

NEWS

DECEMBER 2022



STAR-IDAZ
International Research
Consortium on Animal Health



Message from Chair

The secretariat (SIRCAH) that has supported the IRC over the last 6 years has been successful in getting funding from Horizon Europe for a further 4.5 years, which started in October 2022. On the 1st of December, the secretariat hosted a hybrid SIRCAH2 kick-off meeting attended by representatives from the full STAR-IDAZ global network and took place at the Wellcome Trust in London. This event recapped the impact SIRCAH has made in coordinating animal health research globally and looked forward to SIRCAH2, sharing new plans for sustainable growth of the STAR-IDAZ network. The kick-off meeting highlighted that SIRCAH2 will place more

emphasis on developing the regional networks of STAR-IDAZ and increase the contact with industry, which is important in ensuring the delivery of animal health solutions, including vaccines, diagnostics, drugs, and other control strategies.

The unprecedented spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus in wild and domestic birds in 2022 highlights the importance of a coordinated approach to animal disease control. The STAR-IDAZ Avian Influenza report published last year is still being viewed and downloaded with usage numbers continuing to grow. The recent alarming spread of Lumpy Skin Disease from Africa through the Middle East into Europe and through Asia is also of great concern.

I would also like to welcome the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) as a new member to the IRC, and Timothy Sullivan as their representative on the Executive Committee. It is excellent to see the Network continue to grow through both the IRC Executive Committee and Regional Networks, enabling STAR-IDAZ to have a larger, more focused and effective impact to address these global issues. Finally, I would like to thank Alex Morrow, who has lead the Secretariat for the past 6 years and been fundamental to STAR-IDAZ since its inception, as he steps back as Coordinator of the project. Although Alex will continue to contribute to STAR-IDAZ IRC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his commitment and work on the project.

Hong Yin

Chair, Executive Committee, IRC



SIRCAH2

Thank you to the participants who attended the SIRCAH2 launch event, which included representatives of IRC partners, members of the STAR-IDAZ Executive and Scientific Committees and Regional Networks for Europe, the Americas, Africa & the Middle East, and Asia & Australasia, and representatives of key collaborating organisations and industry members. The day consisted of 3 sessions, firstly, an introductory session chaired by the Executive Committee member Dr Francisco Suárez Güemes. Followed by a section reflecting on the impact of STAR-IDAZ so far, chaired by Professor Isabel Santos of the Scientific committee. The final session was chaired by Vish Nene of the Executive Committee, and looked ahead to SIRCAH2, the new secretariat to STAR-IDAZ IRC.

Going forward, the Secretariat will continue to facilitate and support STAR-IDAZ IRC in achieving its objectives by providing organisational and communication support. The partners in SIRCAH 2 are Kreavet, Defra, WOA, CABI, and UKRI-BBSRC, with the coordinator role moving from Defra to Kreavet, taken up by Johannes Charlier and Defra providing the project manager. CABI's roles will also change in SIRCAH2 with the introductions of Gareth Dicks and Mary O'Connor, as we say farewell to the retired Robert Taylor.

SIRCAH2 will build on the success of the original SIRCAH project, by continuing to enable networking and coordination between stakeholders in the research community. As before, the goal remains to identify and address critical knowledge gaps to speed up the development of improved disease control strategies. SIRCAH2 has the ambition to increase engagement with the industry and focus on growing and developing the STAR-IDAZ network, particularly the regional networks.

The Secretariat would like to thank you all for your support and commitment to STAR-IDAZ IRC and look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met online on 20 September 2022, as well as monitoring the overall activities in the IRC, the Committee discussed the possibility of adding or phasing out priority topics and Working Group (WG) activities. It was concluded that the current 30 priority topics remain important working areas and new WGs may be established through collaboration with sustainable existing networks. Activities in the One Health, Coronavirus, Avian Influenza and AMR and alternatives to antibiotics WGs were discussed (updates, see below). Furthermore, discussions were held about how SIRCAH can establish a monitoring process to measure the impact of the IRC and STAR-IDAZ Network.

For the next meeting in 2023, there are initial plans to meet in-person in South America, discussions are ongoing as to where the location will be.

