VICH/25/063
4 February 2026
Final

VICH STEERING COMMITTEE
44th meeting
10, 11 & 13 November 2025
Indianapolis - The USA

Minutes of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting and chairperson's introduction

The meeting was chaired by Dr Matthew Lucia, Director, Office of New Animal Product Evaluation, CVM, US FDA. He welcomed the participants to the 44th meeting of the VICH Steering Committee in Indianapolis.
He welcomed the delegates from Brazil and South Korea as new VICH Forum (VF) observer delegations as well as from Botswana and Saudi Arabia as VF visiting delegations.

The Secretary indicated that apologies had been received from E. Zamora Escribano (EU), H.S. Chee (JVPA), C. Bennett (AMA) and C. du Marchie Sarvaas (HealthforAnimals). HealthforAnimals was represented by Liezl Kock.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with two additional items:
12.2 – Update on the restructuring of New Zealand Directorate
10.5 – Proposal to develop a VICH GL based on ICH Q9
It was also agreed to discuss jointly agenda items 11.4 & 12.1.

3. VICH Training Implementation

3.1. Update on the development of training material

JMAFF noted that many training documents have been uploaded on the training page of the website in PowerPoint format, which could be modified and may contain speaker notes. The SC recommended that the existing PowerPoint files should be converted to the PDF format.

The EU confirmed that the presentations which have been recorded during the VICH 7 Conference are currently being processed by the EMA and should be made available shortly.
The Secretariat pointed out that the presentations at the forthcoming 18th VF meeting will be recorded and also uploaded to the training website.

3.2. Organisation of future training sessions

FDA presented a proposal recommending that when sufficient experience has been developed on a specific GL, a presentation could be given at a subsequent VF meeting and recorded to be uploaded on the website training page.
The SC supported this proposal.

4. VICH Forum

4.1. Preparation of the 18th VICH Forum meeting

4.1.1. VF pre-meeting and meeting setup

WOAH confirmed that Innocent Ravengai will chair the meeting remotely. A specific agenda item has been added addressing the availability of VMPs for wildlife animals. Feedback from the WOAH Wildlife Group meeting will be provided by the chair of the group.

4.1.2. Review of the participants list

The SC reviewed the participants list and noted that 20 delegates representing 12 countries were scheduled to attend, of which several remotely.
The Secretariat noted with concern that UEMOA, ASEAN and CAMEVET have not attended recent meetings although many e-mail reminders were sent.
AnimalhealthEurope suggested that the coordinators should address this issue early into next year in order, if possible, to understand the reason for their lack of reaction.

WOAH will address this with the WOAH regional contacts, asking them to encourage the local international organisation to attend the VF meetings.

4.1.3. Review of the agenda and finalisation of the 18th VF meeting

The SC reviewed the agenda of the meeting and noted that the speakers had developed a list of questions in preparation for the breakout group discussions on biological products.

4.1.4. VF Guidelines implementation tracker

The Secretariat explained that the tracker has been updated with the latest inputs. The missing VF members will be encouraged to provide their inputs. VF members who have implemented new GLs will also be asked to provide an update.

Act: Secretariat *(Done)*

4.1.5 Other issues

None

4.2 Review of documents related to the VICH Forum proposed by WOAH

4.2.1 Proposal for a revision of the VF Terms of Reference

WOAH explained that the aim of the revision is to make the premeeting a formal event.
The SC reviewed the suggestions made by WOAH and adopted the revised document without reference to the concept note on the VF network.

4.2.2 Proposal for a revision of the VICH Organisational Charter

The SC reviewed the changes proposed by WOAH and decided not to modify the Organisational Charter at this point in time. The proposed changes have been incorporated into the VF Terms of Reference.

4.2.3 Proposal for the creation of a VICH Forum Network

WOAH explained that the intention is to create a network where discussion can be pursued outside of the VF meeting periods, throughout the year. The WOAH collaborating centres (ANSES, FDA, JMAFF) would also be included. It was recalled that the VICH website already hosts a VF contact list.
WOAH would take ownership of the network by creating the list of participants and maintaining it .
The issue of the confidentiality of the questions that would circulate was highlighted and the SC requested that no confidential issues should be discussed in such an open forum.

