



Global African Swine Fever
Research Alliance

Newsletter GARA

Executive Committee GARA

President Marie Frédérique Lepotier

Executive Secretary Cyril G. Gay

Chief Executive Officer Covadonga Alonso

Science Director Sandra Blome

Finance Director Charles Maseembe

2018-2019

This newsletter contains relevant information about ASF for organizations, scientists, veterinarians and stakeholders



GARA Activities 2018

GARA GAP ANALYSIS REPORT

GARA has recently published its Gap Analysis report which reviews the current scientific knowledge and gaps in several aspects of ASF and available countermeasures to effectively control and mitigate ASF.

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/GARA/reports.htm>

<https://go.usa.gov/xPfWr>

GARA gap analysis is a resource for introductory information for scientific papers and reviews. Citation: Alonso C. *et al.* African Swine Fever (ASF): Gap Analysis Workshop Report. 2018. Agricultural Research Service, Washington, D.C. USA.



GARA Nominations

- GARA Executive Committee is requesting nominations for Committee membership for 2019-21 from any GARA partner Institutions.
- We will send out the list of nominees and request GARA Partners to vote on the nominees.
- Previous members will remain on the Committee for an additional three years to support to new members of the Executive Committee and to provide support and critical mass for on-going and new GARA initiatives.



4th GARA Workshop Sardinia, Italy

It was held on 11-14 April, 2018 in Cagliari, Sardinia. The program included:

1. Scientific sessions were held on ASF Virology and Pathogenesis; Diagnosis, molecular epidemiology and virus evolution; Vaccine; Epidemiology in Africa, Europe and Beyond.
2. A Special session was held about Research Funding and Projects.
3. A technical tour and workshop was offered in central Sardinia where ASF still occurs.

4th GARA Workshop Sardinia, Italy

Our sponsors, offered Travel grants for several researchers and Meeting Awards that were distributed as follows:

Best Oral presentation from affected country: Federica Loi, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sardegna, Sardinia, Italy

Best Oral presentation Early career: Jan Hendrik Forth, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Greifswald, Insel Riems, Germany

Best Poster presentation Early career: S. Konnova, Federal Research Center for Virology and Microbiology, Pokrov, Russia



GARA MOU

- GARA Mutual Of Understanding (MOU) was renewed in 2018 for another 5 years.
- The new MOU agreement number is No. 58-0208-8-103FM



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Short Term Scientific Missions

- STSMs are opportunities for exchange of researchers and students.
- Partners of EPIZONE network and members of the ASF-STOP EU COST Action will receive candidates for Short-term missions (STSM) from other laboratories.
- ASF-STOP COST Action Call open now is close to end. Application deadline 15 December. Contact: Carlos das Neves carlosdasneves@vetinst.no
- EPIZONE short term missions. See web page <https://www.epizone-eu.net/en/Home/STMs.htm>
- Epizone STMs applications should be sent to the administration bureau: epizone.cvi@wur.nl



ISVEE Chiangmai, November 2018

- ASF special session 13
Nov 2018
- 15th Veterinary
Symposium of Veterinary
Epidemiology and
Economics (ISVEE)
- Chiangmai, Thailand,
12-16 November 2018
- Meeting webpage:
<http://isvee.net/>
- GARA was invited to an special session of the Emergency Regional Consultation on African Swine fever (ASF) Risk meeting. It was held at past ISVEE meeting in Thailand, organized by FAO and Francois Roger and Dirk Pfeiffer.
- The objectives of this session were to provide an overview of the current ASF situation and future trajectory in Far-East-Asia by examining the key drivers and pathways for the emergence and spread of ASFV in China and to identify the most important knowledge gaps at the worldwide level, and to review the current status of vaccine research.
- GARA executive secretary Cyril Gay acted as GARA representative.

European Commission Activities on ASF

- On 19 December 2018 in Brussels took place the Ministerial Conference: Eradication of African swine fever in the EU and long-term management of wild boar populations

https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/20181219_ministerial-conference_asf_en

- European Commission Food Safety

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en

FAO Activities 2018 on ASF

- FAO ASF platform allows downloading manuals and documents, news releases and other important resources on ASF: <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ASF/index.html>
- Repository of leaflets on transboundary animal diseases: <http://www.fao.org/index.php?id=94206>
- FAO comments on ASF current global situation: <http://www.emergence-msd-animal-health.com/FocusOn.aspx>
- FAO manual on ASF detection and diagnosis in several languages: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/bd35c569-752e-4b57-892e-e3e2e0ee0c9c/>
- Weekly update on the ASF situation in China: http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ASF/Situation_update.html
- Food Chain Crisis Early Warning Bulletin: The ASF situation in Asia and Europe are included as some of the major highlights of the bulletin: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca2076en/CA2076EN.PDF>
- Coordination of the special session on ASF at the 15th Veterinary Symposium of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) Chiangmai, Thailand, 12-16 November 2018



STAR-IDAZ Activities on ASF

- African swine fever priority Topics:
<https://www.star-idaz.net/priority-topic/african-swine-fever/>
- Publications and Fact sheets: OIE Disease Information Summary: ASF, OIE Technical Disease card, CFSPH Technical Factsheet, DISCONTTOOLS report ASFV and collaboration with GARA.

New chapter on *Asfarviridae* at the International Committee of Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) Report



ICTV Report
Virus Taxonomy:
The Classification and Nomenclature of Viruses



Asfarviridae

A new online virus classification chapter is available since March 2018 on the family *Asfarviridae* the virus family to which African swine fever virus belongs to. This chapter reviews information about the virion, genome, antigenicity, biology and phylogeny of the virus and includes sequence alignments and tree files. www.ictv.global/report/asfarviridae

Learning materials on ASF prevention and control

The University of Minnesota (U of M) Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, a designated Center for Capacity-Building of the OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health, in collaboration with the U of M Swine Disease Eradication Center and the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, has released a series of learning materials on African Swine Fever (ASF) prevention and control.

The materials are available at z.umn.edu/ASFWatch



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Upcoming Events

GARA NEWSLETTER



V GARA Meeting in Uganda

- Kampala, Uganda, spring (April) 2020. Topic: **African swine fever: A global threat**
- Organized by Charles Masembe. Hosted by Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, College of Natural Sciences

45 min from Entebbe International airport
20 minutes to capital city centre – Kampala

Lake Mburo National Park



V GARA Meeting Uganda 2020

- Venue: <https://www.spekeresort.com> Kampala, Uganda
- Several nearby hotels for alternative accommodations:
<http://www.meleyimpalahotel.com>;
<http://www.ekaguestapartments.com>;
<http://www.sirjosehotel.com> etc.





V GARA Meeting in Uganda



- Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, College of Natural Sciences
- GARA webpage: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/GARA>
More info coming soon.

13th EPIZONE Annual Meeting

- Berlin, 26-28 August
- Topics: Epizootic diseases
- Visit the meeting webpage:
<https://www.epizone-eu.net/en/Home/Annual-meeting.htm>
- Hosted by the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Federal Research Institute for Animal Health
- Venue:
<https://www.kalkscheune.de/en>





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New GARA Partners

We welcome to recent GARA partners:

- University of Zambia. Website: <https://www.unza.zm/>



- National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) of Nigeria. Website <http://nvri.gov.ng/>





Retired GARA Members

We communicate the official retirement of Carlos Martins from his official duties as Full Professor at the Veterinary faculty of the University of Lisbon since february 2018. We congratulate him for his career in ASF and our gratitude for his intention of continuing his volunteer participation on GARA.



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We wish you a fruitful year 2019 with many interesting goals and scientific developments