STSMs - Scientific short missions
REGISTRATION OF INTEREST – HOSTING INSTUTITIONS

• PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE FOLLOWING LIST IS MERELY TO HELP POTENTIAL STSM CANDIDATES IN FINDING HOST INSTITUTIONS WILLING TO OFFER TRAINING.
• CANDIDATES ARE FREE TO TAKE CONTACT WITH ANY RESEARCH/ACADEMIC INSTITUTION IN ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING COST AST-STOP COUNTRIES AND ARRANGE DIRECTLY WITH THAT INSTITUTION FOR A STSM.
• FOR ANY QUESTION REGARDING THE OFFERS LISTED HERE PLEASE TAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON ON EACH OFFER.
• FOR GENERAL ENQUIRES ABOUT STSM AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS PLEASE DON’T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME AT: CARLOS.DASNEVES@VETINST.NO
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COST ASF-STOP Understanding and combating African Swine Fever in Europe

STSMs - Scientific short missions

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST - HOSTING INSTITUTIONS

Name of host institution: DTU, National Veterinary Institute
Country: Denmark
Address (where the STSM will take place): Lindholm Island, DK-4771 Kalvehave
Responsible person: Professor Anette Bøtner
Responsible person email: aneb@vet.dtu.dk
Responsible person contact phone: +45 35887858

STSM theme/name: Examination for African swine fever virus in fecal samples

To which Working Package(s) would you consider the STSM you are offering to be best connected to: WG1 and WG4

Minimum amount of time you consider essential for the successful fulfilment of your STSM goals? 8 weeks

Please describe shortly the aims of the STSM and what will potential candidates learn/get experience on? (no more than 250 words)

The specific aim of the STSM is to improve our diagnostic methods for detection of African swine fever virus (ASFV) in fecal samples. Improving the methods for detection of ASFV in environmental samples, including faeces, would potentially increase our ability to achieve early detection of ASFV incursion into new areas. E.g. the surveillance of ASFV in wild boar...
populations could be facilitated as fecal samples are more readily obtained than blood samples from live wild boars.

For this STSM, fecal samples have been obtained from an ASFV infection study performed earlier this year with a recent Polish ASFV isolate. During the research stay the candidate will learn how to pre-process these samples, and how to analyze them via different methods: It is contemplated, that the pre-processed samples will be analyzed for the presence of viral genome and infectious virus, and also viral load will be quantified. Viral genome will be detected by quantitative real-time PCR and quantified using absolute quantification to a known standard. Infectious virus will be detected using virus cultivation and, if possible, quantified by virus titration. For virus cultivation different methods and potentially different cell types will be tested in collaboration with researchers at our research facility.

In conclusion, during the research stay the candidate will learn how to analyze fecal samples for the presence of ASFV using qPCR and cultivation. Also, the candidate will be introduced to different virus quantification strategies.

Describe, if relevant, which qualifications/requirements candidates should fulfill to be eligible for selection (might be related to specific knowledge on methods, equipment, programs etc…)

Basic laboratory skills and experience with PCR analysis and/or virus isolation in cell culture are required.

Any calendar preferences for the STSM to take place? (dates must be between October 2016 and April 2017) January 2017-April 2017

Would you institutions be able to provide any support concerning accommodation for the chosen candidate? (this might be e.g. accommodation on student logging, help via institution’s student services etc…)

Support for finding accommodation can be provided. However, the cost for accommodation is not covered by the institute.

Any other relevant comments/information you would like to provide to candidates?

Our research facility is situated on an island, Lindholm Island in Stege Bugt. Hence, transportation to and from the island is by ferry. The trip with the ferry to the island takes 20 minutes and is free of charge.

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COST ASF-STOP Understanding and combating African Swine Fever in Europe

STSMs - Scientific short missions

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST – HOSTING INSTITUTIONS

| Name of host institution: National Veterinary Research Institute |
| Country: Poland |
| Address (where the STSM will take place): Partyzantow 57 Avenue, 24-100 Pulawy |
| Responsible person: Grzegorz Woźniakowski |
| Responsible person email: grzegorz.wozniakowski@piwet.pulawy.pl |
| Responsible person contact phone: +48818893050 |

| STSM theme/name: Application of fast molecular techniques for African Swine Fever virus detection |

| To which Working Package(s) would you consider the STSM you are offering to be best connected to: ASF diagnosis and virus detection. |

| Minimum amount of time you consider essential for the successful fulfilment of your STSM goals? |
| 1 month |

| Please described shortly the aims of the STSM and what will potential candidates learn/get experience on? (no more than 250 words) |

The aim of this STSM will be practical application and comparison of 4 different molecular techniques for detection of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) DNA. These techniques will include OIE-recommended real-time PCR with UPL probe as well as 3 isothermal amplification assays including loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) described by James et al. (2010) as well as cross-priming amplification (CPA) (Frączyk et. al. 2016) and recently developed polymerase cross-linking spiral reaction (PCLSR) (Woźniakowski et. al. 2016 in...
The DNA originating from the collected 106 ASFV cases in wild boars and 4 outbreaks in swine will be examined using 4 different assays. The obtained results will be compared in order to select the most reliable and rapid isothermal technique that might be applied for the preliminary identification of ASFV. The potential candidate will benefit from the practical application of fast isothermal techniques for ASFV detection among infected wild boars or pigs. The authorship of candidate within the scientific paper on the applied methods will also be considered.

Describe, if relevant, which qualifications/requirements candidates should fulfil to be eligible for selection (might be related to specific knowledge on methods, equipment, programs etc...)

The candidate should have a basic experience with laboratory equipment including laminar flow cabinets, centrifuges, PCR thermal cyclers and agarose gel electrophoresis of nucleic acids. Good communication skills will also be desirable.

Any calendar preferences for the STSM to take place? (dates must be between October 2016 and April 2017)

January 2017-February 2017

Would you institutions be able to provide any support concerning accommodation for the chosen candidate? (this might be e.g. accommodation on student logging, help via institution’s student services etc...)

Possibility for accommodation at reduced rate

Any other relevant comments/information you would like to provide to candidates?

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COST ASF-STOP Understanding and combating African Swine Fever in Europe

**STSMs - Scientific short missions**

**REGISTRATION OF INTEREST – HOSTING INSTITUTIONS**

Name of host institution: INIA-UCM-INGENASA  
Country: SPAIN  
Address (where the STSM will take place): INIA (Ctra Algete-El casar s/n, Valdeolmos, Madrid, Spain); UCM; INGENASA (C/ Hermanos García Noblejas 39, 28037, Madrid, Spain).  
Responsible person: INIA (Ana de la Torre); UCM (Jose Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaíno); INGENASA (Paloma Rueda)  
Responsible person email: Ana de la Torre (torre@inia.es); Jose Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaíno (jmvizcaino@ucm.es); Paloma Rueda (prueda@ingenasa.com)  
Responsible person contact phone: Paloma Rueda (+34913680501)

**STSM theme/name: Epidemiology and diagnosis in ASF**

To which Working Package(s) would you consider the STSM you are offering to be best connected to: WP 1 and WP 4.

Minimum amount of time you consider essential for the successful fulfilment of your STSM goals?  
Up to 90 days

Please describe shortly the aims of the STSM and what will potential candidates learn/get experience on? (no more than 250 words)

Diagnosis: The candidate will have the opportunity of learning different diagnostic techniques used in the laboratory for ASFV diagnosis. On one hand, analysis of experimental serum collections in order to detect the presence of IgG and IgM antibodies, as an indirect indicator of infection. The ELISA will be the method used for this purpose, what is frequently used in surveillance programs. On the other hand, rapid and easy to perform tests, such as Lateral Flow
Assay (LFA), will be used for antibody/antigen detection in serum/blood samples. This method has been proven to be very useful as a pen-side test in experimental infections as well as for field conditions, in order to have a rapid and qualitative diagnosis. By learning these two techniques, the candidate will have a wide overview of ASF diagnosis and more accurate knowledge for interpretation of diagnosis data.

Epidemiology and surveillance: epidemiological analysis, statistical and modeling tools for ASF transmission, evaluation of introduction risk pathways, identification of risk factors, determining high-risk areas for further disease spread, etc.