After the VF pre-meeting, where no comments were provided by the participants, the SC agreed in principle to the concept of the forum network, but requested that the final version of the proposal should be circulated to the SC again for comments and final approval by the end of December.

Act: Secretariat *(Done)*

4.3 Discussion of the outcome of the 18th VICH Forum meeting

The SC addressed this agenda item after the 18th VF meeting and thanked L. Le Letty for her excellent leadership of the VF meeting.

A/ VF pre-meeting

WOAH reported (*see slides*) that in a round table discussion the VF members exchanged views on the benefits and the challenges of implementing VICH GLs. It was also proposed to review and update the GLs implementation tracking table once per year.
The participants also agreed to create a VF network to exchange information as well as to ask questions and get feedback from other VF members or WOAH Collaborating Centers (France, USA, Japan). It was recommended to keep things simple and explore further which appropriate IT tools could be used.

After having received feedback from the WOAH Wildlife Group meeting, the participants discussed the availability of VMPs for wildlife animals.

There were no immediate VF member requests to be a visiting delegation at next year's SC meeting, but members will consult with their leadership and confirm their intention to attend with the VICH secretariat.

The participants listed some challenges for VF members to discuss further in next year's pre-meeting and VF meeting (see item C/ below).

B/ VF meeting

The SC noted that the breakout session on biologicals had been well prepared with the questions provided by the speakers, which has enabled constructive discussions between the participants.
All VF participants have provided a very positive feedback on the meetings' organisation and contents.

C/ Topics for the 19th VF meeting

The topics that were suggested by VF members are:

1. Need for detailed comprehensive presentation about guidelines such as the impurities' guidelines (GL 10-API and 11-VMP) (quality aspect of pharmaceuticals).
2. Presentation on the work of the VICH technical working group on the GRDF: depending on how far the WG had made any progress on the next year.
3. Pharmacovigilance: global approach for the future?
4. Clinical trials: maybe a presentation of the GL 9 (Good Clinical Practice) can be proposed.
5. Check the tracking table of the implementation GL to identify less implemented GL in VF states, provide training to stimulate uptake.
6. Adaptation of MUMS GL, for instance to camels.
7. Novel therapies for companion animals.
8. Requirements for marketing authorisation of well-established molecules (VMP dossiers).

The SC acknowledged that this was not a prioritized list.
AnimalhealthEurope recalled that WOAH had done a survey with VF members' expectations in 2019. The secretariat will recirculate the outcome of this survey to the SC.

WOAH will circulate the survey to VF members again, in order to clarify which are the current priority topics for VF members and stimulate further questions.

Act.: WOAH

The SC noted that presentations on most VICH Quality GLs are available in the training section of the website.
The training section can show which GLs would not have been addressed yet for the VF.
VF members should be reminded of the material available on the training webpage.
The VF members should be encouraged to use the network to ask questions before the annual meetings so that replies can be provided at the next meeting.

Australia pointed out that the presentations on Bioequivalence have been highly appreciated by the VF members because the speaker has presented many practical examples on how the GL should be used. Practical examples are key for VF members.

AnimalhealthEurope suggested using the VF implementation tracking table to identify the main gaps in implementation in the VF countries, which perhaps could be addressed via training.

4.4 Implementation of a VICH GL

AHI recalled that at the VICH 7 Conference VF members had asked at which point they could consider that a GL is implemented and report it as "green" in the tracking table. It was questioned if a GL must be totally implemented or could a partly implemented GL be considered as "implemented". The VF implementation tracking table currently offers the option to record "partly implemented", but this can cover a variety of situations.
The SC agreed to include this topic in the agenda of the 19th VF meeting.

5. Reviews of:

5.1 Implementation and interpretation of VICH GLs in the regions

5.1.1 Report from the regulators in the VICH regions

FDA reported that the implementation of the 9 revised Anthelmintics GLs has been delayed and that the SC will be kept informed.
USDA reported that the TABST waiver GLs have been implemented but their text has not been codified yet. The GLs will become mandatory once their text is codified.

