



Newsletter of the World Veterinary Poultry Association

Aerosols

December 2004

Number 16

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Table of Contents

President's Message.....	1
Meetings	2
News	3
Country Reports	4
Australia.....	4
China.....	5
Egypt	5
Israel	5
Italy	6
Japan.....	6
Slovakia.....	7
USA.....	7
Publications.....	7
WVPA Business	8

President's Message

International congresses are more important than ever before. For this reason, we met last year in Denver, Colorado, and celebrated the XIIIth congress and enjoyed the great hospitality of the organizers and met many friends. We all will hopefully meet us again in August 2005 in Istanbul, Turkey to participate in the XIVth congress. The dramatic, almost exponential increase of knowledge of recent times deserves international presentation and evaluation. Sound solutions for pressing problems due to new or re-emerging diseases need to be elaborated and applied to field conditions. The international spread of infectious agents demands worldwide cooperation and an abundance of mutual trust.

I have identified, during my professional career, and noted more intensively in recent times, a number of critical points which are of major relevance for poultry health and consequently for the poultry industry. Poultry is comprised of chickens and turkeys in most parts of the world. In some regions, mainly Southeast Asia, egg and meat producing ducks are of major importance. In other areas, Japanese quail, ostriches, or meat pigeons may dominate. Despite these differences in product, the aim of the industry is the same in all regions of the world: to supply high quality and safe food for an ever growing human population. It is our duty to contribute significantly to the provision of adequate human nutrition worldwide.

It is a major advantage that poultry meat and avian eggs are appreciated as delicious and nourishing food. In addition, the production and consumption of poultry is not restricted by religions. Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Mosaic, and Islamic beliefs place no restrictions on any type of poultry products.

Public and published discussions focus increasingly on a number of issues in the area of contemporary animal production. Some of these contributions are indicative of poor information or misinterpretation of the husbandry, slaughter, and processing of farmed animals. Other contributions are rather naive and express the feeling that grandmother's chicken yard needs to be the gold standard for the evaluation of modern housing and processing systems. I see a distinct necessity for additional science-based information and for a reduction in the spectacular advertising of animal products. The poultry industry itself must inform the print and electronic media *why*, for example, laying chickens are kept in cages. Otherwise these media will present their own stories *how* these chickens are being kept.

During the last 20 years several major epidemic diseases of domestic animals have occurred. These include BSE, FMD, ESE, END, and HPAI. Whereas very virulent Marek's disease and very virulent infectious bursal disease went almost unnoticed in the public, END and HPAI attracted the attention of the media and occasionally caused controversial discussions between self-nominated experts and professionals. The general, latently present fear of transmission of the causative organisms to man accelerated and intensified calls for appropriate, humane countermeasures instead of mass destruction of infected and suspected poultry. It is still quite obvious to most of us that the complete elimination of susceptible animals will also eradicate the causative organism. However, in addition to developing disease control methods, the veterinary profession is also being asked to find means of euthanasia which are both, humane and effective in controlling epidemics.

Different types of housing are directly correlated with the degree and duration of exposure to dangerous microorganisms. Housing chickens in cages versus keeping them free-range is both, an important contemporary welfare issue and a potential risk for exposure to various pathogens.

Continued Page 2

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We have witnessed, since the summer 2004, the dramatic spread of HPAI of the subtype H5N1 in several Asian nations. A way out of this dilemma appears to be at first glance the replacement of culling by a vaccination campaign for birds at risk. Such vaccines must be safe and effective. Strong objections exist in some parts of the world against the use of vaccines which may contain GMO's. It is not the appropriate place to elaborate in more detail on pros and cons of vaccination.

In my view, it is one of the greatest achievements to produce efficient poultry feed by the composition of grain, protein, and fat with a separately produced premix which contains all other essential ingredients. This approach to animal feeding paved the way for effective poultry production in practically all parts of the world. However, undesirable components such as dioxin, nitrogen, mycotoxins and other compounds caused concerns among consumers. Highly efficient chemical analysis detected minor amounts which are of negligible significance for human and animal health. Yet, the detection per se caused fear and sometimes inappropriate judgements. It is not the fact which determines human behaviour, it is the opinion which people deduce from facts!

