Dear colleagues and friends of the veterinary profession,

This weekend, 5 and 6 December, is in the Netherlands the festive day of Santa Claus. It is the day that gifts are given to children and grandchildren. So it is just a couple of hours that they went home very satisfied and that makes me happy.

This last month I have not been from home that much and that gives me the opportunity to overlook the year 2009 network for WVA. We had good WVA Excom meetings and a really good WVACouncil meeting. We have made decisions and have made agreements about activities. I have a slight disappointment about implementation to bring about effect. This does not make me happy.

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We have to discuss Excom, Council and Members. That’s why was decided to have an extra-ordinary Presidential Assembly in May 2010. We have to do a lot of work to make WVA a visible organisation on the issues animal health, animal welfare, public health, veterinary education and development.

On the first of January 2010 our new Secretariat in Brussels will start. They present themselves in this Newsletter. The Secretariat has to cooperate with Excom and Council, but it is very important that there will be a good cooperation with the members too. Your initiative is needed as well to contact the Secretariat for your own benefit.

To thank the current Secretariat I will come back later on, but I can tell you all that my cooperation with Lars Holsaae, Birgitte Sørensen and Annette Lychau Petersen has been extra-ordinary well.

To look in the future WVA has to go for important decisions in 2010. We have to discuss our strategic plan and to make our action plan. We have to come with policies to make WVA visible, to contact other veterinary global organisations to get a strong partnership on global veterinary issues.

As President I am a real optimist and I wish you all veterinarians and non-veterinarian friends the best Seasonal Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Dr Tjeerd Jorna
WVA President

The Secretariat
The cooperation between the Secretariat and the President

When I was elected as President in the Vancouver Presidential Assembly (PA), the existing Secretariat employed Lars Holsaae as Executive Secretary and Birgitte Sørensen as Secretary. Both were well known persons to me because I had been involved in WVA since 1990.

They started in 1994 when the Danish Veterinary Association got the duty to host the WVA-Secretariat. For me it was a great disappointment that just two weeks after the PA, Lars Holsaae quit the DVA for personal reasons. WVA did not have an Executive Secretary contracted by DVA anymore. But although he left DVA, we made an agreement together that Lars Holsaae could be available for WVA on a free basis. We had good contact about the finances of WVA, used his knowledge in Excom and Council meetings and together we negotiated with DVA about the contractual consequences. But due to this situation, the President took over many duties of the Executive Secretary.

From the beginning of the presidency, the most important role in the Secretariat became that of the Secretary Birgitte Sørensen. We have built up a very strong and friendly secretarial relationship. Every week, mostly on Mondays, we had a call about all the current issues. Together we had the duty to manage the WVA, but we did not think it a duty, but a pleasure to work together for WVA.
We have prepared three WVA Excom and two WVA-Council meetings and that was visible. But together we did a lot of daily business for WVA; discussing which meetings to go to or not; the contact with the members; the contact with the global organisations like OIE, FAO and WHO and others and with the global veterinary associations and stakeholders; about communication and the newsletter; the WVA history project that was at an impasse; the strategic plan and how to manage WVA in the future to make WVA more visible; the involvement of the Council members in more decision making procedures; the WVA structure and rules and policies; the reimbursements. These are the matter of facts, but much more important for me was the way we did it together for it was not always easy for Birgitte to work during the final contractual period.

We have had fun (also together with her husband Hans Jorgen), we have laughed and I have encouraged her; we have always operated in a very friendly atmosphere; we had personal talks about our families and about happy and sad experiences. It was as President a pleasure and an honour to work together. Thanks Birgitte.

Since April 2009 WVA the veterinary successor of Lars Holsaae, