

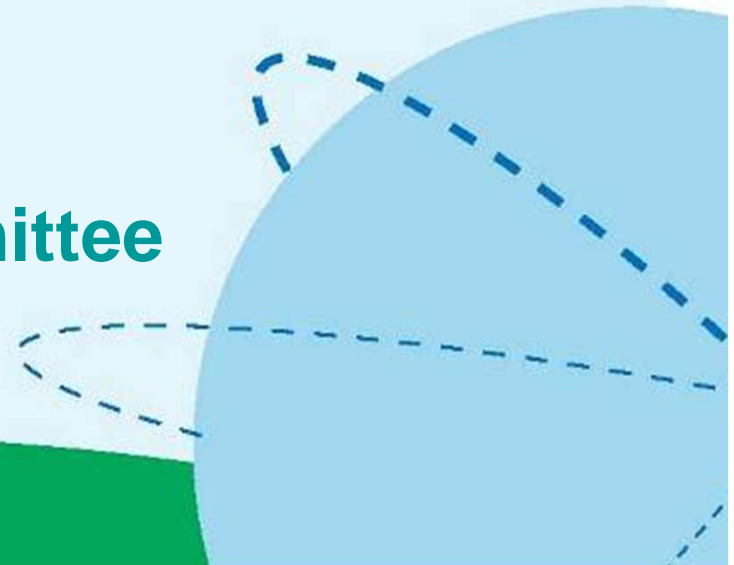


**OFFLU –  
A novel international partnership approach  
to a major zoonotic threat**

**Presented by Peter Daniels**

**Chair, OFFLU Executive Committee**

**For the OFFLU partners**



# OFFLU: One Health in Action

- Through an exchange of letters between WHO and the OIE and FAO there has been established in 2011:

**OFFLU collaboration in the WHO process of vaccine strain selection for animal influenza viruses of public health concern**

## **Key aspects of the agreement with WHO:**

**Coordinate, gather and analyse information on animal influenza viruses of public health concern from institutions within the OFFLU network and share that information during the WHO VCM, specifically:**

- **An overview of the epidemiologic situation for H5 in animals**
- **Phylogenetic trees for H5 which include/show WHO vaccine strains**
- **Information for other animal influenza viruses of public health concern, specifically H9 and H2.**

**Work through WHO HQ to collaborate with WHO laboratories throughout the year to obtain and use ferret-derived sera to test new isolates of concern identified by WHO, and develop HI tables.**

# OFFLU

## OIE–FAO network of expertise on animal influenza

Initially established in 2005 to address HPAI H5N1, strengthen links within the animal health network and also with WHO  
**(Emphasize the importance of networking)**

The OFFLU mandate was expanded in May 2009 in response to pandemic H1N1 2009:

- To cover all ‘animal influenza’ viruses
- To address technical issues relating to all animal influenzas, and pandemic H1N1 2009
- To collaborate with WHO – GIP and share information to protect both animal and public health