JMAFF indicated that the revised Anthelmintics GLs will be implemented by March 2026.

South Africa mentioned that the Biologicals GLs will be implemented as a new regional harmonisation initiative in early 2026.

5.1.2 Review of the updated VICH GLs implementation tracker

The Secretariat indicated that Canada has provided an update confirming that the 9 revised Anthelmintics GLs have been implemented in October 2025.

5.1.3 Any input from industry members

None

5.2 Status of consultation for draft GLs at Step 4

5.2.1 Status of Draft VICH GL 8

FDA reported that the consultation period for revised GL 8(R1) is not finished yet and that the SC will be kept informed.

6. Review of final VICH Guidelines at step 9

6.1. Proposals for revision of further VICH GLs

6.1.1. VICH GLs which have passed the 5 years of implementation – review of the updated table

The Secretariat recalled that GLs 48 (MRK: Marker Residue Depletion Studies), 57 (MRK: Residues in Fish) and 58 (Stability: Climatic Zones III and IV) have been identified for review. The SC decided that none of these GLs needed a revision in the immediate future.

However, AnimalhealthEurope is currently considering 3 points of comments for GL 58 which still need to be reviewed internally. Two points are recommending a clarification of the language and the 3rd point highlights the fact that the equivalent ICH GL has been revised.
AHI agreed that a potential revision should clarify the definitions and examples.
AnimalhealthEurope and AHI will discuss internally whether to provide a Concept Paper (CP) for the revision of GL 58.

Australia suggested to review the annex 2 of GL 57 to align the text with the Codex Classification of Food and to add a guidance for residue in lobsters.
APVMA will draft a CP for the revision of GL 57.

The SC requested that both CPs should be provided sufficiently in advance (April 2026) of the next SC meeting for consideration by all VICH participants.

Act: AnimalhealthEurope/AHI/Australia

6.2. Revision of GLs put on hold at the 42nd SC meeting

6.2.1 VICH Safety GL 33

FDA recalled that, now that GLs 22 & 23 are in the implementation phase, the proposed revision of GL 33 covers only minor issues. Furthermore, the current work of the Safety EWG is in hiatus now that GLs 22 & 23 are in the implementation phase.
The SC adopted the minor proposed changes.

AnimalhealthEurope questioned the necessity of including the reference to the revision numbers in the VICH GLs, as they will require GLs to be repeatedly updated, and suggested deleting these revision numbers in all GLs' references to other VICH GLs and instead refer to the 'current version'.

6.2.2 VICH MRK GL 46

The SC noted that there is no current activity relating to the revision of this GL and that, therefore, it would not be included anymore on the SC meeting agenda as a GL for revision.

6.3. Proposals from the SC members for a revision of a VICH GL

None. However, potential future proposals were discussed under 7.4. Safety EWG to reflect the growing momentum behind the adoption of new approach methodologies to eliminate the use of animals in safety testing.

6.4 Proposal for a revision of other VICH GLs in light of an update of other organisations' GLs (ICH, OECD...)

None

7. Update on the topics & scopes of the Expert Working Groups activities - review of the progress reports of Expert Working Groups and decisions on next steps

7.1. Quality EWG

The SC reviewed the written report prepared by the chair of the Expert Working Group, Dr T. Ogata, and presented by JMAFF.
JMAFF confirmed that the public consultation periods for GL 60 (*GMP - Good Manufacturing Practice for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients*) & GL 61 (*Pharmaceutical development)* are finished. The experts are reviewing the comments received and the draft at step 5 of GL 61 should be provided shortly.
The step 5 draft of GL 60 should be finalised soon as well. The FDA topic leader will also be working on the accompanying Q&A document.
The SC noted that in the consultation period the AHE had provided comments specifically related to a new legislation in Europe, which had delayed the agreement between experts.
The SC reminded the EWGs that the VICH experts should provide any new issue in the discussions taking place before the step 4 consultation period, wherever possible.

