President’s Message

In 2007, our Association continues to grow in the number of individual members and of national country branches, especially in Asia and Africa. There are currently 1889 members from 50 countries. National branches exist in 39 countries. 33 of these have 20 or more members e.g. that their Corresponding Secretaries are Bureau members. New branches have been formed within the last two years in Iran, Bangladesh, and Libya. The increase in membership has been accompanied by growing attendances at our world congresses. Throughout these years our Association can be proud in that it has maintained an excellent track record of providing necessary leadership in the dissemination of scientific information, which has been related to all aspects of the poultry diseases on a global basis.

During these last 49 years of activity, it can also be seen that the WVPA has grown to a truly global organization. In 2007, the XVth World Veterinary Poultry Congress took place in Beijing, China between September 10th and September 16th. A total of 945 registered participants (433 international and 512 Chinese) enjoyed a very interesting scientific program as well as every aspect of a well-organized event. The scientific programme comprises 13 keynote lectures, the Houghton Lecture, 244 oral and 200 poster presentations. Along with the Congress, a Poultry Exhibition took place with free entrance for all Congress participants, which attracted 60 companies from around the world to present their products. I would like to take the opportunity to express my deep and sincerely-felt thanks to the Organizing Committee, their efficient staff members and to all members of the Chinese Branch of the World Veterinary Poultry association.

At this Congress Dr. Rachel Bock (Israel) and Dr. Richard Witter (USA) were elected as Honorary Life Members of the Association because of long and valued service to the association and distinguished contributions to avian science as well as multiple activities in the sense of the association’s objects, respectively.

The 2007 Winner of the Bart Rispens Award for the best paper published in ‘Avian Pathology’ in the years 2005 and 2006 is Dr. David Swayne with his paper ‘Inactivated North American and European H5N2 avian influenza viruses protects chicken from Asian H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza virus. In addition, Dr. Amir Noorollahmadi, Australia, the Houghton Trust Lecturer 2007, selected by the Grants Subcommittee of the Houghton Trust, gave his lecture entitled ‘Who is smarter, Mycoplasma or the host?’

As WVPA President, it is an honour to have the opportunity to serve the World Veterinary Poultry Association in this position till 2011. I thank all of you for your trust and support. With your help and involvement, it is my plan to move our association forward so that it can even better fulfil its aims to serve all of the WVPA members in their countries on all continents. This can be achieved through your activities, and also enhanced by active cooperation with related international organizations.

Finally, on behalf of our Vice-Presidents, Prof. Dr. Erhard Franz Kaleta and Dr. Trevor Bagust, as well as the Secretary/Treasurer of our Organization, Dr. Ursula Heffels-Redmann, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all WVPA Members in their many countries who have given support and are continuing to support the global poultry health mission of our Association.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. H.M. Hafez
President of WVPA
Report from the Australian Branch

The year 2007 has been busy and productive in a number of areas.

Our membership continues to strongly support our scientific Meetings, of which we have had 3 since the last Report. Last November we joined with our NZ colleagues in Auckland for an excellent 2-day program. Strong sessions were presented on Quarantine and Biosecurity, from national perspectives through to production sites, and measures for early detection and containment of avian influenza should it arrive in either of our countries. Fortunately this has not occurred to date, although we remain very mindful of its presence in the S E Asian countries to our near North. Fingers remain crossed for all of our sakes!

The extending outbreak of virulent Newcastle Disease in Papua New Guinea this year has also been of concern to all of us, and the AVPA Executive has written to the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer as well as key ministers encouraging our government to aid and support PNG in its efforts to control and hopefully eradicate this disease. Urgency in this matter has been strongly requested.

Our Association also met in 2007, following on from the Australian Poultry Science Symposium at University of Sydney, 14-15th February 2007. A general theme for this meeting was food safety/public health although papers were broader than this. Our last Scientific Meeting for 2007 was held at the end of October in Adelaide. Again there was a strong emphasis on Food safety, and amongst the 14 presenters during the day spent on this 'Topic', we were pleased to be able to welcome Professor Martine Boullianne and her paper "Food safety-The Canadian Perspective". She is currently visiting in Australia on sabbatic, and we welcome her warmly!

This Association has recently changed its name to become The Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Ltd. This AVPA is a new legal entity which we have developed to manage membership issues independently from the Australian Veterinary Association. The name also reflects the significant numbers of AVPA members who are resident in New Zealand and regularly join with us for Meetings and professional discussions.

