



Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation  
**Research Institute of Influenza**  
WHO National Influenza Centre of Russia



GA N°653316 – H2020



# Participation in “EVAg” (European Virus Archive Global) project under Horizon 2020. Success story

**Mikhail Y. EROPKIN**  
**Saint-Petersburg, 07 October 2016**

**Ministry of Healthcare of Russian Federation**

**Research Institute of Influenza**

**15/17 Prof. Popova str, 197376 St. Petersburg, Russian Federation**

**Tel. +7 812 499 1500**

**Fax +7 812 499 1515**

**<http://www.influenza.spb.ru>**

**Institute was established in 1967 after Asian flu pandemic 1957-1962**

**National WHO Centre since 1969**



**Professor Anatoli Smorodintsev,  
the organizer and first director of the Institute**

Influenza Research Institute was admitted as the WHO-recognized National Influenza Collaborating Centre on 21 March 1969.

Last confirmation of accreditation – 26 May 2011.

Institute is the member of the WHO GISRS (Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System) and of EuroFlu Network

# **Main areas of expertise and actual topics of research of the Institute**

- Refinement of influenza surveillance in Russia according to the WHO international recommendations
- Technologies of the design and production of anti-influenza vaccines of new generation
- Studies of the structure and function of natural and synthetic compounds. Design of antiviral preparations with the different mechanisms of action
- Fundamentals of molecular genetic of viruses and pathogenesis of influenza infection
- Strategy of treatment of acute and chronic viral infections



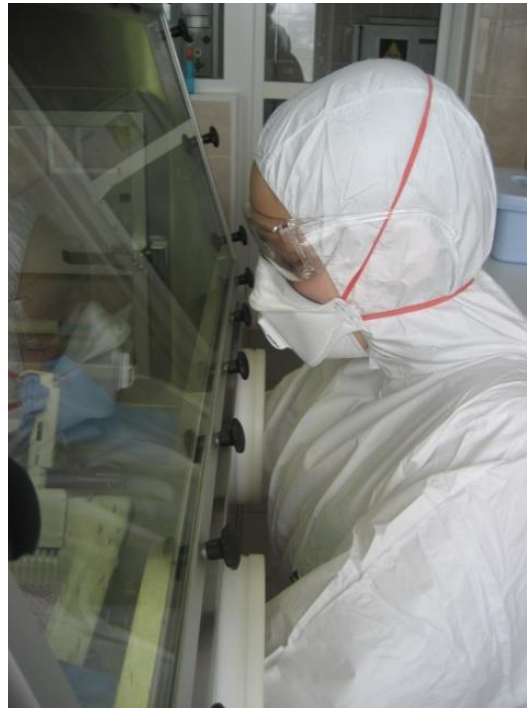
# Russian Federation: 2 National Influenza Centres (NIC) and 59 Regional Base Laboratories



**2 NICs share 59 Regional Base Laboratories: 49 for RII,  
10 – for IIV**

# The **Museum Collection** of influenza and other respiratory viruses was organized and maintained within the laboratory of evolutionary variability of influenza viruses

Tel. +7 812 499-1522, Head of the lab. – Mikhail Erokin, PhD, D.Sci,  
[mikhail.eropkin@influenza.spb.ru](mailto:mikhail.eropkin@influenza.spb.ru)



# Museum collection of viruses in the Research Institute of Influenza

- Created in 1975 on the basis of the collection of laboratory of virology of Research Institute of Experimental Medicine
- Currently counts more than 7000 different strains of influenza viruses of various types and subtypes
- Each year 100-300 new strains are freeze-dried and deposited into collection

## • Influenza A viruses (1930-2016)



H5N1 H2N2  
H5N2 H3N8  
H5N3 H6N1  
H7N3 H16N3  
H9N2  
H9N7



Hsw1N1  
H1N1pdm09  
H3N2



H1N1  
H1N1 pdm09  
H1N2  
H2N2 H7N9  
H3N2 H9N2  
H3N2v



H7N1  
H7N2  
H1N2

## • Influenza B viruses(1940-2016)

B victoria-lineage (1940-2016)