In an attempt to generate and distribute facts that are based on sound scientific work or rely on consolidated practical experience, we improved recently our homepage that can be opened under <wvpa.net>. This page has links to a number of related organizations including the OIE in Paris, governmental institutions and to companies. Also links are installed that make access to publications, announcements, proceedings of recent meetings, and newly published books possible.

In an attempt to provide even more facts for the public the WVPA responded in two ways. First through the creation of the newsletter *Aerosols* by Dr. Lloyd Spencer, former president of the WVPA, this information vehicle is a major source of information for poultry specialists from all over the world. A second way is the installment of the homepage which can be visited at **WVPA.net**. It contains an abundance of information for all members. Since no restrictions are placed on any of the segments, the public may also have access to all information. Yet, I think additional efforts are necessary to provide facts and not fantasy for the interested community. All of us are invited to join in these efforts.

Erhard F. Kaleta

President, WVPA

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An historical note on euthanasia:

The mass destruction of large numbers of animals has historically been problematic. It was Pope Clement the 11th who, after deliberations with some of his cardinals and medical advisors, decided to eradicate rinderpest in all cattle by clubbing and deep burial during severe outbreaks of the disease in the year 1711 in Italy. Very soon, responsible authorities in other European countries and later also in the USA followed this divine advice. Today, the Pope does not weigh in on disease control issues. But, very often the public does and their sense may not be consistent with scientific fact. We as veterinarians need to help the public to understand that sometimes, animals must be destroyed to control disease and that science should determine the best possible method of euthanasia to use under the circumstances.

Erhard F. Kaleta

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Meeting Announcements

January 2005

International Poultry Scientific Forum
January 24-25, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
Contact: International Poultry Scientific Forum.
Phone: +1 770 493 9401; Fax: +1 770 493 9257
Website: www.internationalpoultryexposition.org

March 2005

4th International Poultry Show and Seminar 2005
March 10-12, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Contact: Dr. Q.M.E. Huque.
Phone: +880 2 7708326; Fax: +880 2 7708325
Email: dgbli@bangla.net or techcomm@wspa-bb.com

April 2005

3rd International Poultry Conference
April 4-7, Hurghada, Egypt.
Contact: Prof. M. Kosba, Alexandria University, Faculty of Agriculture "El-Shatby," Poultry Production Department, Aflaton Street, 21545 Alexandria, Egypt. Phone: +20 10 644 6339
Email: mkosba@hotmail.com

54th Western Poultry Disease Conference
April 25-27, The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
Contact: Dr. R.P. Chin.
Email: rpchin@ucdavis.edu

August 2005

14th World Veterinary Poultry Congress & Exhibition
August 22-26, Istanbul, Turkey.
Contact: Congress organizer: IT Consortium, Mete Cad. 16/11, 34437 Taksim, Istanbul, Turkey. Phone: +90 212 244 71 71; Fax: +90 212 244 71 81
Website: www.wvpc2005.org

September 2007

15th World Veterinary Poultry Congress & Exhibition
September 13-16, 2007, Beijing, P. R. China
Contact: Prof. Dr. Cui Zizhong, Shandong Agricultural University, 271018 Taian, P. R. China
E-Mail: zzcui@sdau.edu.cn

August 2008

XXIII World's Poultry Congress
August 10-15, Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia.
Contact: WPC 2008 Congress, Intermedia Convention & Event Management, PO Box 1280, Milton, Queensland 4064, Australia.
Phone: +61 7 3858 5594; Fax: +61 7 3858 5510
Website: www.wpsa.info



An Invitation to the XIVth WVPA Congress



As the date of the next WVPA Congress approaches, our excitement at hosting the world's poultry veterinarians in Istanbul increases. As you will see in the second announcement of the Congress, there have been some slight changes in organisation, but only for the betterment of the meeting. The Congress will be held in top quality meeting rooms at a

hotel by the seaside with very attractive facilities. The second announcement presents all of the information you may need and has already been sent to your e-mail address. You may also access information about the congress at: wvpc2005.org

We wish the best to our colleagues,
Ahmet Ergün

Greetings from WPSA! XXII World's Poultry Congress - Istanbul

The World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA) held its XXII World's Poultry Congress this June in Istanbul, Turkey. Under the leadership of Prof. Ruveyde Akbay (University of Ankara) and Prof. Servet Yalcin (University of Izmir), the Turkish organizing committee did an outstanding job of planning and executing this international event.