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee met on 28 and 29 June in Paris at the offices of ANSES. The meeting was hosted Prof. Stéphan Zientara, Deputy Chair of the Scientific Committee. The Committee discussed in-depth the previous and planned activities of the WGs for Influenza, African Swine Fever, Antimicrobials and alternatives to antibiotics, One Health, Vaccinology, Vector transmission and control, Bovine tuberculosis (bTB), Helminths and anthelmintic resistance, Coronaviruses, Emerging issues, Foot-and-mouth disease, Brucellosis, Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, and Diagnostics.

Two new Scientific Committee members were welcomed for their first meeting - Cynthia Baldwin (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA) and Linfa Wang (NUS Medical School, Singapore). Linfa Wang will closely monitor the activities in the WGs on Coronaviruses as well as Emerging Issues; Cynthia Baldwin will monitor the activities of the Brucellosis WG and provide support for the WG on Vector transmission and control.

An Ad-hoc advisory group to the SC committee was established to provide additional expertise in specific topics as needed. It was agreed that upon new funding for SIRCAH2, the mandate as well as the composition of the Scientific Committee will be reviewed. The next meeting is planned online on 6 February 2023.

Regional Networks

The STAR-IDAZ Regional Networks (for Africa & the Middle East, the Americas, Asia & Australasia, and Europe) facilitate regional cooperation and coordination by identifying common research priorities in the Region, opportunities for sharing resources including access to samples, specialised facilities, and expertise, and international or regional funding opportunities.

Africa and Middle East Regional Network

There had been plans to hold an Africa and Middle East Regional Network (AMERN) alongside the ERFAN (Enhancing Research for Africa Network) General Assembly in Gaborone, Botswana in mid-November. Although both meetings unfortunately were cancelled, the AMERN will continue to look for opportunities to link up with ERFAN as there are a number of shared interests and complementary work between the two networks. Holding the ERFAN and AMERN meetings alongside each other would offer the opportunity to expand the reach of AMERN and the STAR-IDAZ Network. There are plans to hold the next AMERN meeting virtually in early 2023, before planning an in-person meeting later in the year.

Americas Regional Network

The Americas Regional Network met on 18 July 2022 by webinar, with participants from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cuba, USA, CIRAD, WOAAH, and CaribVET. Attendees were given an overview of STAR-IDAZ IRC background, its structure and the research roadmaps, before being presented updates on the activities relating to Emerging Issues, the Vaccine Platforms review, ASF, Influenza and AMR and Alternatives to Antibiotics. Dr Maria Mesplet then presented on WOAAH-STAR IDAZ IRC collaboration on the AMR EU-Americas project. Next, participants gave country reports, from Argentina, the Caribbean region, and the USA. The next meeting of this Regional Network will held in early 2023.

Asia & Australasia Regional Network

The Regional Network for Asia & Australasia met virtually on 26 July, to discuss regional priorities and challenges. Participants from China, Japan, India, Australia, and WOAAH offices in Thailand and Japan were given reminder of the background updates of STAR-IDAZ IRC including the new funding to the Secretariat (SIRCAH2) and activities on Emerging Issues, Vaccine Platforms, ASF, Influenza and AMR and Alternatives to Antibiotics. Next, Dr Karma Rinzin presented on the South-East Asia and China FMD (SEACFMD) campaign and research priorities 2017-2022 report then participants gave country reports from Australia, Japan, India, and China. Finally, there was a discussion about how STAR-IDAZ can engage with the new Actions Against AMR project in the region.