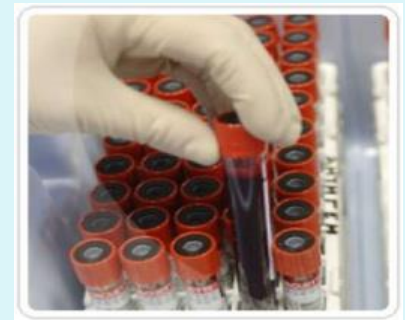
B yamagata-lineage (1988-2016)

## • Influenza C viruses(1983-1989)



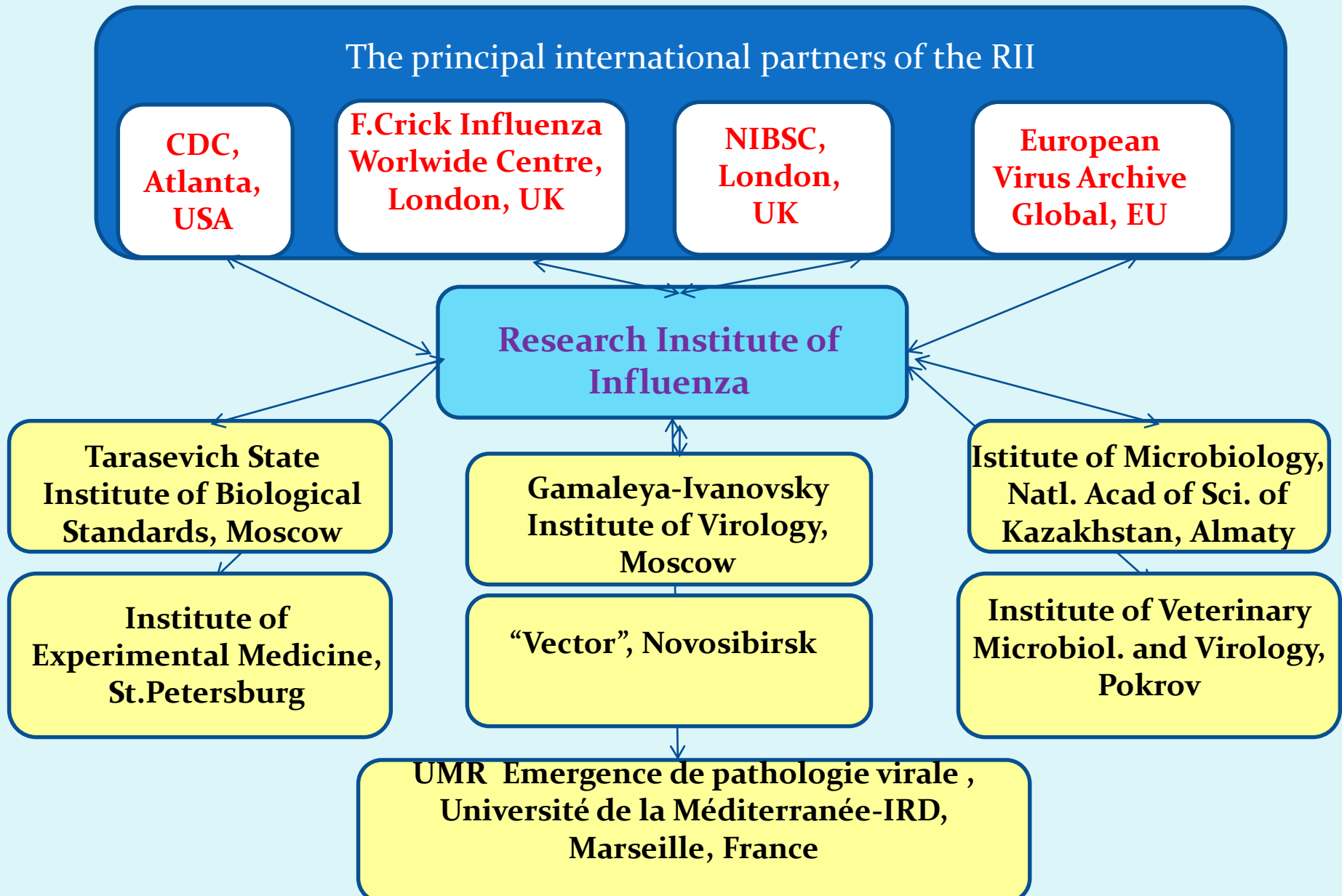
# Collection of respiratory viruses

- A specialized collection which was included in the list of virus collections defined by Goskomnadzor of RF in 1995 ;
- Etalon strains were purchased from many foreign countries (The USA, UK, Czekoslovakia et.c.);
- The collection was founded in 1977;
- **Collection includes:**