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For the Turkish people, extending hospitality to friends and complete strangers is a given. Nowhere else have I experienced such consistent and genuine expressions of hospitality. Our congress venue was the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center, the same venue used a week later by NATO. All the meeting facilities were top drawer and the equipment needed for staging such a large scientific meeting was state-of-the-art. Keynote addresses, plenary sessions, and poster sessions filled the daytime schedule. After taking in so much new information, the registrants could clear their heads by taking a few steps outside. Standing on the verandas of the Convention Center afforded refreshing views of the Bosphorus.

During the evenings, registrants and their guests enjoyed the best of Istanbul's cuisine and entertainment. The week long congress was capped with a banquet in the lavish Dolmabache Palace Gardens.

Since the WVPA is also planning a congress in Istanbul, I wish to offer a few bits of advice. Some people may be put off by the prospects of traveling to Turkey. Yes, Turkey is predominantly Moslem and the Turkish people are religious. It is important to know that Turkish Moslems are probably the most secular in the world. They live the legacy of their great leader, Ataturk. Women wear secular dress and as a people they show respect for the religions practiced by others. Traveling in Turkey is a bargain. You will experience wonderful and bountiful meals, clean accommodations, and service people who are friendly and professional.

I trust your organizing committee will have many group tour possibilities for you. For those who might want a custom tour and a personal guide, I make the following offer. I have used the same guide on all my trips in Turkey. He plans the perfect excursions and knows the country's poultry growing regions. I will be happy to put any interested parties in touch with him. Please contact me by mail at Animal Science, UC Davis, Davis, California 95616 or by FAX (530) 752-6316.

I am sure that the WVPA's Congress in Turkey will both scientifically engage and enchant its registrants. Best wishes from your colleagues in the World's Poultry Science Association.

Dr. Francine Bradley, Treasurer
World's Poultry Science Association

News

International Symposium on Avian Corona- and Pneumovirus infections

Rauischholzhausen, Germany, 20-23 June 2004

The Castle Rauischholzhausen, the conference centre of the Justus Liebig University of Giessen, was again venue for the International Symposium on Avian Corona- and Pneumovirus Infections. Eighty four participants, mainly invited speakers, from 22 countries attended the symposium to present and discuss new research data on the epidemiology, molecular virology, diagnosis, immunology, pathogenesis, vaccination and control of both viral infections. The proceedings of this symposium contain 47 full papers including introductory lectures and summaries of the sessions. Copies of the proceedings with CD are available at a price of Euro 24 plus postage from:

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Justus Liebig University
Frankfurter Strasse 91
D-35392 Giessen, Germany
Fax: #49 641 20 15 48
E-mail: ursula.heffels-redmann@vetmed.uni-giessen.de

Australia

For the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association (AVPA) 2003-4 has been a busy year, both from our own scientific activities, and also reflecting the ebbs and flows of the avian health situation within Australia and globally.

The AVPA is one of the larger Special Interest Groups of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA). AVPA Standing Sub-Committees are maintained which are active in the subject areas of Poultry Welfare, Therapeutics, Food Safety, Importation and Exotic Avian Diseases - each consider relevant issues, develop positions, and provide policy advice for the veterinary profession and Government.

It might be noted that currently problems are being experienced by the egg and chicken breeder sectors of the Australian poultry industry through reductions which are occurring in the numbers of veterinary chemicals that are able to be used by veterinarians for control of diseases and pests in these industry sectors. These veterinary chemicals include antibiotics, coccidiostats, insecticides and histomonostats. The difficulties now occurring with the professional use of veterinary chemicals appear to be caused by two main factors:

-Increasing national and State Legislation to prohibit the use of products containing specified actives in birds that are laying eggs (or will lay these in future) for human consumption .

-Non-availability as a result of chemical companies ceasing their manufacture or sale.

