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Photo

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The institutes and their location

Headquarters Isle of Riems

Institutes of

- **Molecular Virology and Cell Biology:** molecular characterization of animal pathogenic viruses, virus-host cell interactions
- **Infectology:** infections of aquatic organisms and insects, hematophagous arthropods as vectors
- **Diagnostic Virology:** diagnosis of important viral animal diseases, pathogen characterization including phylogenetic analyses and infection experiments
- **Novel and Emerging Infectious Diseases:** diagnosis, molecular characterization and pathogenesis of zoonotic viruses and prions
- **Immunology:** immune mechanisms of infections and immunology of food-producing animals
- **Epidemiology:** epidemiology and risk assessment of infectious animal diseases
- **International Animal Health/One Health:** scientific activities within the framework of international cooperation in the field of animal health and the One Health approach

FLI Braunschweig

- **Institute of Animal Nutrition:** Nutrient-associated influences on animal health, carry-over of feed ingredients into food products of animal origin, metabolism and nutritional requirements

FLI Celle

- **Institute of Animal Welfare and Animal Husbandry:** animal-friendly husbandry systems for farm animals, animal welfare during transport, anesthetization and slaughter

FLI Jena

Institutes of

- **Bacterial Infections and Zoonoses:** etiology and control of bacterial infections
- **Molecular Pathogenesis:** elucidation of interactions between infectious pathogens and host organisms

FLI Mariensee

- **Institute of Farm Animal Genetics:** preservation, assessment and utilization of farm animal genetic resources

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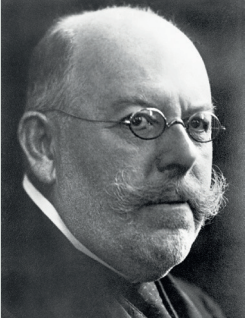
FLI

Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit
Federal Research Institute for Animal Health

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**Federal Research Institute
for Animal Health**





The eponym of our institute

By discovering the foot-and-mouth disease virus, Friedrich Loeffler (1852–1915), physician and microbiologist, became one of the founders of the science of virology. From 1888 on, he taught hygiene as professor at the University of Greifswald.

Loeffler founded the first virological research institute worldwide on the island of Riems, which began research on foot-and-mouth disease on Oct. 10, 1910, and today is the headquarters of our institute.

Tasks

The work of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) focusses on farm animal health and welfare and on the protection of humans from zoonoses, i. e. infections which can be transmitted from animals to humans. These tasks are defined in the Animal Health Act.

The FLI does basic and applied research in different scientific fields.

Goals

1. The prevention of diseases by
 - improving rapid diagnostics,
 - improving prophylactic measures,
 - providing the background for modern control strategies for animal diseases and zoonoses.
2. The improvement of animal welfare and the production of high quality animal-based foodstuffs by
 - improving farm animal husbandry in compliance with animal welfare,
 - preserving the genetic diversity of farm animals,
 - supporting the efficient utilization of animal feed.

As a federal research institute and independent higher federal authority under the Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture, the FLI has a consultative function which helps provide the scientific basis for political decision-making. The institute performs epidemiological investigations during outbreaks of animal diseases. The institute also prepares risk assessments on various infectious diseases of farm animals. Furthermore, the FLI works as national Licensing Authority for in vitro diagnostics for detection of notifiable and reportable animal diseases. As National Contact Point the FLI scientifically supports the competent authorities on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, article 20, regarding the protection of animals at the time of killing. Additionally, the offices of the Standing Committee on Vaccination in Veterinary Medicine (StKo Vet) and of the national expert commission "Mosquitoes as transmitters of pathogens" are based at the FLI.

At present, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut has approximately 850 employees in twelve institutes at five locations.

Reference laboratories

As the responsible federal institution, the FLI houses more than 75 national reference laboratories for notifiable animal diseases. The reference laboratories clarify suspect cases, provide advice to veterinary authorities and perform ring trials or similar quality assurance measures in the field of animal disease diagnostics in Germany.

International orientation

Scientists of the FLI cooperate with numerous international research institutions. They participate in projects and missions of international organisations, such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Additionally, the FLI houses international reference laboratories of the OIE for avian influenza, Newcastle disease, bovine herpesvirus 1 infection, brucellosis, chlamydiosis, glanders, Koi herpesvirus disease and rabies. The FLI is also "Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses in Europe" of the OIE and runs a "Collaborating Centre" of the WHO for rabies. Furthermore, it is a member of the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare.

Future

Animal health will remain an important subject in the future and will continue to challenge science. Especially in the field of zoonoses many questions remain to be answered; the infection routes of many diseases are still unclear. The FLI accepts this challenge in terms of "One Health" – an approach that recognizes that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and the environment.

