



**STAR  
IDAZ**

International  
Research  
Consortium on  
Animal Health

# Summer Newsletter 2025

July 2025



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## Welcome from the Chair

The first half of 2025 has been a busy time for STAR IDAZ – we continue to focus on our priority areas and in the last six months alone I am delighted to have seen outputs on finfish health, coronaviruses, One Health and vector-borne disease in the form of workshop reports, roadmaps and surveys. We were able to bring funders together and in collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) hold workshops on aquatic diseases, firming up our commitment to collaboration and coordination of activities between funders and programme owners alongside scientific experts.

None of the STAR IDAZ activities are possible without the input of our Scientific Committee, which has been expertly Chaired over recent years by Professor Wim van der Poel. In March Professor van der Poel stepped down from his role, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work. Thank you Wim! He will be replaced by Dr Vish Nene, and I am delighted to welcome Dr Nene into this role. I look forward to seeing Dr Nene at our in-person meeting in Beijing when he will update us on the STAR IDAZ working group activities. While transboundary diseases continue to be a problem, I also recognise that STAR IDAZ should be playing an active role in disease preparedness and there is a need to reassess the remit of the Emerging Issues working group. This will likely be a focus of STAR IDAZ during the rest of 2025, and we will look for collaborations within the zoonotic disease and One Health landscapes. In the meantime I wish everyone a peaceful summer!

# Executive Committee Update



The STAR IDAZ IRC Executive Committee is made up of representatives of each of the 36 STAR IDAZ IRC partners. The STAR IDAZ IRC Partners have agreed to coordinate research funding strategies, promote support for STAR IDAZ IRC objectives, and share information between the members. The IRC Executive Committee oversee the strategic direction of the consortium, agree the STAR IDAZ activities, and utilise the outputs to align and coordinate their organisations' animal health research programmes and funding.

The Executive Committee met on 17 June 2025 by webinar. The members were delighted to welcome Dr Chadia Wannous, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), to present an overview of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. Dr Wannous noted its role as a legally binding framework for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response and highlighted three critical areas for STAR IDAZ: Article 4 – Pandemic Prevention and Surveillance; Article 5 – One Health; and Article 9 – Research and Development.

The Executive Committee discussed the STAR IDAZ Priority Topics Survey, which was launched earlier in the year. All IRC Partners had been invited to complete the survey, which will reevaluate the disease and cross-cutting topics STAR IDAZ focuses on. To encourage a higher response rate and ensure the results are representative of the global STAR IDAZ IRC Network, the survey has



been reopened. During the meeting, the Secretariat reported on recent outputs of STAR IDAZ, which can be found on the website: <https://www.star-idaz.net>. In particular, the activity of the Aquatic Diseases Working Group and the piloting of a new coordination approach was presented. Aquaculture had been identified as a priority by the STAR IDAZ Regional Network for Asia and Australasia, and this was subsequently adopted as a Priority Topic by the Executive Committee. In October 2024, funders interested in coordinating activities, in alignment with global aquaculture strategies, was established, supported by a dedicated committee of scientific experts. Research priorities for aquaculture were agreed following an online, global consultation and a gap analysis workshop with international experts held in February 2025, and outputs disseminated publicly via the WOA and STAR IDAZ websites. STAR IDAZ activity is driven by the priorities of the IRC Partners, facilitating the coordination and alignment of their funding strategies to foster collaboration, optimise investment and accelerate the delivery of new tools and improved animal health strategies.

The next STAR IDAZ Executive Committee meeting will be kindly hosted by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing, China on 23-24 September 2025.

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## Scientific Committee Update



The STAR IDAZ Scientific Committee, comprising 16 independent experts from across the globe, plays a vital role in providing scientific guidance to the STAR IDAZ Executive Committee and Working Groups. The Scientific Committee met by webinar on 24 March 2025, during which there were updates on the Executive Committee and activities of the Regional Networks, before reviewing and discussing recent activities of the Working Groups for Mycoplasmas, Coronaviruses, Aquatic Diseases, One Health and Bovine Tuberculosis.

This occasion marked the final meeting chaired by Professor Wim van der Poel, who has served as Chairperson since the Scientific Committee was established in 2019, and who formally stepped down from the role at this meeting. In February 2025, the process of electing a new Chairperson began, and Dr Vish Nene was elected as the new Chair of the Scientific Committee. Dr Nene assumes the position with immediate effect. Professor van der Poel will continue his membership in the Scientific Committee.

Additionally, four members of the Scientific Committee have stepped down from their positions in recent months. The Secretariat would like to thank Dr Irit Davidson, Dr Clara Marín Alcalá, Dr Volker Gerdtz and Dr Linfa Wang for their commitment and valuable contributions to the Scientific Committee over the years. The recruitment process to fill the four vacancies in the Committee is ongoing.

