

Dr. Nicola Lewis

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Dr. Nicola Lewis is the Director of the Worldwide Influenza Centre and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Response at the Francis Crick Institute in London. She is also a Professor of One Health Evolutionary Biology at the Royal Veterinary College, where she received her degree in veterinary surgery. After a period in general practice, Nicola returned to Cambridge to pursue a PhD in infectious diseases, with a focus on using state-of-the-art computational methods to quantify the evolution of influenza A viruses in animals.

In her roles, she provides consultancy to a range of stakeholders, including the European Commission, WOA, FAO, EFSA, ECDC, WHO, and UKHSA. She serves on the WOA expert group for the Control of Equine Influenza, which meets annually to decide on global equine influenza vaccine strain selection. She was also an OFFLU (WOAH/FAO) Executive committee member from 2016 to 2019, and a member of the OFFLU swine influenza virus group, which globally coordinates swine influenza virus surveillance and aims to strengthen and coordinate influenza surveillance in pigs worldwide, providing up-to-date expert scientific advice to WOA, FAO, and WHO. Additionally, she is a member of the OFFLU avian influenza network, consisting of avian influenza experts who address priority influenza-related issues, and the OFFLU wildlife group, which assesses emerging infectious diseases in wild animals. Alongside her WHOCC analyses of human seasonal influenza virus evolution, Nicola also contributes data and analyses biennially to the WHO Vaccine Composition Meeting submission for animal influenza viruses of zoonotic potential.