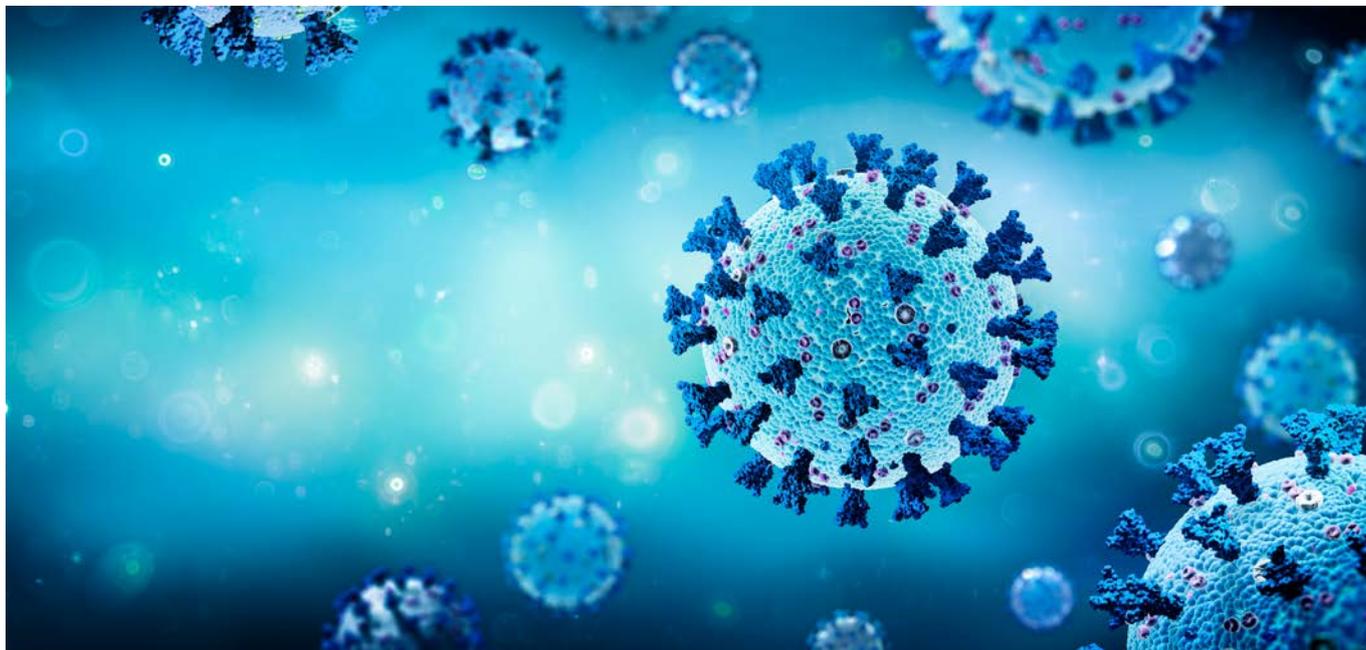
European Network: SCAR Collaborative Working Group on Animal Health and Welfare Research (CWG-AHW)

The SCAR CWG on AHW operates as the STAR-IDAZ Regional Network for Europe. The CWG-AHW Plenary and Subgroups meet at The Wellcome Collection in London, UK on 29 November 2022 as part of the week of international science coordination meetings. At the CWG-AHW Plenary meeting, after a roundtable on research priorities, the subgroups updated on their meetings held earlier in the day followed by updates on the ICRAD ERA-Net and STAR-IDAZ. This was followed by a presentation 'Science Priorities for Animal Health in the UK' from the UK DCVO and an update on the Partnership EUP AH&W and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. There were updates on the 'From a holistic picture towards a common vision of European livestock production' workshop and on the One Health EJP, before finally a presentation from Jan Vaarten of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe titled 'Veterinary medicine

Influenza

Influenza experts are working incessantly this year, managing outbreaks of influenza while providing scientific support in the development of research roadmaps to establish pathways to improve control strategies and tools to fight the disease. The research gaps identified at the June gap analysis workshop at the National Centre for Animal Health, Ames, Iowa, were arranged into draft research roadmaps. The

STAR-IDAZ IRC '[2021 Influenza Research Review](#)' continues to provide a valuable contribution to ongoing discussions on influenza research needs among the research community. Workshops with influenza international key experts will be held in early 2023 to discuss the draft roadmaps on control tools, vaccines and diagnostic tools, which are anticipated to be delivered by the second half of 2023.



AMR and ATA

The report on '[Research roadmaps development for alternative to Antibiotics](#)' was published in September 2022 and is available on our website. The document, developed in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), outlines the process, the participative methods and the research roadmaps developed.

The research roadmaps are based on results from several workshops held since 2019, each one further progressing the previously agreed findings. The Working Group was established at a gap analysis workshop held alongside the '3rd International Symposium, Alternatives to Antibiotics, Challenges and Solutions in Animal Health and Production' in Bangkok, Thailand, on 16-18 December 2019. Electronic engagement was carried out after the workshop, followed by three webinars in October 2020 to draft three research roadmaps. To further develop the roadmaps and identify research priorities, another series of webinars were held with 60 international experts. Electronic engagements of experts after the webinars led to the finalisation of the ATA research roadmaps and the publication of the research report.