AnimalhealthEurope recommended to include the PIC/S group in the VICH activities as an associate member in order to ensure that both organisations remain aligned.

7.2. Biologicals EWG

The SC reviewed the written report prepared by the chair of the Expert Working Group, Dr K. Sato, and presented by JMAFF.

a. EV subgroup - Test on the Presence of Extraneous Viruses in veterinary vaccines

JMAFF explained that the EWG subgroup is focussing on swine species as a start. The work is progressing but additional virtual meetings will be necessary to align the experts.
AHI mentioned that a draft CP on additional explanatory text providing clarity on the risk-based assessment will be developed by the subgroup.

a. BS subgroup - Safety evaluation of biotechnology-derived/biological products

The GL 62 (*Target Animal Safety Evaluation for Veterinary Monoclonal Antibody Products*) is in the step 4 public consultation period until 15 February 2026.

c. BPT subgroup - guidance for the transition to in vitro methods for batch potency tests

The subgroup has met virtually several times and is currently reviewing the third draft of the document. The next virtual meeting is scheduled in the course of Q1 2026.

7.3. Pharmacovigilance EWG

The SC reviewed the written report prepared by the chair of the Expert Working Group, Dr Linda Walter-Grimm and presented by FDA.

Signal Detection/Signal Management Discussion Document
The document was completed by the EWG and posted on the VICH training webpage.

GL 30 and VEDDRA lists of terms
The EWG has engaged in discussions about opportunities to enhance VeDDRA governance coordination within the VICH framework. There is interest in exploring enhanced international consultation mechanisms to support collaborative decision-making and improved communication regarding future version changes.
FDA confirmed that no updates were made to GL 30 this year.

GL 29 & 24
There is currently no intention to revise these GLs.

Product identification harmonisation initiative
The EWG has identified accurate product identification as a challenge in some regions, with current workarounds potentially having negative consequences for international information exchange. This topic extends beyond pharmacovigilance systems.

7.4. Safety EWG

The SC reviewed the written report prepared by the chair of the Expert Working Group, Dr T. Zhou, and presented by FDA.
The SC took note that the revisions of GL 22 & 23 are finalised and the revised GLs are now in the implementation step.
The EWG has no further ongoing tasks for the moment.

The SC discussed possible future work to incorporate new approach methodologies (NAMs) into existing safety guidelines. AnimalhealthEurope reported that the EU Commission is working on a roadmap to eliminate animal testing.
AnimalhealthEurope pointed out that the scope mentions broadly all chemical safety testing, rather than specifically toxicology testing.
AnimalhealthEurope has developed its own roadmap to inform the EU Commission of the specific requirements of the Animal Health sector. It will provide an industry view on the priorities and the timelines. A new approach to test methods has much broader implications than just the use of non-animal tests (e.g. new regulatory approaches to risk assessment may lead to the elimination of a test).
The EU shared that the its 3Rs working party has developed a paper highlighting opportunities for implementation of 3Rs tests and indicated that it would circulate this to the SC for information .
AHI expressed interest in exploring revisions to other safety guidelines to incorporate NAMs.

Meanwhile, the SC decided to keep the VICH Safety EWG in place, although it remains dormant for the moment.

7.5. Pharmaceutical Combination Product GLs EWG

The SC reviewed the written report prepared by the chair of the Expert Working Group, Dr D. Laucks, and presented by FDA.
FDA recalled that at the last meeting the SC had agreed that a GL was not appropriate and had asked the EWG to provide a “status report” explaining the points to consider and why a VICH GL was not possible.
FDA confirmed that a draft status report is under consideration and that the experts are currently in the process of providing final comments on the general principles section and drafting regional experiences sections for their respective regions.

The SC agreed that standing members could voluntarily contribute their regional experiences to the document. The SC encouraged the experts from regulators and industry from each VICH member country/region (founding as well as standing members) to work together in order to progress the document rapidly.