The AVPA and the egg industry are currently addressing these problems with the national registration authority.

The AVPA maintains communication between its members and also overseas Associates through the production of its quarterly newsletter "Dander ". This is produced and distributed electronically, and may be viewed on the AVPA Website (www.jcu.edu.au/school/bms/avpa).

Also, as is usual, the AVPA organised two 2-day scientific Meetings this year for our members. This year's program included the hosting of the 5th Asia-Pacific Poultry Health Conference (AP5), a major regional scientific forum which we have continued since commencing these in 1983. Attendance at the Gold Coast Queensland 21-22 April 2004 meeting was boosted by having this conference dovetailed in timing with a major biennial forum for the wider poultry industry. The conference was organised by a Scientific Program Committee of seven AVPA members, ably chaired by Dr Pat Blackall.

The Conference theme, **Harnessing science for poultry production**, addressed key issues impacting poultry health, production in the Asia-Pacific region, and other continents. The conference brought together scientists from across the region, but also from Europe, Africa, and America. Sessions covered challenges continuing from the older diseases as well as the emerging diseases, and issues concerning public health and poultry production systems were also included. A major sessional emphasis was given to the significant emergency threats of avian influenza, and for Newcastle disease "taking a global perspective, from the village upwards". New approaches to poultry health based on molecular biological technology and its potential applications were then examined by various invited local speakers, e.g. DNA probes, microarray analysis, poultry immunogenomics and avian cytokines. Dr. Dave Cavanagh of the UK, Conference Orator, for the closing plenary session provided us with an overview presentation, that was outstanding both scientifically and visually, on the AP5 Conference theme.

An important development for the Poultry Industry nationally, as well as for almost all members of the AVPA occurred when the Australian Poultry CRC was formally established in July 2003. This

is a joint venture between Australia's leading poultry research, education and industry organisations. The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program was established by the Australian Government to bring together researchers and research users. The program emphasizes the importance of collaborative arrangements to maximise the benefits of research through an enhanced process of utilization, commercialisation and technology transfer. It also has a strong education component with a focus on producing graduates with skills relevant to industry needs.

The Poultry CRC has an extensive collaborative network comprising researchers, educators and support staff from 22 participating organisations across New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland. The CRC is headquartered at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW. The new \$80 million Poultry CRC has five core parties: University of New England, University of Melbourne, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, The Australian Egg Corporation Ltd and Bioproperties Pty Ltd and 17 supporting parties. The CRC's aim is to enhance the competitiveness of the Australian egg and chicken meat industries and supporting industries through the application of strategic programs delivering cost-effective and socially responsible production of safe, quality poultry products for domestic consumption and for emerging export markets.

While avian influenza H5N1 problems have erupted in more



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than ten countries within our Asia-Pacific region this year, to date we have been fortunate in that there have been no disease outbreaks in Australia. Biosecurity measures, especially those designed to exclude wild birds from direct or indirect contact with poultry housed on production sites, have been most stringently applied along with close surveillance by many AVPA members in industry, State and Australian Government services .

Five Australian veterinary colleagues have been actively undertaking expert missions for the FAO and OIE in affected countries in the region, while the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) at Geelong some 70 km from Melbourne is the OIE's designated reference laboratory for the region. To reduce the risk to Australia and to assist our neighbours in their capacity to diagnose and control H5N1, reagents ,training, and improved diagnostics have been supplied along with workshops held at AAHL in February and May this year for laboratory scientists from Vietnam, Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Also, reflecting current conjecture on possible needs, as well as stamping out measures to control AIV, for use of vaccination to reduce both the speed of viral spread and levels of viral contamination in quarantine areas around AIV disease outbreak sites, trials to assess overseas vaccine have been undertaken under high security at AAHL

With kind regards & 2004 Compliments of the Season to all our Colleagues internationally!