Some 12 Australian delegates attended the recent World Veterinary Poultry Congress held in Beijing. This WVPC was superbly organized and catered, and the AVPA gladly sends warmest Congratulations to our colleagues in China. AVPA was also pleased to supply 3 of the Keynote Lectures, including our Professor Amir H. Noormohammadi, who delivered the Houghton Oration "Who is smarter - Mycoplasmas or the Host"?

Upcoming scientific events which we are working on now include the 23rd World’s Poultry Conference and Sixth Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference, Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre, June 29 - July 4. AVPA Contact Dr Kevin Whithear; Email: kevingw@unimelb.edu.au

Web: www.wpc2008.com AP6 is being organized by AVPA, to provide the main poultry disease stream of this World Congress. The theme of AP6 will be "From Pasteur to Genomics: Past, Present and Future Control of Poultry Disease". Dr John Glisson, the Director of the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center at the University of Georgia will address this theme in his Plenary Address. Laureate Professor Peter Doherty will be another Plenary speaker and his topic will be Avian Influenza. Two further sessions at AP6 will be devoted to control and prevention of H5 N1, while other scientific sessions will be based around the most economically important diseases of poultry.

Soon after will be the 8th International Marek’s Disease Symposium, Townsville, Queensland. Sunday 6th July - Thursday 10th July 2008. Contact: Dr. G. Burgess, School of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland 4811. Phone: 07 4781 5472; Fax: 07 4781 6833; Email: graham.burgess@jcu.edu.au http://www.jcu.edu.au/events/mds/

Indeed, an opportunity to see the Great Barrier Reef while at a Scientific Meeting.

In the Australian poultry industry this year, a problem has re-emerged with infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT), which is a locally endemic disease in some parts of Australia. A number of outbreaks have been recorded in commercial layer and broiler flocks in Victoria and in New South Wales, our two major States for poultry production.

The control of these outbreaks has been complicated by the shortage of the two commercially available Australian vaccines (SA2 and A20) in particular the comparatively less virulent ILT vaccine A20. A third, recently-introduced, vaccine (INTERNET NOBILIS ILT) has been used in some of the outbreaks to control the spread of the diseases. Molecular typing has confirmed that while these outbreaks were caused by different ILTV viruses, three of the outbreaks (in two independent broiler companies and in a commercial layer operation) were caused by the same ILTV genotype. A variant IB continues to cause respiratory disease in NSW broiler flocks and no homologous vaccine has been permitted for control.

Our quarterly AVPA Newsletter Dander has now been going for 30 years (!) The current Editor is Professor Kevin Whithbear Contact address kevingw@unimelb.edu.au

In closing, the AVPA wishes our colleagues around the world each a Happy and Safe Festive Season, and all success in 2008!

AVPA President Peter Groves zootechny@bigpond.com AVPA Secretary Ben Wells benwells@bigpond.net.au AVPA-Bureau Member WVPA Trevor Bagust trevorjb@unimelb.edu.au

Dr. Trevor Bagust, Corresponding Secretary, Australia

Dr. Richard Witter, Avian Disease & Oncology Lab., East Lansing, Michigan, USA, elected as Honorary Life Member of WVPA in recognition of his distinguished contributions to avian science and his valued service to the Association receives the certificate from the President Prof. H. Hafez.

Dr. David Swayne (middle), Southeast Poultry Research Lab., USDA, Athens, Georgia, USA receives the 2007 Bart Rispens Research Award from Prof. Hafez M. Hafez, the Chairman of the Award Committee (left) and Dr. Pieter Kühne, the representative of the sponsoring company Intervet.
Update from Hungary

Derzsy Days, the most prestigious Hungarian avian veterinary science event, was held by the shores of Lake Balaton in Balatonfüred on June 7-8, 2007. The Hungarian minister of agriculture and rural development, József Gráf, spoke at the conference, and the 80th birthday of academician János Mészáros, DVM, honorary president of WVPA, was commemorated. During the conference, the professional achievements of János Mészáros were recognized with high state honors, presented by József Gráf. János Mészáros and Domonkos Derzsy founded the avian health section of Hungarian veterinarians in 1959. The group still functions as the Association of Avian Health of the Hungarian National Veterinary Association.

This year the 15th Derzsy Napok Jubilee conference paid tribute to József Marek, DVM, a former professor of the Hungarian University of Veterinary Science. A century ago Dr. Marek first described the avian disease since named after him. In a panel session commemorating his work, the Council of the Veterinary Faculty at the Szent István University awarded the “Dr. József Marek Commemorative Medallion” to professor Mark S. Parcells for his outstanding professional achievements in Marek’s disease research.