7.6. Bioequivalence EWG

The chair of the Expert Working Group, Dr M. Martinez, reported that last year’s face to face meeting, as well as several subsequent virtual meetings, have enabled the experts to progress significantly the between-strength biowaiver draft GL.
Following the discussions, Dr Martinez has condensed and shortened the draft document and listed some remaining issues and concerns which would be addressed in the next virtual meeting in December.
The aim of the EWG is to sign off the draft GL at step 2 in early 2026.
The SC thanked Dr Martinez for her efforts to the progress the draft GL.

7.7. Metabolism and Residue Kinetics EWG

The SC reviewed the written report prepared by the chair of the Expert Working Group, Dr D. Benesh, and presented by the EU.

Revision of GL 49
The work of the EWG is currently focussing on the review and update of Annex 3 of the GL. Since the mandate was given, several revisions have been considered by the EWG. The latest version of Annex 3 was circulated in June 2024 by the EU, but it did not achieve consensus in the EWG. The chairman has therefore further discussed the needs and approach with the EWG and has developed a new revision which is currently under review in the EU, and should be circulated to the EWG by the end of the year for progress in early 2026.
The SC congratulated Dr Benesh for his ongoing efforts and commitment.

Revision of GL 47
See item 10.4.

7.8. Medicated premixes

The chair of the Expert Working Group, Prof. E. De Ridder, reported that the public consultation period of the revised GL 8 is close to finalisation and if no major comment is received, the EWG should sign-off the GL at step 5 in early 2026.
The experts are meanwhile developing a CP for the provision of additional guidance (on specific sampling methodologies, segregation studies for medicated premixes) in an annex to GL 8, without changing the scope of the GL.
Prof. E. De Ridder asked if the adoption of the revised GL should be delayed until this annex is adopted as well. But the SC decided to not delay the adoption of the revised GL 8 and to consider the draft CP that will be provided by written procedure in parallel.

7.9. EWG on a GRDF for pharmaceutical VMP applications

The chair of the Expert Working Group, Prof. E. De Ridder, reported that in a first step the experts have analysed an overview of the current dossier content required by the local legislation for a pharmaceutical veterinary drug application in the different regions, which had been provided by experts of the authorities.
At the next virtual meeting in February the experts will discuss how the dossiers would fit in a template framework.
Prof. De Ridder confirmed that the EWG to is considering a framework of 6 “chapters”.

Now that the EWG has been formed and is active, Prof. De Ridder also proposed to involve additional experts from the VF partners, as the SC had previously agreed to include VF Partners when the work had progressed.
The SC agreed and asked the Secretariat to circulate a call for experts in the VF.

Act: Secretariat *(Done)*

Post-meeting note: after the meeting, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine volunteered as experts to the EWG.

In conclusion of agenda item 7, the chairman thanked all EWGs for their work and congratulated the experts for the progress achieved over the last year.

REMINDER: General issue
The Secretariat reminded the EWG leaders and the coordinators that it is of utmost importance that all delegations keep their expert lists up to date and immediately inform the Secretariat of any change to keep the group e-mail addresses reliable.

Act: All

8. Adoption at Step 3 and release of Guidelines at Step 4

None

9. Adoption at Step 6 and release of Guidelines at Step 7

None

10. Concept Papers/Discussion Documents

10.1. Status of the draft Concept Paper for the revision of VICH GL 6 (Ecotox)

The EU explained that this GL, which is more than 20 years old, considers that residues from substances administered to non-food producing animals will generally be present in the environment at levels that would be too low to represent an environment concern.
This assumption may however no longer be valid in view of the important increase of the numbers of companion animals as well as their medicalisation.

The EU acknowledged with disappointment that the comments received from the SC members showed that there is no consensus within the SC to revise VICH GL 6.
Several SC members confirmed their unwillingness to reopen this GL at this point in time.
The EU will therefore not pursue further the drafting of a CP but will develop guidance for use at EU level. The resulting EU guidance will not be in conflict with VICH GL6, as the VICH guideline includes a certain amount of flexibility (the “however clause”)..