- Etalon strains of the main groups of viruses which provoke acute respiratory syndromes:
  - adenoviruses,
  - rinoviruses,
  - Parainfluenza viruses of the type I, II, III, IV,
  - coronaviruses,
  - RS-viruses,
  - Herpesviruses
- Author owned strains deposited in the State Collection of Viruses;
- **> 4000 units of storage;**

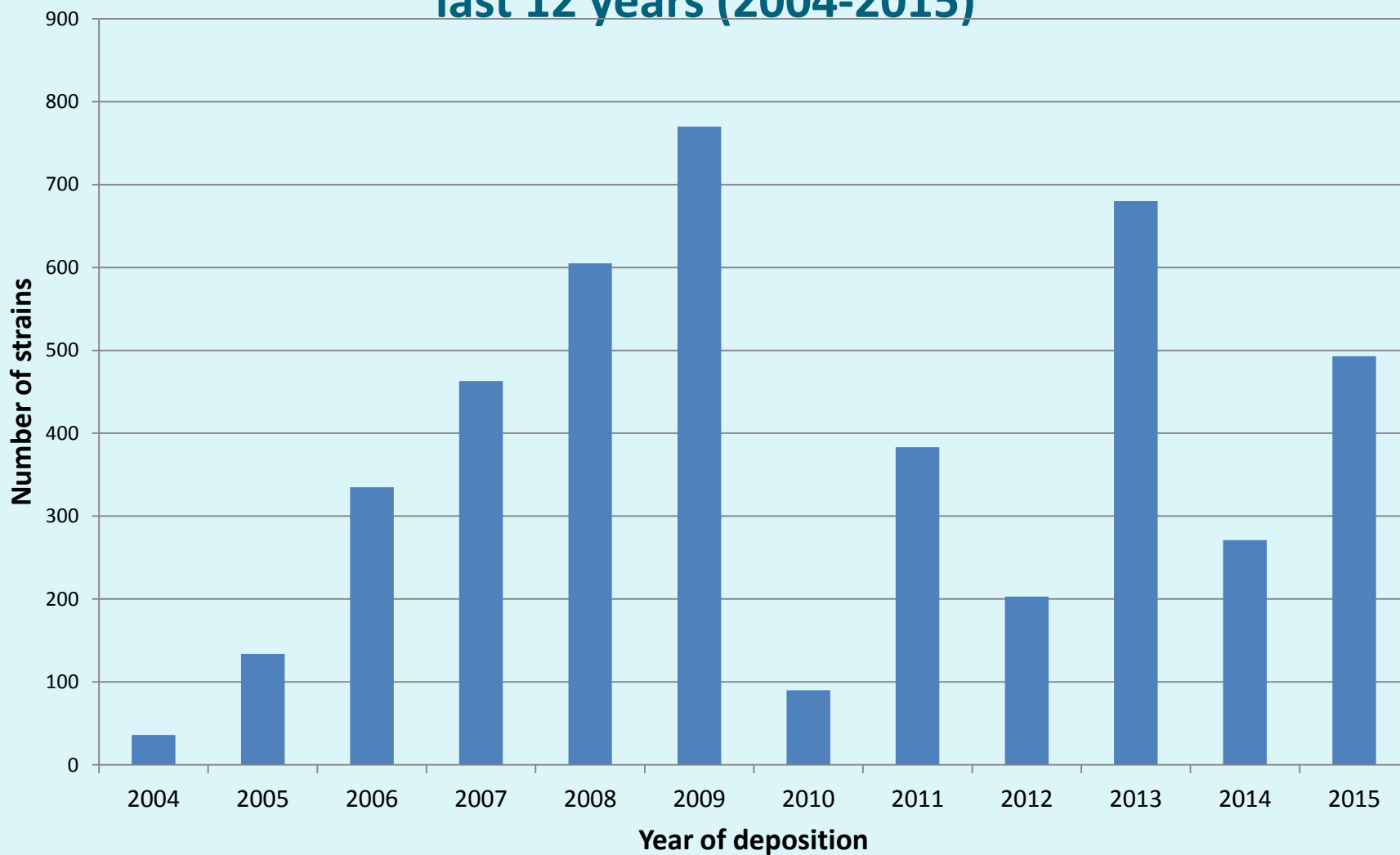




# Collaboration between Research Institute of Influenza and other Research Institutions in Russia and abroad for exchange of influenza viruses