The conference presentations were of high quality, and the event provided an excellent opportunity for the 200-plus attendees to socialize. An extraordinary feature of this year’s event was an exhibition of photographs taken by veterinarians.

Dr. László Kőrösi, Corresponding Secretary, Hungary

Update from Israel

IBV vaccines in Israel

For many years, H120 (Mass serotype) was the only IBV vaccine authorized for use in the Israeli poultry industry. Continuous IBV outbreaks and efficacy studies conducted by Rosie Meir’s research group proved that this vaccine had a limited spectrum of protection against variants. The most prevailing variant in the last two years is a Variant 2-like virus that caused severe IBV outbreaks in broilers with both respiratory and renal symptoms of disease. Recently, protection studies were carried out with the live attenuated 4/91 vaccine. Results showed good protection against challenge with Variant 1 (very similar to 4/91), and Variant 2 viruses. Based on these findings, 4/91 was accepted for commercial use in the Israeli poultry industry. So far, poultry veterinarians report a reduction in the severity and number of IBV outbreaks, compared to previous years.

European Consortium

The Division of Avian Diseases at the Kimron Veterinary Institute was privileged to be included in a European Consortium that won a prestigious grant proposal from the European Union. The project called FLURESIST, is aimed at the investigation of the avian influenza virus resistance in various physical environments, its persistence in various poultry commodities and its patterns of spread. These studies aim to provide additional knowledge to prevent flu outbreaks as is required in light of the topic’s relevance. The consortium, led by Dr. Guus Koch from the Netherlands, additionally includes researchers.

Interested in studying poultry health?

Avian Health Online is an interactive web based learning environment. It is taught by the University of Melbourne with assistance from Faculty members at the University of Georgia, PDRC. It has been designed for veterinarians to further their understanding in poultry health and management and enable them to better function in today’s global poultry industry.

Currently, we offer two postgraduate courses in this arena:

- A Postgraduate Certificate in Avian Health – 1 year
- A Master of Avian Health and Medicine – 3 years

Course commences: 1 September 2008
Applications close: 1 August 2008

For further information please call +61 3 9731 2011 / 2012
email: trevorjb@unimelb.edu.au or
visit www.avianhealthonline.vet.unimelb.edu.au

As proxy of Dr. Rachel Bock, Israel, Dr. Yehuda Samberg receives the certificate of Honorary Life Membership presented to her in recognition of her long and valued service to the Association.
from Italy, the UK, Sweden and Israel as well as three consultants from the US and Canada.

On Oct. 25, the Ambassador, Mr. Ramiro Cibrian Uzal, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Israel and the Israel Directorate for the Framework Programme of the European Union in Research and Technological Development (ISERD), held an award ceremony to honor the most outstanding 2007 Israeli projects in the EU 7th Framework Programme. Dr. Irit Davidson, who leads the Israeli project, Dr. Shimon Perk, the head of the Avian Division and Dr. Sagit Nagar, who participates in the research, attended the ceremony and received an FP7 Hamsa.

Annual Convention of WPSA
The Israeli Branch held its annual conference in May 2007 in the city of Ashkelon. 450 participants, including farmers, representatives from commercial companies, veterinarians, nutritionists, extension service experts and scientists attended a 3-day conference. The program had 12 sessions covering various disciplines: Poultry disease and prevention, physiology, nutrition, different aspects of broiler production, egg production, reproduction and a special discussion on important topics concerning the Israeli poultry industry.

Some of the topics presented in the Poultry Disease and Prevention session included:

- The development and production of killed influenza vaccines: H5N2, H5N9
- Molecular characterization of H5N1 avian influenza viruses isolated in Israel
- The effects of the dual infection of chicks with CIAV and MDV
- The prevalence of TRT (metapneumovirus) in poultry in Israel
- Feathers as spreaders of CIAV
- Challenge model to test the efficacy of ORT vaccines
- The distribution of reovirus in chickens following inoculation
- Sensitivity and resistance of MG and MS isolates from meat turkeys
- Vaccinations against Avibacterium (Hemophilus) in chickens
- Dr. Ton Schat of Cornell University was our honorary guest scientist who spoke on his research interests and findings.
- Improved diagnostic tools for avian encephalomyelitis virus

Avian encephalomyelitis (AE) is a disease caused by an enterovirus most prevalent in young chickens, turkeys, pheasants and quails. The disease is expressed through central nervous system signs with typical rapid tremors of the head and neck. Morbidity may be 40-60% and mortality can reach 25-50%. The severity of the signs, especially the rate of mortality, is usually far lower in the progeny of immune breeders. In adults that are infected, the only clinical sign is the transitory drop in egg production (usually 5-20%, lasting 3-4 weeks), sometimes with decreased hatchability. For a rapid and specific diagnosis, new laboratory tools are needed since many field diagnoses are still based on the appearance of clinical symptoms, serology and histopathology.