Peter Scott
President AVPA
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Trevor Bagust
Corresponding Secretary
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China

The 12th Symposium of Chinese Association of Avian Pathologists was held in Guiyang during 24-29, September, 2004. More than 400 participants attended the symposium. Because of the outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (AI) in the Spring of this year in China, much attention was focused on this subject. Among 311 papers received for the symposium, 108 (35%) were related to AI. Although highly pathogenic AI is well controlled now, due to the enforced depopulation policy for infected farms and an extensive vaccination program with inactivated H5N2 vaccine for poultry farms at risk of infection, government agencies are still giving a great deal of attention to detecting and controlling new outbreaks. In addition, they are developing additional Biosafety Level III vaccine manufacturing facilities to provide the nation with enough vaccines for poultry against AI.

Zhizhong Cui
Corresponding Secretary

Egypt

The 6th Scientific Conference of the Egyptian Veterinary Poultry Association was held in Cairo on 25th -27th September, 2004. Two hundred sixty six veterinarians attended the meeting, some were from Arab countries. Twenty six research papers were presented and discussed in six sessions covering the following topics: neoplastic diseases, viral diseases, bacterial diseases, vaccines, immunity and immune stimulants, feed additives and mycotoxins. Moreover, five invited keynote speakers (Dr. N. Eterradossi, Dr. A.M. Fadly, Dr. H.M. Hafez, Dr. F. Prandini and Dr. Zanella) gave presentations on selected topics including: avian influenza, infectious bursal disease, and Marek's disease. An Exhibition accompanied the meeting and included 21 exhibitors. In the frame of the meeting, three seminars were held in the evening on mycoplasmosis, infectious bursal disease

and causes and remedy of vaccination failure which were sponsored by Intervet-Egypt, Pfizer-Egypt (Animal Health Division), and Egavet Co. Dr. A. A. Sami Ahmed and coworkers received the Intervet prize for their research paper on Marek's disease vaccination in broilers. Dr. M.S. Allam was honoured by receiving the golden medal of the EVPA for his career and contributions to the poultry industry of Egypt.

A.A. Sami Ahmed
Corresponding Secretary

Israel

The 41st Annual Convention of the WVPSA Israel Branch was held in March 2004. Part of the scientific program is devoted to poultry pathology and disease prevention. As many as 40 Poultry veterinarians out of 280 participants attended.

With great satisfaction the presence of Professor Hafez, head of the Poultry Division of the Free University, Berlin was recognized. The contribution of Prof. Hafez M. Hafez to the poultry industry in many countries as well Israel is well known. He presented a lecture on Avian Influenza and an open discussion about current disease problems.

Topics presented included:

Genotyping and Immunogenic Classification by RT-PCR and RFLP. Two new variants of IBV associated with clinical outbreaks in broilers were identified. (Rosi Meir, Kimron Vet. Institute)

Rotavirus involvement in intestinal infections in broilers. An association between rotavirus and malabsorption syndrome was found. A group "A" rotavirus antigen could be detected by ELISA and immunohistochemistry. The virus was detected by immunoelectron microscopy with rotavirus antiserum. (A. Lublin, Kimron Vet. Institute).

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Annual meeting of the WVPA- Israel branch

In September 2004 the new chairperson Dr. Mertyn Malkinson organized a scientific meeting. The conference was generously sponsored by the ABIC Company and was attended by over 50 participants, mostly WVPA members.

The meeting was devoted to all aspects of **Salmonellosis in poultry**. The speakers included Dr. Paul Barrow, Compton Laboratory, UK who gave two lectures: "New aspects of the pathogenesis of salmonellosis in young chickens", and "Recent advances in understanding the mode of action of *Salmonella* vaccines. Also presenting in the program were; Dr. Miri Weinberger, Rabin Medical Centre, who spoke about zoonotic aspects of Salmonellosis in Israel. Dr. B. Perlman, ABIC Ltd. who talked about Avian Dysbacteriosis, a new syndrome related to the withdrawal of growth promoters from poultry rations. Dr. E. Berman, Israel Veterinary Services, presented a multi-factorial analysis of risk factors associated with outbreaks of salmonellosis in light layer flocks.

WPSA Research Award ,2004

Dr. Irit Davidson, of the Division of Avian Diseases, Kimron Veterinary Institute was presented with the 2004 Research Award at the XXII World's Poultry Congress held in Istanbul, Turkey. The award is in recognition of her scientific contribution to the poultry research and industry. The topic of Dr. Davidson's research was the interaction between herpes and retroviruses in chickens infected with multiple viruses. Dr. Davidson is currently studying chicken anemia virus infections of commercial chicken flocks.