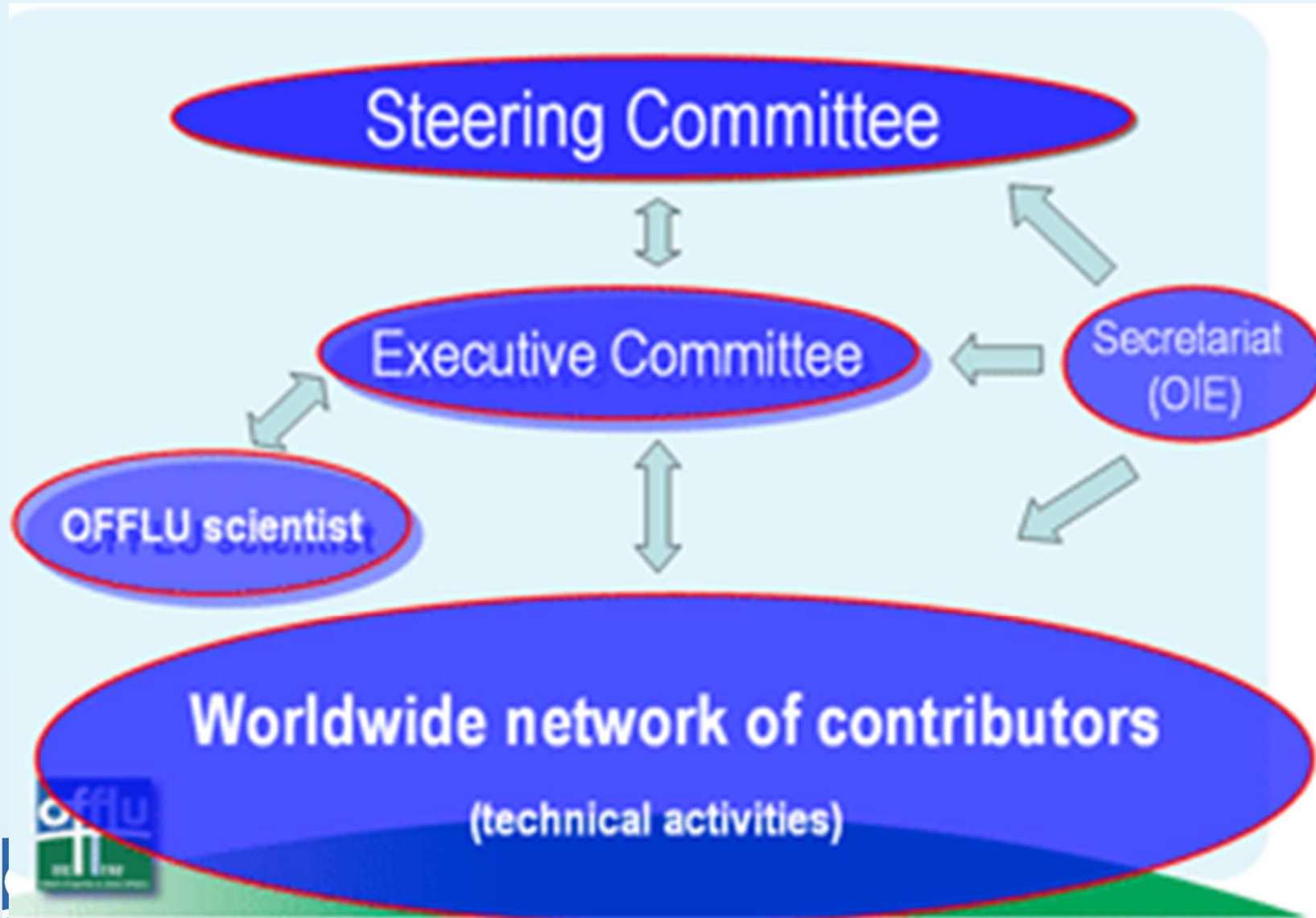
## Offlu's vision

The animal health community will provide early recognition and characterisation of emerging influenza viral strains in animal populations, and effective management of known infections, thereby better **managing the risk to human health** and **promoting global food security**, animal health and welfare, and other community benefits derived from domestic animals and wildlife.

<http://www.offlu.net/index.html>



# OFFLU Organization



# OFFLU's objectives

- Exchange scientific data and biological materials (including virus strains) within the network, to analyse such data, and to share such information with the wider scientific community.
- Offer technical advice, training and veterinary expertise to Member Countries to assist in the prevention, diagnosis, surveillance and control of animal influenza.
- Collaborate with the WHO influenza network on issues relating to the animal-human interface, including early preparation of human vaccine.
- Highlight influenza research needs, promote their development and ensure co-ordination.

## **Delivery against the Objectives:**

### **1. Exchange scientific data and biological materials**

- **Significant advances in H5N1 data sharing**
- **A rapid and comprehensive response to pandemic H1N1, covering policy issues and evaluation of diagnostics**
- **A comprehensive and actively maintained website: <http://www.offlu.net/index.html>**

# Delivery against the Objectives:

## 2. Provision of technical advice, training and veterinary expertise

Developed through Technical Activities with designated leaders and defined membership

- Biosafety and biosecurity guidelines\*
- Applied epidemiology\* - Surveillance guidelines for animal influenzas in various species
- Production of H5 standard antisera
- Production of PCR reference standards\*
- Vaccination
- Development of Proficiency testing for reference labs (PT)\*
- Molecular Markers\*

\* activities which involve WHO

## **Delivery against the Objectives:**

### **3. Collaborate with the WHO influenza network**

- WHO participation in OFFLU Steering and Executive Committees**
- OFFLU participation in the WHO VCM twice a year**
- Detailed multiagency/partner consultations in response to pandemic H1N1**
- Technical activities on human-animal interface issues – definition of genetic markers of scientific interest**

## **Delivery against the Objectives:**

### **4. Promote influenza research (and influenza science)**

- **A dossier of recommended research issues developed, for posting on the OFFLU website**
- **Two research projects implemented, supporting vaccine selection in Indonesia and Egypt, developing antigenic cartography for avian influenza**
- **A new TA initiated to promote and drive influenza surveillance in pigs**

.....not the end.....

....certainly a new way of doing business.....

# Thank you

## OFFLU secretariat

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