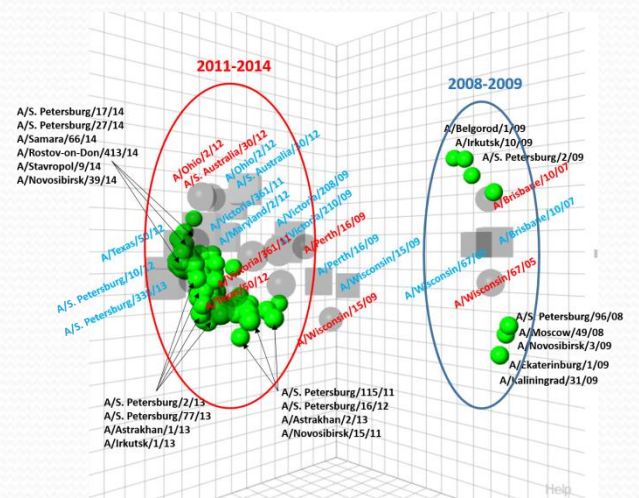
## Number of influenza strains deposited in the RII collection in the last 12 years (2004-2015)





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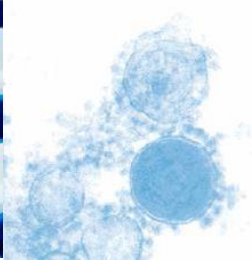
## Collection of influenza and other respiratory viruses of the RII is a member of EVAg (European Virus Archive goes Global)



3D-antigenic map of influenza A(H3N2) strains isolated in 2008-2014



- 2010-2015 RII was the associated member of EVA project (FP7)
- 2015-2019 – full partner of the EVAg. The project was supported by the EU H2020 grant No. 653316



# EVAg

## European Virus Archive goes Global (2015-2019)

Prof. Jean-Louis ROMETTE

Project Coordinator

Emergence des pathologies virales (EPV) - UMR 190 Aix-Marseille Université-IRD

[jean-louis.romette@univ-amu.fr](mailto:jean-louis.romette@univ-amu.fr)

<http://global.european-virus-archive.com/>

By courtesy of Prof. J.-L. Romette



**The overall objective of EVAg is to create and mobilise an International network of high calibre centres around a strong European group of institutes selected for their appropriate expertises, to collect, amplify, characterise, standardise, authenticate, distribute and track, human, mammalian and other exotic viruses**



## Non for profit organization

- ▶ **Each partner:**
  - retains the ownership of it's biological resource (CA);
  - is free to decide which part of it's collection will be shared with the Scientific community via the Web-based catalogue (CA).
- ▶ **EVAg management** has been mandated to represent the partners for all actions aiming at:
  - Developing networks with new associated partners;
  - Promoting EVAg consortium activities and results;
  - Giving access to EVAg biological resources.
- ▶ **All partners** have signed the GA and a CA defining rights and obligations.

By courtesy of Prof. J.-L. Romette

## A well established organization

- 6 years of existence as a consortium
- An operational website (200 visits per day)
- A web-based catalogue including more than 1800 gold standard products (virus and derived materials) and more to come in the future
- More than 2000 products distributed worldwide
- Active actor, under the WHO umbrella, during the last virus outbreaks: MERS-CoV, Ebola

**Today among the largest virtual virus collection worldwide**

# A new Website: communication & distribution

<http://global.european-virus-archive.com>



The screenshot shows the EVAg website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contact Us', 'FAQs', 'Login / Register', and a search bar. The EVAg logo is on the left, with the tagline 'European Virus Archive goes global'. Below the navigation bar, there is a main banner featuring a close-up image of a mosquito. On the left side of the banner, the text reads 'Zika virus continues to spread ...'. On the right side, there is a red circular button that says 'Click Here' and the text 'New Diagnostic reagents AVAILABLE'. Below the banner, there is a dark blue bar with the text 'The best way to get viral material within the Scientific Community' and a button that says 'Visit our Portal!'.