The next meeting of the STAR IDAZ Scientific Committee will be held in-person in August 2025.

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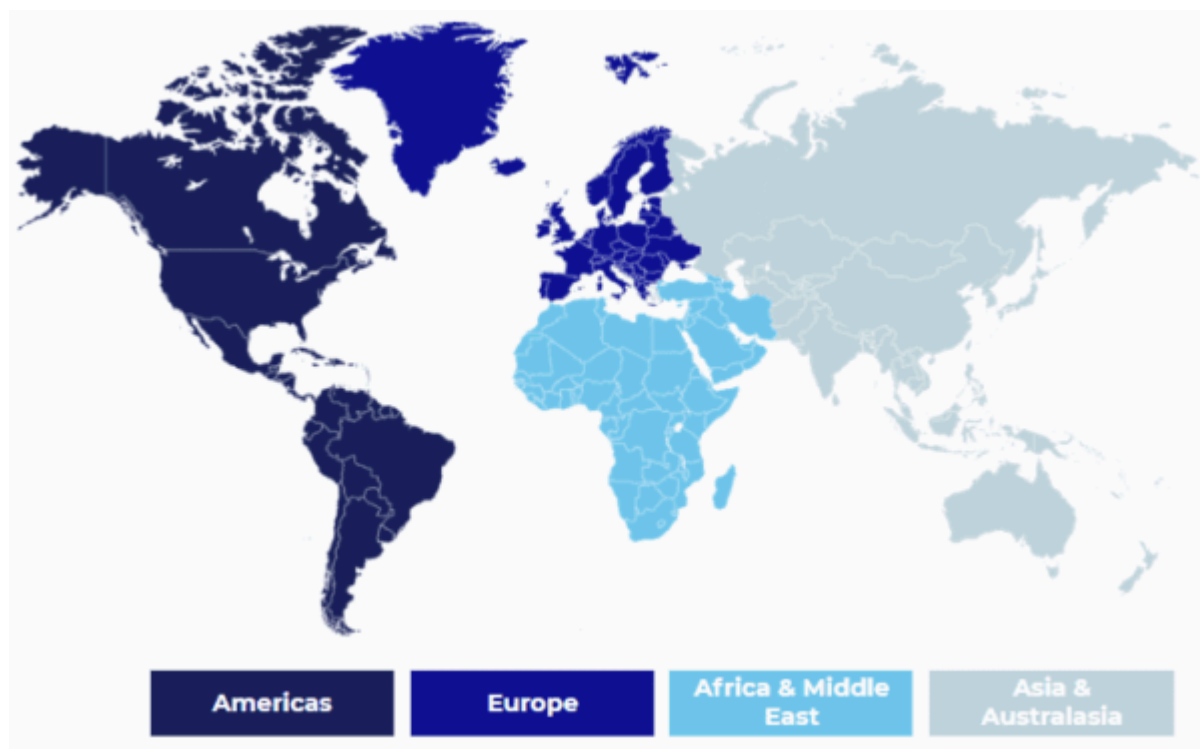
## Regional Networks

### **Americas; Africa and the Middle East; Asia and Australasia; European Network**

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.

A Regional Network area has recently been added to the STAR IDAZ website, offering participants a platform to access documents, receive topic alerts, and

collaborate within their regional network. Volunteers from each region are encouraged to help administer this new digital space.



### **Americas Regional Network**

The Americas Regional Network met on 8 April 2025 by webinar, with participation from Guadalupe, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina and USA and representatives from WOAHP Regional Offices.

Country reports from Canada, Argentina, Mexico and USA discussed foot-and-mouth disease, bovine TB and avian influenza, lumpy skin disease, foot-and-mouth disease, among others. An overview of the Caribbean Animal and Veterinary Public Health Network, 'CaribVET', provided information on membership, governance, and key aims. Prioritised activities by CaribVET seek to improve surveillance capacity to support early warning and detection of animal and zoonotic disease, promote epidemiological research and disease management between different risk managers and stakeholders; and increase laboratory capacity.

The next meeting will be held by webinar in the autumn.