Describe, if relevant, which qualifications/requirements candidates should fulfil to be eligible for selection (might be related to specific knowledge on methods, equipment, programs etc...)

Diagnosis:

Epidemiology: Recommended knowledge in GIS.

Any calendar preferences for the STSM to take place? (dates must be between October 2016 and April 2017)

January-March 2017

Would you institutions be able to provide any support concerning accommodation for the chosen candidate? (this might be e.g. accommodation on student logging, help via institution’s student services etc...)

No

Any other relevant comments/information you would like to provide to candidates?

Please forward this form to carlos.dasneves@vetinst.no
**STSM theme/name:** Training on tools to estimate wild boar population status

**To which Working Group(s) would you consider the STSM you are offering to be best connected to:** WG2

**Minimum amount of time you consider essential for the successful fulfilment of your STSM goals?** 21-30 days

Please described shortly the aims of the STSM and what will potential candidates learn/get experience on? (no more than 250 words). Describe, if relevant, which qualifications/requirements candidates should fulfil to be eligible for selection (might be related to specific knowledge on methods, equipment, programs etc…)

We offer a short training program on tools to census and monitor wild boar populations, including indirect monitoring of wild boar indices, use of hunting bags, camera-trapping, capture-recapture methods, unmanned aircraft systems. We seek to offer the candidate an overview of methods employed to census and monitor wild boar populations that will be practical to study wild boar pathogen dynamics. The candidate will learn on the pros and
Concerns of the different wild boar censusing methods and its potential spatial generalization to other regions.

We seek for a student or an Early Career Investigator (ECI) with special interest in learning tools to monitor wild boar population status in relation to pathogen dynamics. Background on wild boar ecology or wild boar pathogen epidemiology as well as on data management are valuable skills of candidates.

Any calendar preferences for the STSM to take place? (dates must be between October 2016 and April 2017)

Any time between Nov 2016 and Apr 2017 (Candidates and hosts will agree on best dates)

Would you institutions be able to provide any support concerning accommodation for the chosen candidate? (this might be e.g. accommodation on student logging, help via institution’s student services etc…)

We could only help in finding accommodation, but currently we lack any funding opportunity for students not belonging to our University.

Any other relevant comments/information you would like to provide to candidates?

The SaBio group (http://www.sabio-irec.com/es) has been working in wildlife monitoring and in the development of wildlife population monitoring tools for the last 15 years with the main aim of understanding the influence of wildlife population factors on pathogen dynamics for pathogen control. The group is formed of an inter-disciplinary team of vets and ecologists that would offer candidates the multi-disciplinary view needed to understand and control wildlife pathogens/diseases.

Please forward this form to carlos.dasneves@vetinst.no
STSM theme/name: Training on virology and immunological methods related to ASFV infection

To which Working Package(s) would you consider the STSM you are offering to be best connected to: WG1

Minimum amount of time you consider essential for the successful fulfilment of your STSM goals? Given the time required for training to work in biocontainment, three months would be minimum. If training is already done, then 3-6 weeks would be a good estimate.

Please describe shortly the aims of the STSM and what will potential candidates learn/get experience on? (no more than 250 words)

We offer a training in specific virus growth, titration, sequencing (NGS), molecular and cellular virology for ASFV. Diagnostic methods can also be offered from the reference labs. Genomic manipulation through molecular biology techniques and bio-imaging can also be included. We offer training in pig immunity related to ASFV infection.
Describe, if relevant, which qualifications/requirements candidates should fulfil to be eligible for selection (might be related to specific knowledge on methods, equipment, programs etc…)

We would welcome students or ECI with background in laboratory related techniques able to work under high containment laboratories.

Any calendar preferences for the STSM to take place? (dates must be between October 2016 and April 2017)

Any time would be suitable as long as it is agreed between parties.

Would you institutions be able to provide any support concerning accommodation for the chosen candidate? (this might be e.g. accommodation on student logging, help via institution’s student services etc…)

The Institute can provide student accommodation at a reasonable price for this area of UK.

Any other relevant comments/information you would like to provide to candidates?

Please forward this form to carlos.dasneves@vetinst.no