EVAg is a non profit organisation that mobilises a global network with expertise in virology to **standardise** viruses and derived products.

A **unique** biological resource in the field of virology, readily available online. Users may benefit from special funding to access to products of interest, do not hesitate to apply.

[Start browsing through our viruses and related products](#)

**A network of laboratories**  
An international group of 25 laboratories, including 16 EU member state institutions and 9 non-EU institutions, that represent an extensive range of **virological** disciplines.

**Collaborations**  
An open entity aiming at developing synergies and complementary capabilities in such a way as to offer an improved access to researchers.

**Quality**  
We highly take into consideration the quality of the viruses and derived products added to our catalogue. Improvements on quality process will be addressed during the project.

**Preparedness and Response**  
EVAg generates and distributes **globally** diagnostic materials and protocols in the event of epidemiological emergencies.

**Research**  
Focused on the creation of new tools, techniques and concepts to develop the infrastructure and to provide easier and less expensive access to virological materials.

**Online Catalogue**  
A user-friendly web Portal with a continuously increasing number of viruses and derived products. **Start here.**

# The Consortium : 45 members



- ▶ **18 EU-partners**
- ▶ **10 non EU-partners**
- ▶ **17 Associated partners**  
including
  - ▶ **14 Institutes with BSL4 facilities**
  - ▶ **5 Veterinarian Institutes**

**All those members share the same QMS to deliver high quality products through a unique entry point: the EVAg web-based catalogue**

By courtesy of Prof. J.-L. Romette



# The Consortium: 9 non-EU partners



- ▶ **Agricultural Research Council (ARC-OVI)**, (Dr Claude Sabeta), Pretoria, **South Africa**.
- ▶ **National Health Laboratory Services (NICD-NHLS)**, (Prof Janusz Paweska), Johannesburg, **South Africa**.
- ▶ **Chumakov Institute of Poliomyelitis and Viral Encephalitides (IPVE)**, (Dr Alexander Lukashev), Moscow, **Russia**.
- ▶ **Scientific research institute of influenza (RII)**, (Prof Mikhail Eropkin), St Petersburg, **Russia**.
- ▶ **Research Institute of Vaccines and Sera Il Mechnikov (Mechnikov RIVS)**, (Prof Vitaly Zverev), Moscow, **Russia**.
- ▶ **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)**, (Prof Kurt Zuelke) Geelong, **Australia**.
- ▶ **National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID)**, (Dr. Masayuki Saijo) Tokyo, **Japan**.
- ▶ **National Institute for viral disease control and prevention of the China CDC**, (Prof George Fu Gao), Beijing, **China**.
- ▶ **Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (WIV)**, (Prof Zhi-Hong Hu), CAS, Wuhan, **China**.