Dr.Oded Plesser award for the year – 2004

Dr. Oded Plesser was head of the Poultry Disease Laboratory in Jerusalem and was killed in action in the JOM KIPUR war. Since 1974, a scientific meeting is held each year in his memory and an award is given to a poultry pathologist in his name. This year, the award was given to Dr. Isabel Shiller, who graduated from the University of Cambridge Veterinary School. After successful post-graduate studies, Dr. Shiller joined the Hadera Regional Poultry Disease Laboratory as a poultry pathologist. From the outset of her career, Dr. Shiller demonstrated profound knowledge, a professional approach, and responsibility in disease prevention, and in cooperating with research institutions in the diagnosis of new diseases. For her years of devoted work and her outstanding contributions to solving current field problems, Dr. Shiller was awarded the Plesser prize.

Rachel Bock

Corresponding Secretary

Italy

Report on the Activities Società Italiana Di Patologia Aviaria (Spia) - Year 2004

During 2004, SIPA organized many different meetings about topics of interest to both the public and to private vets.

- In February there was a meeting at the University of Milan where different speakers (Beard, USA, Suss and Beghian, Italy) discussed different aspects of biosecurity, disinfectants and insect control.

- In May there was also a meeting in Cremona about Avian Salmo-

nellas. Dr. Caprioli from Istituto superiore di sanità in Rome, Dr.ssa Ricci from IZO Padova (National Reference Center), Dr. Gasperi and Dr. Montella (Public Veterinary Service) and Dr. Grilli (U of Milan) illustrated the different aspects of Salmonella control. In particular, presentations were made on the epidemiology of salmonellosis both in man and birds, and the future of EEC control.

- In September, SIPA organized, in collaboration with Intervet, a meeting in Bologna about variability of avian viruses (speakers Prof Horzinek, U of Utrecht, The Netherlands, Dr. Raue, U of Leipzig Germany, Dr.ssa Capua-IZS delle Venezie Padova, Dr.ssa Massi – IZS della Lombardia de dell'Emilia Romagna, Forli). The talk of the first speaker dealt with how viruses evolve, whereas the three other presentations specifically focussed on the effects of continuous evolution on the control, diagnosis, and epidemiology of three major avian diseases, infectious bursal disease (IBD), avian influenza (AI) and infectious bronchitis (IB).

- In October, the annual conference of SIPA was held in Forli in association with the Annual International Exhibition. During the first day, several presentations were focused on the global sanitary status of avian units during the present year with particular reference to a) the epidemiology of IBD, IB, AI, and Salmonellosis; 2) lesions found at the slaughterhouse and 3) the role of wild birds in the epidemiology of the diseases of farmed animals. In the afternoon, a Satellite Symposium was held in collaboration with Eli-Lilly (speakers: S. Birgili from the Auburn University, AL, USA, spoke on the "Role of coccidiosis on intestinal integrity and its impact on carcass quality" and D. Heckman from Eli Lilly on "Treatment of coccidiosis: a global review"). After that, seven original papers were presented, chosen from 18 selected by referees. All the original papers will be soon published in English in the Italian Journal of Animal Science. During the second day we had a Symposium on "Emerging issues and the realities of avian parasitology". We had contributions from Prof. H.D. Chapman (Arkansas State U), Dr. Fiona Tomley (IAH - Compton, UK) and Dr. M. Tamba (IZS della Lombardia de dell'Emilia Romagna, Bologna) on coccidiosis and its control, while Dr. G. Tosi (IZS della Lombardia de dell'Emilia Romagna, Forli) spoke about Histomoniasis and Prof. G. Cringoli (U of Naples) and Dr. Pampiglione (U of Bari) spoke about different avian endo- and ectoparasites.

- As usual the 12° course of special training in avian pathology and farm management was held in IZS della Lombardia de dell'Emilia Romagna, Brescia from Oct 2003 to spring 2004, with more than 40 veterinarians involved and different speakers coming mainly from veterinary practices.