Future events in this area planned by the IRC include a 'One Health AMR session' co-organised with the [Tripartite AMR project](#) within the next [ALARM](#) (Amrita Legion for Antibiotic Resistance Management) congress in August 2023 and a presentation to the [1st Research Conference on AMR/AMU in Food Animals in the Asia-Pacific Region](#), being held 6-8 February 2023.

Coronavirus – UK-ICN

STAR-IDAZ IRC continues to strengthen its collaboration with the [UK-International Coronavirus Network](#). The UK-ICN invited the IRC to its Coronavirus Network Annual General Meeting, held in Cambridge on 2-3 November 2022. The event involved an evening poster session and a full day meeting, with sessions on one health and zoonoses, surveillance detection and characterization, countermeasures and interventions, behavioural and social policy, SARS-CoV3 and the future, and future opportunities. Each session had outstanding keynote speakers and flash talks from early careers researchers.

The one health and zoonoses session was opened by Prof Wim van der Poel, chair of the Scientific Committee of STAR-IDAZ IRC. SIRCAH presented a poster and gave a presentation on the STAR-IDAZ IRC and the research roadmaps. The roadmaps were presented within the sessions on future opportunities, together with a presentation of the ISIDORE project which has currently opened a [call to prevent future epidemics](#).

The discussions during the workshop increased engagement and awareness, with STAR-IDAZ and the UK-ICN currently organising a gap analysis workshop, back-to-back to the '*International Meeting on Livestock, Companion and Wildlife Coronaviruses*' on 25-26 May 2023 in Belfast. The workshop will open the way to the development of research roadmaps on Coronaviruses.

One Health

STAR-IDAZ IRC have launched a new collaborative One Health Working Group with GloPID-R (Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness). The Working Group will be composed of experts, researchers, funders and industry members from all relevant sectors, including veterinary, public health, and environmental topics, as well as representatives of existing One Health networks. In addition, SIRCAH are developing a scoping document for One Health in veterinary research and STAR-IDAZ IRC priorities.



Lumpy Skin Disease

The Pirbright Institute and GALVmed hosted an international Lumpy Skin Disease Virus workshop on 16-18th November 2022. The workshop involved scientific sessions on Phylogenetics, Transmission, Epidemiology and Vaccinology, and a session on decision making and lessons learnt following LSDV incursions from a policy makers perspective. SIRCAH attended to present on STAR-IDAZ IRC at the workshop and will look to engage with the group going forward.

IRC Members

The complete list of members is:

1. Danish National Veterinary Institute (DTU Vet), Denmark
2. National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA), France
3. French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), France
4. Ministry of Health, Italy
5. Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands
6. National Institute for Agriculture and Food Research and Technology (INIA), Spain
7. Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK
8. Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council (BBSRC), UK
9. Regional Consortium; Universiteit Gent (Ghent University), Université de Liège, the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (Unit Contractual Research) and CODA-CERVA (Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre)
10. Kimron Veterinary Institute, Israel
11. International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya
12. Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA), Tanzania
13. National Institute of Animal Health, National Agriculture and Food Research Organisation (NIAH), Japan
14. Agriculture Research Services, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA ARS), USA
15. National Institute of Agriculture Technology (INTA), Argentina
16. Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT), Argentina
17. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Canada
18. Zoetis
19. OIE-World Organisation for Animal Health
20. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
21. HealthforAnimals (Global Animal Medicines Association)
22. Diagnostics for Animals (Manufacturers of Animal Health Diagnostics)
23. European Commission
24. Regional Consortium; Nigerian Animal Health Research Network led by National Veterinary Research Institute Vom
25. National Advisory Council on Animal Health (CONASA) and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics (FVMZ)
26. Australian Animal Health Laboratory, CSIRO, Australia
27. Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), China.
28. National Veterinary Institute of Sweden (SVA), Sweden
29. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USA

SIRCAH2

Support for the STAR-IDAZ IRC (SIRCAH2) is funded from the European Unions' Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101082377. SIRCAH2 is run by a partnership including Defra (UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), CAB International (CABI), BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council), and Kreavet. It provides organisational and communication support to the IRC, facilitates research gap analysis including the provision of literature reviews for working groups, maps funding activities against identified research needs, and helps mobilise resources to address them. The Secretariat also plays an important role in advocacy for the consortium and bringing in new members.

Further Information

For further information about the IRC please visit www.star-idaz.net. Research funding organisations and programme owners interested in joining the IRC or researchers interested in joining the working groups should contact the STAR-IDAZ IRC Project Office:

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