# The Consortium: 9 associated partners

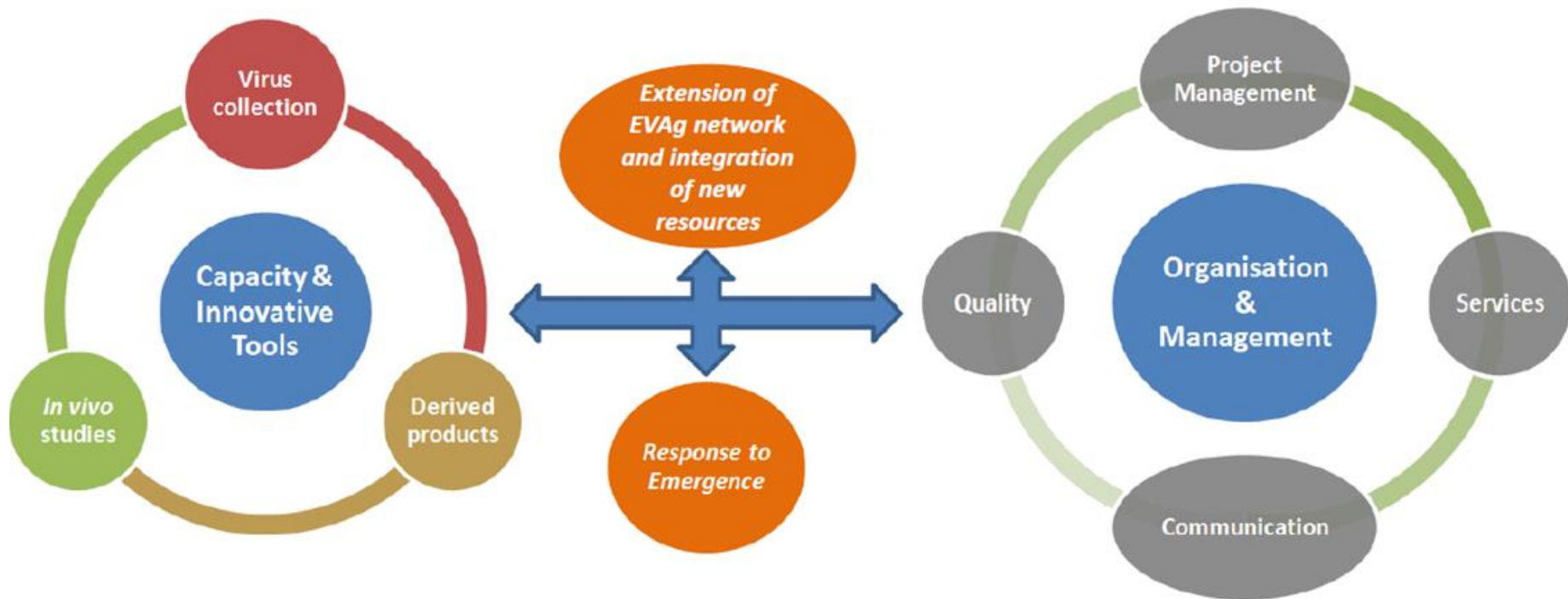


- ▶ **University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)**, US-CDC, (Prof Scott Weaver), Galveston, Texas, **USA**.
- ▶ **Institute of Virology** ,(Prof Stephan Becker), Marburg, **Germany**.
- ▶ **S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg Pasteur Institute**, St Petersburg, **Russia**.
- ▶ **Center for Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy (CRIE)**, (Dr German Shipulin), Moscow, **Russia**.
- ▶ **Hellenic Pasteur Institute (HPI)**, (Dr.Urania Georgopoulou), Athens, **Greece**.
- ▶ **Hacettepe University (HU)**, (Prof Koray Ergunay) Ankara, **Turkey**.
- ▶ **Jordan University of Science and Technology**, (Prof. Dr. Nabil Hailat), Amman, **Jordan**.
- ▶ **Centro Nacional de Microbiologia, Instituto de Salud Carlos III**, (Prof. Jose Manuel Echevarria), Madrid, **Spain**.
- ▶ **Korea National Institute of Health**, (Dr Youngmee Jee), Seoul, **Korea**

By courtesy of Prof. J.-L. Romette



# Consortium Architecture



- ▶ **MERS-CoV outbreak (2012)**
- ▶ **EBOLA virus outbreak (2015)**
- ▶ **ZIKA virus outbreak (2016)**

# Advantages of the participation of Russian Institutions in the EVAg

- International recognition of the collections
- Publicity and acceleration of the exchange of knowledge, products, techniques
- Growth of quality of products, standardization and harmonization of the techniques and reagents under international control of quality
- Better accessibility of the most important virus collections
- Better preparedness to response on possible emerging pathogens, both human and animal

# Difficulties of the participation of Russian Institutions in the EVAg

- Russian partners cannot be funded directly by the EU grants. The only exclusion is TNA (trans-national access to viruses, products, research facilities)
- Russian institutes are subjected to difficulties in TNA, especially in life virus exchange
- For the moment no one of Russian partners was able to find the parallel funding of their participation in the EVAg from Russian internal sources