All these meetings and courses were officially included in the National Programme for Education set up by the Ministry of Health.

Finally, the regional groups of avian vets met several times in Lombardia and Emilia Romagna for updates and to discuss local issues.

Luigi Montella

Member of the Board

Antonio Lavazza

Prdent SIPA

Japan

Three outbreaks of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) occurred in Japan this year. This is the first appearance of HPAI in Japan in 79 years. The first outbreak occurred in a layer farm in Yamaguchi prefecture in western Japan at the end of December 2003. In the middle of February 2004 two additional outbreaks occurred in Oita (Kyushu) and Kyoto (western Japan) prefectures. Traditional local chickens raised on a family farm were affected in the second case. The third outbreak occurred on a layer farm raising more than 230,000 laying hens and a meat type chicken farm raising

35,000 birds respectively.

In the first and second cases, a rapid and accurate diagnosis by local and national authorities resulted in a lack of spread of the virus from the index case to any other farms. In contrast, there was some spread from the Kyoto case. However, the Japanese government succeeded in controlling this disease without using any avian influenza vaccine. The transmission of the virus from chickens to humans did not occur in Japan. In total, fewer than 300,000 chickens were depopulated.

All Japanese isolates were similar to each other at the molecular level and were also identical with isolates from South Korea. On the other hand, Japanese viruses showed some differences from Hong Kong or other southeast Asian isolates. Based on this information, we believe that the Japanese H5N1 virus originated in South Korea.

An imported inactivated H5 vaccine has been stockpiled for emergency use by the Japanese government since last February. In addition, the development of new inactivated H5 and H7 vaccines is also in progress.

Koichi Otsuki

Corresponding Secretary

Slovakia

Slovakia created its national branch of the WVPA in the year 2000. There are more than 20 members of this branch including practitioners, diagnosticians, and university workers. The population of Slovakia is approximately 5 million and is served by a strong poultry industry. The poultry industry of Slovakia produces mostly chickens, some turkeys and a few waterfowl – geese and ducks (mostly in backyard farms).

There are a few chick and two turkey breeding companies which produce day old poultry. These breeding companies hire their own poultry veterinarians and the remaining veterinarians working with poultry in Slovakia, are involved in mixed practices. Our association organizes a meeting of poultry vets every year where we discuss real world problems in poultry diseases, new legislation and also questions concerning our association and veterinary practices.

Jozef Kalus

Corresponding Secretary

USA

Greetings from the AAAP, the U.S. branch of the WVPA! It has been an exciting first year having the AAAP in Athens, Georgia. The AAAP held our 47th annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in July. We had 110 oral papers presented and 78 posters. Dr. Stan Kleven gave an outstanding Lasher History Lecture on the History of Avian Mycoplasma Research and Control. We also enjoyed the

opportunity that Intervet, Inc. provided with a welcome reception the night prior to the start of the scientific program. I am excited to tell you that Intervet will also sponsor this event for the 2005 AAAP meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A new award was added to the AAAP awards program as a result of a generous donation by Dr. Bruce Calnek. The first recipient of the Calnek Applied Poultry Research award was Dr. Steve Hitchner.

The health of the U.S. poultry flock in 2004 has been good. The biggest news this year has been the 4 avian influenza breaks. The first was in the state of Delaware reported on February 6th which was an H7N2. Then February 13th, Pennsylvania reported an H2N2 with Texas following on February 17th. The Texas isolate, which was an H5N2 subtype, was very unique because it behaved like low pathogenicity influenza; but based upon the cleavage site sequence, it was

ruled under OIE regulations as a high pathogenicity subtype. The final influenza event was an H7N2 subtype in Maryland which was low pathogenicity as was seen with the Delaware and Pennsylvania isolates. The cooperation of the poultry industry in each of these instances with the state and federal officials was fantastic and all were quickly eradicated. At the time of this writing, there are no active cases of avian influenza in the U.S.

Looking to the future, I would like to invite everyone to the 2005 AAAP meeting. We will be meeting July 17-20 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The AVMA will also be hosting the World Veterinary Association at this meeting so we may once again have many more international attendees to our meeting. The scientific session will begin with a full day symposium entitled "Microbiological Safety of Ready to Cook and Ready to Eat Poultry Products." I look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis.

