

Collaborative Project Implementation with the Nancy Laboratory for Rabies and Wildlife, France

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Abstract

A collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) of Taiwan and the Nancy Laboratory for Rabies and Wildlife, France (Nancy lab) in 2014. The Nancy lab further assisted AHRI in establishing the fluorescent antibody virus neutralization test (FAVN) for rabies serological diagnosis. Furthermore, the efficacy and safety of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)-recommended SAG2 rabies oral vaccine for ferret badgers was evaluated collaboratively, and satisfactory results were obtained. In order to continue and broaden this preliminary collaborative project with Nancy lab, we proposed a OIE Twinning Project such that AHRI could be qualified as a OIE Reference laboratory for rabies. Thus, AHRI staff were sent to the Nancy laboratory for practical training. The objectives of this training program are listed in the following three categories: continuing pathogenicity tests for rabies virus on Taiwan ferret badgers and proper animal experimentation protocols, laboratory quality management systems, and public presentation skills for AHRI outreach. During this period in France, we jointly wrote the collaborative project implementation plans.