At the Division of Avian and Fish Diseases, Drs. Lublin and Y. Farnoushi investigated two improved diagnostic tools for AE virus: PCR and Immunohistochemistry. The PCR test for AEV is a useful tool but, according to the researchers’ experiments, its efficacy depends on when in the pathogenesis of the disease that the birds are sampled. For immunohistochemistry, the researchers created polyclonal antibodies against the virus by expression synthetic peptides of viral antigenic epitopes. With these new techniques, the diagnosis of AEV should be improved and new features of infections revealed.

Dr. Rachel Bock, Corresponding Secretary, Israel
Update from Morocco

The scientific and organizing committee of the 16 WVPA congress in Morocco will be pleased to welcome all WVPA members to Marrakesh. The dates for the congress will be 22-26 September 2009. They are slightly later in the year than is traditional for the WVPA congress because of the dates of Ramadan in 2009. The congress website address is www.wvpc2009.org. It has been activated and can be visited and is linked with WVPA website.

The international organizing committee has already made contacts have already been made and the scientific program in 4 days will be focused on the following topics:

- Respiratory diseases
- Enteric diseases
- Bacterial diseases
- Complex viral diseases
- Mycoplasmosis
- Metabolic and nutritional diseases
- Food safety
- Management and diseases
- Use of Natural products in Avian Medicine; the first time this topic will be a part of the WVPC program.

Suggestions for the scientific program as well as the potential keynote speakers will be discussed with the scientific committee. Workshops on different topics have been suggested and should take place 1 day before the congress in a hotel rather than in the convention centre.

For the congress promotion, we sat up with the agency with which we are working a plan for promoting participation and sponsoring. An international sponsoring committee has been formed. It includes Drs. N. Horrox (UK), T. Bagust (Australia), E.X. Le-Gros (France), C. Hofacre (USA), K. Bouzoubaa and Mr. Lhbabi from Morocco. A first meeting of this committee was held in Beijing on Sept 14th.

Finally, we had in the WVPA bureau meeting a discussion on the registration fee in Marrakesh. The amount will be 4,000 Dirham (approximately 450 to 500US$). The fee will include registration, a welcome reception, and Gala dinner.

The 16th edition of the WVPA congress will coincide with the 50th anniversary of WVPA. We stressed that as the organising and scientific committees for this special occasion, we will try to make this congress in Marrakesh a reflection of the progress made in the field of avian medicine over the past 50 years.

Dr. Khalid Bouzoubaa, Corresponding Secretary, Morocco

Update from the U.S. Branch of WVPA

The poultry health situation in the U.S. has been quite good over this past year. We have had some instances of low pathogenic A.I. that were identified by the serology monitoring program. These flocks did not exhibit any mortality or morbidity and the flocks involved were quickly eliminated, the farms cleaned and disinfected. The method of depopulation was with the recently AVMA approved foam method for euthanasia of large numbers of birds.

The American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) celebrated our 50th Anniversary in July in Washington, D.C. with a banquet attended by more than 500 members, spouses, and friends. Also, six founding members of AAAP were in attendance at the banquet and received a handmade clock by Dr. Bruce Calnek. Dr. Calnek also presented a historical review of AAAP. Also, we presented this book on the first 50 years of AAAP.

The symposium was on the Impact of Biotechnology on Avian Health and the Keynote speaker was Dr. John Glisson, “The Future of Veterinary Medicine and Poultry Production.” Dr. Richard Witter gave the Lasher History Lecture, “Origin and Evolution of the AAAP: 50 Years of Dedicated Accomplishments.”

Dr. Chuck Hofacre, Corresponding Secretary, U.S.
Continued Progress of Avian Pathology

The year 2007 was a year of "highs" for Avian Pathology. In June, Thomson Scientific published Impact Factors (IF) for 2006. The IF for Avian Pathology was 1.809, the highest yet for the journal. This put Avian Pathology into the highest 10% (12/128) of journals in the Veterinary Sciences category. Our journal has the highest IF of journals devoted to avian species. I believe that the reasons for the steady increase in our IF over the last 10 years are principally two-fold. Firstly, the increasingly high quality of papers that we publish. Secondly, and related to this, the rigorous adherence by Editors to our criteria for publication. Papers accepted for publication in Avian Pathology are judged to have significantly enhanced knowledge and understanding of a disease or pathogen. As we say in our published Scope, “Manuscripts should report novel findings that are of interest to an international readership.” We reject papers that are sound but which would attract only local interest.