**However we are optimistic and believe that gradually many of the difficulties might be overcome**





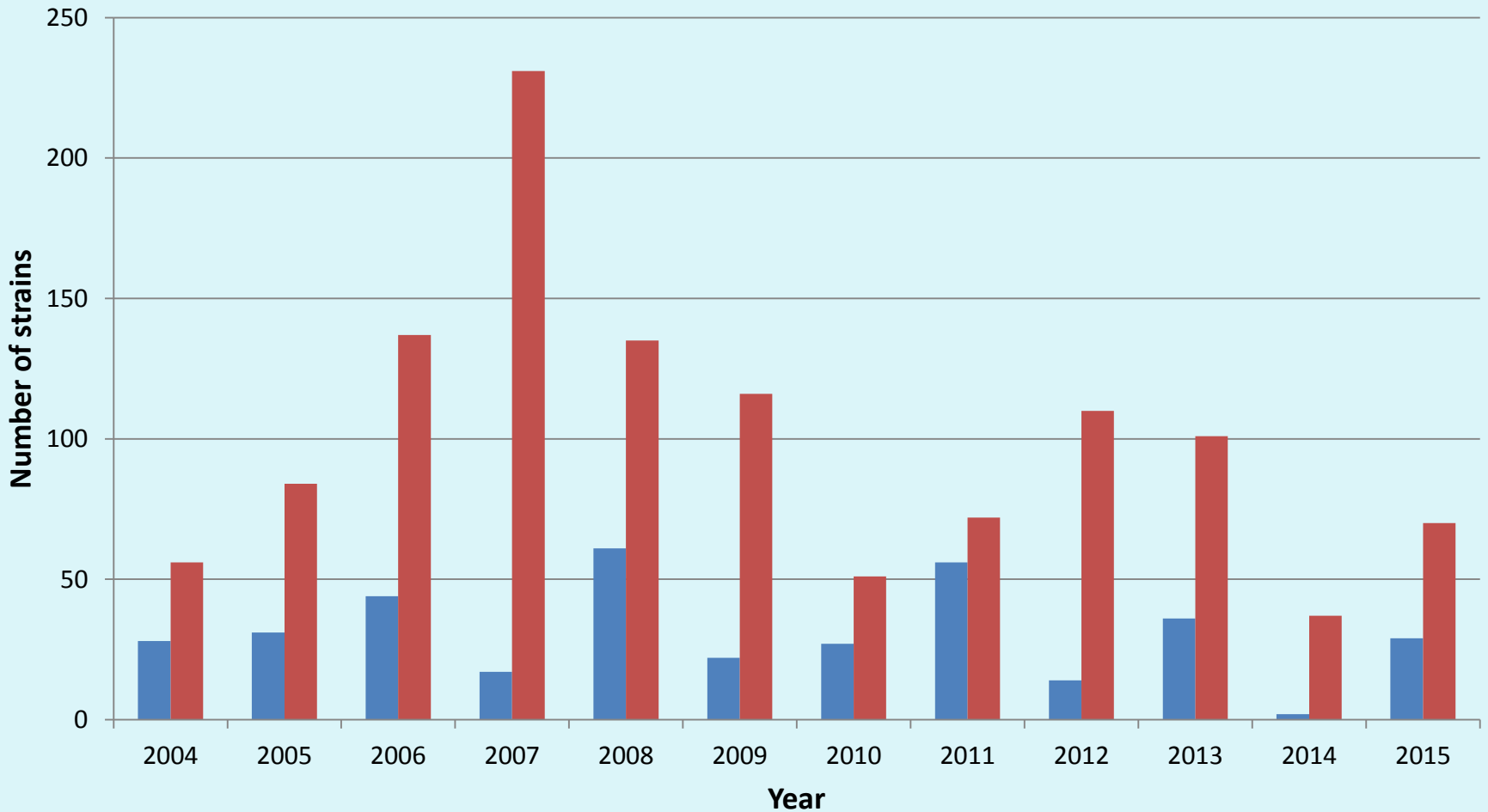
ФГБУ «НИИ гриппа»  
Минздравсоцразвития России

Thank you for the attention

<http://www.influenza.spb.ru>

<http://global.european-virus-archive.com>

# Number of influenza strains from the RII collection delivered to the other institutions of Russia and to International Collaborating Influenza Centres during the past 12 years



