EU Ref Lab in France for diagnostic support.