10.2. Status of the draft Concept Paper for the revision of VICH GL 27 (AMR)

The EU thanked the participants for the comments to the draft CP and noted that no delegation had objected to the proposed revision of the guideline. The EU made reference to a recently provided document with written responses to the comments made by SC delegations.
The EU noted that AHI and AnimalhealthEurope had suggested creating a Task Force to agree on the scope of the revision and to finalise the CP. The EU indicated that it supported creation of the suggested Task Force but noted that its mandate should not also include agreeing on data requirements and definitions, as these should be addressed by the EWG revising the guideline.
The mandate of the TF would therefore be to agree on the scope of the revision to be undertaken and to update the CP to take account of the comments already received. AHI, in its written comments, had suggested timelines for the work, with 1 year for the Task Force to undertake its work and then 3 years for the EWG to produce a revised guideline for public consultation
JMAFF confirmed their support for a revision but FDA requested to pause the work to a later date.
The SC agreed that the VICH coordinators should consider again the proposed creation of the TF at their next meeting in February 2026.

10.3. Status of the draft Concept Paper for the revision of VICH GL34: Biologicals: Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination

The EU reminded the SC that it had previously submitted two drafts of a CP proposing revision of GL34 but that neither had been supported by the SC. It explained that the chapter on Mycoplasma of the European Pharmacopoeia has been updated and will come into force in April 2026. In light of this, the way VICH GL34 will be implemented in the EU will change. In advance of the SC meeting, the EU had circulated an explanatory document, in which it proposed to add 2 footnotes to the current GL in order to provide clarity for stakeholders and legal consistency. The proposed amendments would only be relevant for the EU. The SC agreed that the proposed minor revision would aid transparency.

The SC adopted the minor revision to the GL 34 as proposed by the EU, for implementation in April 2026.
The EU will provide an explanatory text for inclusion into the revised GL.

Act.: EU

10.4. Draft revised Concept Paper for the revision of VICH GL 47 (MRK)

The SC reviewed the second draft of the CP presented by FDA who explained that, although a broader revision had been initially proposed, the revised proposal is limited to the *in-vitro* testing methods.
The SC adopted the revised CP and confirmed FDA as topic leader of the MRK EWG for this task.

10.5 New GL proposal

FDA recommended considering the ICH Quality Q9 (R1) GL on quality Risk Management providing guidance on the principles and examples of tools for quality risk management that can be applied to different aspects of pharmaceutical quality, for use by regulators and industry.
This task will require the development of a new VICH GL.
FDA will prepare the CP for first comments by written procedure.

Act.: FDA

The SC noted also that a proposal to consider ICH Quality GL Q10 will be provided at a later stage.

11. Other issues

11.1. Biologicals EWG – Draft Discussion Document "Proposal for restructuring work on biologicals topics"

The SC reviewed the Discussion Document prepared by the EU, suggesting that, in view of the growing global interest in biological products, VICH should apply the same work approach as for the pharmaceutical products.
Moreover, Dr K. Sato is the EWG chairman of the 3 subgroups since several years, placing a significant burden on his shoulders.
The EU therefore recommended that the 3 current biologicals EWG's subgroups should be transformed into full VICH EWGs.

The SC agreed to transform the 3 subgroups into EWGs after the signature of the step 4 draft GL by the respective subgroups' experts. As the rules require that at step 5 of the VICH procedure, the topic leader must be a representative of the regulatory authorities, the SC agreed to identify new topic leaders for the Batch Potency Tests and the Biosafety subgroups, whose topic leaders are currently industry representatives. The decision is relatively urgent for the latter as the draft GL 62 is already in the public consultation procedure until 15 February 2026.
The SC recommended furthermore to ask Dr Sato to remain chairman and topic leader of the EV subgroup.
JMAFF will ask Dr Sato and inform the secretariat.

Act.: JMAFF

The secretariat will ask in writing all SC members to:

- Inform their biologicals EWG and subgroup experts of the SC decision
- Propose a representative of the regulatory authorities to become topic leader/chairperson of the BS and BPT subgroup.

Act.: Secretariat *(Done)*

11.2. Publication of documents which are not VICH Guidelines – other work documents

It was recalled that at the last meeting the SC had agreed to consider other work documents on a case-by-case basis in situations where work had been done by an EWG but could not be incorporated into a guideline.

