

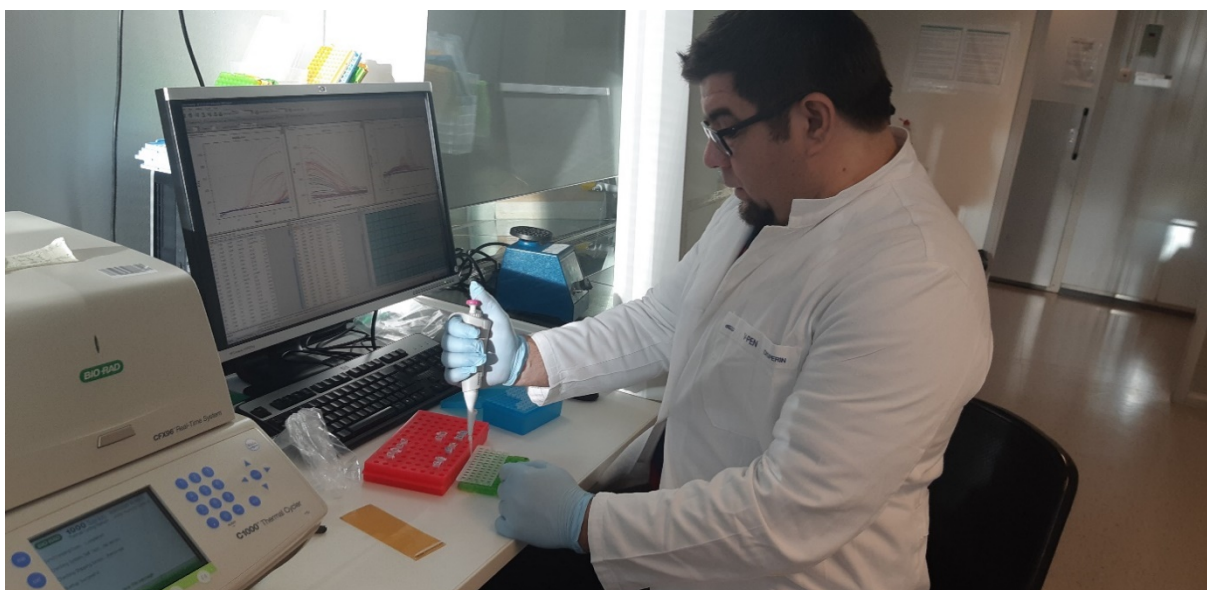
STSM at the University of Helsinki (2nd – 9th February, 2020)

I recently completed an STSM at the Department of Food Hygiene and Environmental Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki, Finland supervised by Prof. Maria Fredriksson-Ahomaa, Dipl. ECVPH. The purpose of the STSM was to get insight of testing/research of *Salmonella*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Trichinella* at farm /slaughterhouse level and risk categorization of pig farms and slaughterhouses in Finland. In particular, the focus of visit has been oriented to surveillance system and research study design, sampling methods (meat juice, serum), ELISA testing and interpretation of results for risk-based meat inspection purposes.

STSM activities resulted in improving my skills of epidemiological sampling and analyses, sampling design in relation to population size (farm), prevalence/incidence estimation, categorization of pig farms related to main biological hazards, interventions at farms and slaughterhouse level, preparation of meat juice or serum for ELISA, performing ELISA tests for selected pathogens, method validation, reliability of ELISA tests, interpretation of ELISA results.

Additionally, I have been introduced with organization of scientific groups and laboratories at the Department of Food Hygiene and Environmental Health, modern laboratory equipment and methods (standard food microbiology, screening methods, biochemical methods, molecular methods, serological methods, electrophoresis etc.). Further, I was involved in practical work by preparation of samples for multiplex RT-PCR (*Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, STEC, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*), RT-PCR analysis and RT-PCR interpretation of results.

I am very grateful to RIBMINS STSM network and boards to giving me excellent opportunity to visit Department of Food Hygiene and Environmental Health, Helsinki. Special thanks to my host supervisor Prof. Fredriksson-Ahomaa and all Department and Laboratory staff.



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