### **Africa and Middle East Regional Network**

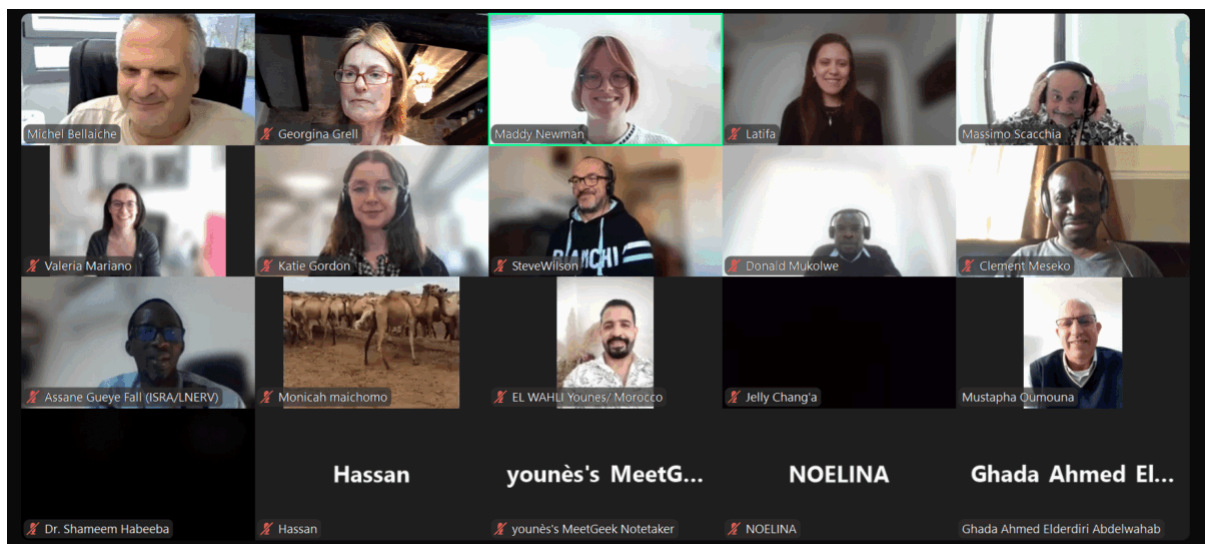
The Africa and Middle East Regional Network met on 10 April 2025 by webinar, with participation from Kenya, Algeria, Senegal, Nigeria, Uganda, UAE,

Tanzania, Israel, Morocco and representatives from WOA Regional Offices, GALVmed and Enhancing Research for Africa Network (ERFAN).

Country reports from Uganda, Israel, Senegal, Nigeria and Kenya discussed acaricide resistance, brucellosis, ticks and tsetse fly, AMR and avian influenza, among others.

The April meeting included a presentation by GALVmed dedicated to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by addressing animal health challenges through research, commercial development, and policy engagement. Their focus is currently on infectious diseases affecting livestock, with potential expansion into aquaculture, and they run several research programmes targeting vaccines, surveillance, and resistance monitoring.

The next meeting will be held by webinar in the autumn.



## Asia and Australasia Regional Network

The Asia and Australasia Regional Network met on 4 April 2025 by webinar, with participation from Russia, Indonesia, India, Japan, Pakistan and Australia and representatives from WOA Regional Offices.

Country reports from Russia, Pakistan, Japan, Australia, Indonesia, and others detailed national research structures, AMR surveillance, avian influenza, lumpy skin disease, foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever, among others. A proposed in-person regional meeting in Beijing this autumn was met with support, and it is hoped the Asia and Australasia Regional Network will meet in-person following the up-coming Executive Committee meeting.

A call for proposals from the Pandemic Fund was also highlighted, encouraging collaborative submissions across early warning and lab system strengthening initiatives.

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

The AH&W CWG plenary and subgroup meetings were organised by the Ministry of Health in Rome on 9 and 10 December 2024. In addition to the regular updates of the Animal Welfare and Strategy & Foresight Unit subgroups that held their meetings the day before the plenary, representatives of STAR-IDAZ, the ICRAD ERA-NET, the Partnership on AH&W and DISCONTTOOLS provided attendees with the latest progress and news. The collaboration with RefreSCAR on 'Climate change and its impact on AH&W', 'Regulatory science on animal welfare', and 'Risk communication' was discussed, as was the role of the CWG in relation to the Partnership. Finally, the activities of the SCAR Fish group were presented, along with two scientific talks, one on the diagnosis of virosis (Antonio Lavazza, IZS LER Italy) and on Artificial Intelligence in animal health research (Alasdair Cook, Surrey University, UK).

The subsequent plenary meeting was held online on 15 May 2025. As well as briefings on the activities of the subgroups and research consortia, the participants were informed about the CWG Food Systems activities. Finally, the in-person CWG plenary meeting will be held in Krakow, Poland in autumn 2025.

Two documents have recently been published on the [SCAR website](#): 'Research on HPAI in ruminants, initiated following the epidemiological situation of cattle HPAI in the USA' and 'Consultation of AH&W CWG members of their expectation for the EC Framework Programme 10'.