11.3. VICH Priorities Phase 6 (2026-2030)

The secretariat thanked FDA for having kindly volunteered to simplify the text, which had not been amended since several years, without changing fundamentally the priorities.
The SC reviewed the comments on the last version and adopted the final draft of the VICH priorities 2026 to 2030.

11.4 Future organisation of attendance and number of observer organisations in the SC meetings

This item was discussed together with item:

12.1 Sustainable funding of VICH

The SC reviewed the proposed options aiming to decrease the funding burden of VICH events (SC + VF meetings) on the hosting country/region, which has become unsustainable.
The SC decided that all SC founding and standing members will review the proposed options for further discussion at the next VICH coordinators meeting in February.

Act: All

It was confirmed that any change of approach would only be implemented in 2027 at the earliest.

Future organisation of attendance

The SC acknowledged that the guidance documents do not define the number of observers to the SC. It was noted that the maximum number of VF Visiting Delegations accepted at a SC meeting is 3.
After a thorough discussion, the SC agreed to remain flexible, without fixing a maximum number of observer delegations for the time being.

12. Any other business

12.2 Restructuring in NZ

New Zealand advised that the ACVM has been separated out from the Assurance Directorate into its own Directorate under New Zealand Food Safety. A small number of positions were significantly affected with this change and the Antimicrobial Resistance Team will remain in the Assurance Directorate. For those significantly affected, there are new roles in the new Directorate so there will be no reduction in staffing. The appointment of the Director ACVM is expected to be finalised before the ACVM Directorate is stood up on 1 December 2025.

13. Dates and venue of next meetings

- The next SC virtual meeting will take place on Tuesday 23 June 2026
- The 45th SC meeting will take place from 16 to 19 November 2026 in Japan, in Tsukuba-city, Ibaraki prefecture (Narita is the closest airport).
- 46th SC meeting – fall 2027 in Europe – location TBD
- The next VICH coordinators virtual meeting will take place in February 2026.

14. Public statement on the 44th SC meeting

The SC members reviewed and adopted the public statement.

VICH STEERING COMMITTEE
44th meeting

10, 11 & 13 November 2025
Indianapolis

Chair: M. Lucia, FDA

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

VICH Steering Committee Members and (C) Coordinators

AHI (ZOETIS)	C. LOWNEY
AHI	R. CUMBERBATCH (C)
EU (EMA)	N. JARRETT (C)
EU (MEB)	J. SCHEFFERLIE
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ANIMALHEALTHEUROPE	R. CLAYTON (C)
ANIMALHEALTHEUROPE	P-J. SERREYN (future C)
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JMAFF	S. IWAMOTO
JMAFF	M. OCHIAI (C)
JVPA (Nisseiken Co.)	K. TUCHIYA
JVPA	K. OISHI (C)
US (USDA CVM)	G. SRINIVAS
US (FDA/CVM)	B. ROBINSON (C)

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Canada (Health Canada)	M. BASSI
Canada (CAHI)	C. FILEJSKI
New Zealand (MPI)	W. HUGHES (for K. BOOTH)
South Africa (SAAHA)	M. CHURCHILL
South Africa (SAHPRA)	A. SIGOBODHLA
VMD	S. ECKFORD (part)

INTERESTED PARTIES

AVBC	L. NAGAO (*Remotely*)

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APQA (Republic of Korea)	H. YI
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Canada (Health Canada)	M. MEHROTRA
EU (EMA)	M. LLORENS (Remotely)
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US (FDA/CVM)	M. MARTINEZ
APQA (Republic of Korea)	Y. JANG
APQA (Republic of Korea)	Y. KIM
VMD	G. HALL (part)
VMD	G. CLARKE (part)

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Saudi FDA	B. ALHAMMAD

WOAH

WOAH	L. LE LETTY
WOAH	M. SZABO

VICH

HealthforAnimals	H. MARION (*Secretary*)
HealthforAnimals	L. KOCK (for C. du Marchie Sarvaas)

APOLOGIES

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JVPA (NIPPON ZENYAKU KOGYO CO.)	H. CHEE
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