Chuck Hofacre

Corresponding secretary



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Publications Avian Pathology

In 2003 we had a further increase in the number of manuscripts (155) submitted to the journal, of which 53% were accepted for publication. To help us to publish more papers, plus reviews, without increasing the size (and hence cost) of AVP, the Editors and Advisory Board discussed many space-saving measures. Some of these were implemented in the second half of the year, the remainder taking effect in the first issue of 2005. The Advisory Board comprises six members: H John Barnes (USA), Thierry van den Berg (Belgium), Ilaria Capua (Italy), Aini Ideris (Malaysia), Jagoda Ignjatovic (Australia) and Toshihiro Ito (Japan).

The latest Impact Factor (IF) for AVP, published in June 2004 for data collected in 2003, is 1.271, a decrease on the previous year,

ranking AVP 15/120 of the journals in the Veterinary Sciences category. Whilst this is still good, it is clearly in the interests of authors who publish in AVP, as well as in the health of our journal itself, that the IF should be higher. Therefore I would urge you when you write papers, whether it be for publication in AVP or elsewhere, to look at the relevant papers that have been published in AVP and to cite them as appropriate. Searching for relevant AVP papers is easy if you use the search tool on our web site (www.tandf.co.uk/journals/tf/03079457.html). (The IF for AVP in 2005, which will be published in 2006, will be calculated by the Institute for Scientific Information after they have established how many AVP papers published in 2003 and 2004 were cited in all journals published during 2005.)

The Advisory Board and Editors continually review the scope of AVP (available at our web site). Most recently we have redefined the conditions that apply to Case Reports: "Case Reports should be a description of a new or outstanding pathological manifestation of a naturally occurring disease. It is not sufficient to be the first report of an entity in a given species of bird unless the traits of the disease in the new species differ *substantially* from those previously described for another avian species." More generally, a key factor in the acceptance of a manuscript for publication in AVP is that it must be of interest at an international level.

Starting in the middle of 2005 the Editors will be working with our publisher, Taylor and Francis, on a system of web-based management of manuscripts, for implementation in 2006. This will enable papers to be submitted and distributed online, thereby reducing the time involved in the processing of manuscripts.

Dave Cavanagh
Editor-in-Chief

WVPA website

The WVPA homepage on the internet can be accessed at wvpa.net. The home page contains this edition of the *Aerosols* newsletter, information on the association (constitution and rules, officers, national branches, minutes of meetings, membership), its journal *Avian Pathology*, future congresses, proceedings, awards and grants.



Aerosols

This edition of the newsletter will be mailed to more than 1700 specialists in poultry health throughout the world. We thank all those who have contributed news articles and the companies that have advertised in this issue. Companies that are interested in advertising in the year 2004 issue of the newsletter should contact the editor.

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Joining WVPA:

Applications for membership in the association should be made to the corresponding secretary of the national branch (list on the website: [WVPA.net](http://wvpa.net)) or, if none exists, then directly to the WVPA Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Ursula Heffels-Redmann (address see below). Membership dues are currently 5 EURO per year.

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Endowed Chair in Poultry Medicine.

The University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Avian Medicine is seeking nominations for the Caswell S. Eidson Chair in Poultry Medicine. The Eidson Chair will be an internationally recognized authority whose research interests focus on viral diseases of poultry, who will spearhead and coordinate research efforts in poultry virology and microbial pathogenesis, and who will develop improved diagnosis and develop new intervention strategies for avian diseases, and mentor graduate students. The successful candidate will develop and maintain an independent, extramurally funded research program focused on poultry diseases, which interfaces with active research programs in the department, college, and university. We invite nominations of individuals with an established history of successful funding and productive research in animal virology / infectious diseases. Requirements for the position include a Doctor of Philosophy degree or equivalent. Applications received from nominees by February 1, 2005 are assured of consideration.

Nominations should be submitted to Dr. S. H. Kleven, Regents' Professor, Department of Avian Medicine, Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, 953 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30602. Phone: (706) 542-5644. email: skleven@uga.edu

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