The current H5N1 avian influenza virus is of interest not only to veterinary scientists but also to scientists and authorities whose main concerns human pathogens and public health. We have published several papers on this and other types of avian influenza. The citation of our influenza papers by authors beyond the avian field is probably responsible for some of the most recent increase in our IF. This was assisted by our publisher, Taylor and Francis, making several of our recent influenza papers freely available via the journal’s website, and by our papers being accessible via PubMed.

In collaboration with our publisher we have also made Avian Pathology more useful in other ways. Firstly, we recently started to offer free colour reproduction for selected figures in the hard copy journal. Whether we publish figures in colour is no longer dependent on an author’s ability to pay for it. Secondly, Taylor and Francis have now digitised virtually all volumes of Avian Pathology, going back to Volume 1. These are now available via our website www.avi-anpathology.com.

The year 2007 also saw a 14% increase in the number (187) of manuscripts submitted to the journal, compared with 2006. To help cope with the increasing number of submissions in recent years, we have increased the number of Associate Editors yet again, to eight; double that of 10 years ago. In addition to spreading the workload, having a larger editorial board means that a wider range of expertise and opinion is brought to bear upon manuscripts.

Dr. David Cavanagh, Editor Avian Pathology

Aerosols Update

We have worked hard to improve the look of Aerosols. Our latest issues have been full color and professionally produced. Our thanks to Mongrel Designs (http://www.mongredesigns.com/) for our new look. With this issue, we are adding to the current changes with an emailed version of Aerosols delivered to the WVPA chapters in the United States and Australia. Our thanks to Dr. Chuck Hofacre of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and Dr. Trevor Bagust from the Australian branch of the WVPA for facilitating this change. If there are other WVPA chapters that would also like to have a digital version of Aerosols delivered to their members, please contact Dr. Hefels-Redmann for more information.

Carol Cardona
Editor of Aerosols
Arnold S. “Rosy” Rosenwald Passes Away

Arnold S. “Rosy” Rosenwald, Extension Poultry Pathologist, Emeritus, University of California, Davis, whose career and contributions to poultry medicine spanned more than 70 years, died in Davis Jan. 23. He was 98.

Dr. Rosenwald was born in 1909, in Albuquerque, in the territory of New Mexico. He is best known to his colleagues in WVPA for his work with poultry, which he began between 1942 and 1946. During those years Dr. Rosenwald was a veterinary officer with the rank of captain in the Veterinary Corps of the United States Army, where he cared for the veterinary needs of the birds in the Signal Pigeon Corps.

In 1946 he initiated the Extension Poultry Disease Program when he accepted a job as the first extension poultry veterinarian at the University of California, serving at UC Berkeley four years, then at UC Davis from 1950 until he retired in 1977. He was a charter and life member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and served in multiple roles, including president, secretary-treasurer, publicity officer, and editor of Avian Diseases from 1961 to 1965. He was a founder of the Western Poultry Disease Conference established in 1951 to exchange ideas and promote effective, coordinated poultry health measures. Dr. Rosenwald is credited with making the WPDC a renowned international conference on avian diseases. He was instrumental in initiating, in 1967, the industry-oriented Poultry Health Symposium, a joint Cooperative Extension-WPDC program.

Dr. Rosenwald’s hobbies were the WPDC and people, particularly other veterinarians and especially those who know the value of feathered animals for the welfare of human beings.

“Rosy will continue to be an inspiration to all who have known him,” says Donald Klingborg, director of Veterinary Medicine Extension and associate dean for public programs at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. “He gave unselfishly of his time and incredible knowledge, brought people together to create effective networks and accomplish important tasks, and contributed significantly to others to the end. He was a gentleman’s gentleman, had an infectious smile and inquiring mind, and helped people achieve more from themselves with his presence. He is missed.”

“I will fondly remember him for his encouragement and generosity,” says Carol Bates, manager of Poultry Veterinary Services in Auckland, New Zealand. “He was a master at networking and helping people by putting them in touch with each other. I am sure I am not the only student of poultry science to have benefited from his wise counsel and collegiality.”

COMING EVENTS

XVIth World Veterinary Poultry Congress,
Marrakesh, Morocco
22-26 September 2009

www.wvpc2009.org
World Veterinary Poultry Association Congress, Beijing, China, 10-16 September 2007