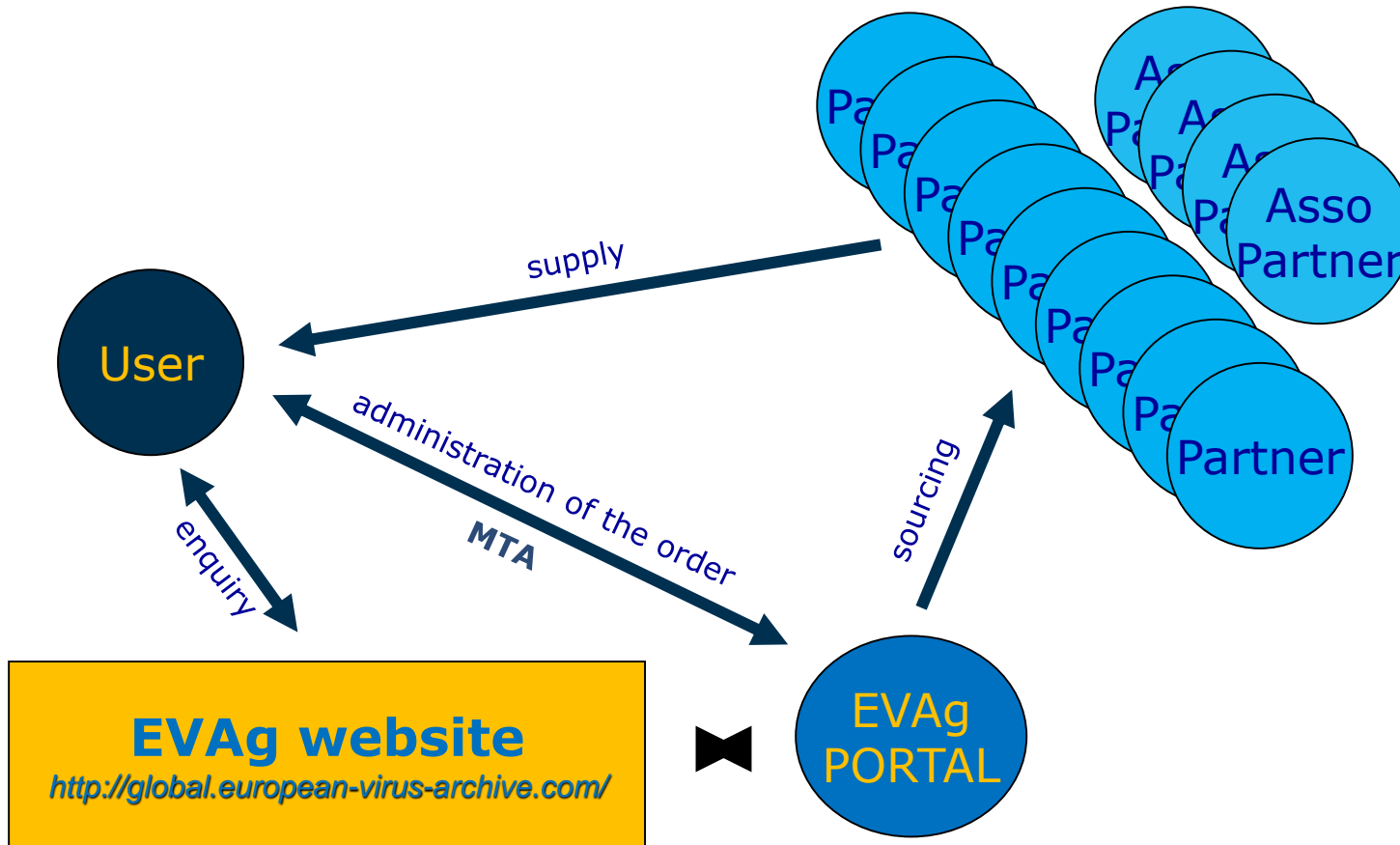
■ Количество штаммов, выданных в учреждения РФ ■ Количество штаммов, посланных в СЦ ВОЗ



В соответствии с Постановлением Правительства Российской Федерации от 28 апреля 2015 года № 418 "О федеральной целевой программе "Национальная система химической и биологической безопасности Российской Федерации (2015 - 2020 годы)" НИИ гриппа существенно расширяет и модернизирует свои коллекции вирусов. Для этого будет произведена реконструкция одного из корпусов. Новое помещение будет возведено в соответствии с GLP для работы по II-IV группам патогенности. Коллекции будут размещены в автоматических станциях хранения на  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  (лиофилизированные штаммы) и  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  – антисыворотки, вирусные суспензии для среднесрочного хранения (до 1 года).



# Providing Access to the EVAg Resource



Simple and efficient procedure to reduce delivery time