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## **Priority Topic News**



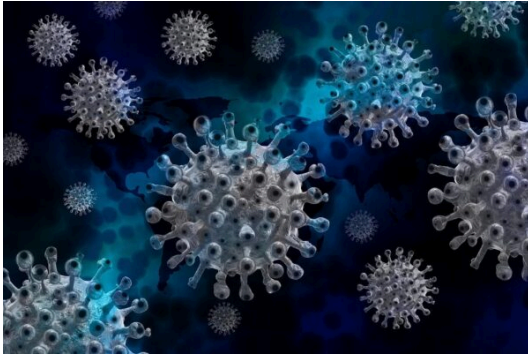


*4 July 2025 - Georgina Grell*

## **Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA) Scientific Meeting**

28-30 April, 2025 Rome, Italy

[Read more...](#)



*10 June 2025 - Georgina Grell*

## **STAR IDAZ–UK-ICN Research Roadmaps Aim to Strengthen Coronavirus Preparedness**

The STAR IDAZ International Research Consortium (IRC), in collaboration with the UK International Coronavirus Network (UK-ICN), has published a series of targeted research roadmaps on coronaviruses. These roadmaps identify critical...

[Read more...](#)



9 June 2025 - Georgina Grell

## **STAR IDAZ Tick Vaccine Workshop Marked a Key Milestone for the Global Effort to Control Tick Populations**

The STAR IDAZ Tick Vaccine Workshop has marked an important step forward in the global fight against ticks and the diseases they spread. The finalized Scientific Target Product Profile (S-TPP)...

[Read more...](#)



9 June 2025 - Georgina Grell

## **Three Key Aquaculture Health Reports Published Following STAR IDAZ–WOAH Workshop**

The STAR IDAZ International Research Consortium has finalized and published three pivotal reports on global aquaculture health research, following its collaborative workshop with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)...

[Read more...](#)



15 May 2025 - Georgina Grell

## **STAR IDAZ publishes new report Investing in research with a One Health approach**

STAR IDAZ IRC has published a report exploring the funding landscape for projects and initiatives that take a One Health approach to research and implementation. It builds on the Mapping...

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### **PRIORITY TOPICS**

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## **SIRCAH News**



6 June 2025 - Georgina Grell

## **Recognized Impact for Global Animal Health Strategies**

The STAR IDAZ International Research Consortium (IRC) – a global network of public and private research funders and programme owners – is at the forefront of driving research that informs...

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30 April 2025 - Georgina Grell

## **STAR IDAZ will attend the 92nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates**

The 92nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates will take place at the Maison de La Chimie in Paris, France from 25 to 29 May, and STAR IDAZ...

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## **Stakeholder News**



11 July 2025 - Georgina Grell

## **USDA Concludes \$100 Million HPAI Research Funding Round**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has concluded its competitive funding round offering up to \$100 million for projects focused on the prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza...

[Read more...](#)





11 July 2025 - Georgina Grell

## **GALVmed Launches VITAL 2 to Boost Ruminant Vaccination in Africa**

The Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed) has launched a new five-year programme, VITAL 2, aimed at improving ruminant vaccination rates in Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria. Building on the...

[Read more...](#)



15 May 2025 - Gareth Dicks

## **WHO Launches Course on Dual-Use Research and Responsible Use of the Life Sciences**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced a new course aimed at enhancing global awareness and understanding of dual-use research (DUR) and its implications within the life sciences. The course,...

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**MORE NEWS**

## **IRC Partners**



## The complete list of partners 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, Fisheries, Food security and Nature (LVVN), 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 Belgium (STAR IDAZ.be): Ghent University; University of Liège; Contractual Research Unit at the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; Sciensano; ARSIA (Regional Association for Animal Health and Identification), Public Service of Wallonia - Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (SPW ARNE), Staff Direction for Risk Assessment from FASFC (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain), Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) and DGZ (Animal Health Care Flanders)
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. WOAH (World Organisation for Animal Health)
20. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
21. Health For Animals (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 Centre for Disease Preparedness, CSIRO, Australia
27. Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), China
28. Swedish Veterinary Agency (SVA)
29. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USA
30. Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI), Norway
31. Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO)
32. The National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Uganda
33. The Office National for the Sanitary Safety of Food Products (ONSSA), Morocco
34. Regional Consortium; Swiss Regional Consortium (Swiss Federal Office for Food Safety and Veterinary Affairs and the Institute of Virology and Immunology)
35. International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada
36. Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), UK



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## **SIRCAH2**

Support to the International Research Consortium on Animal Health (SIRCAH2) is funded by the European Union Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101082377 and by UK Research and

Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee [grant numbers 10055666 and 10058793. 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](http://www.STARIDAZ.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:

**Johannes Charlier** (Kreavet): [j.charlier@animalhealth europe.eu](mailto:j.charlier@animalhealth europe.eu)

**Madeline Newman** (Defra): [madeline.newman@defra.gov.uk](mailto:madeline.newman@defra.gov.uk)

**Valeria Mariano** (WOAH): [v.mariano@woah.org](mailto:v.mariano@woah.org)

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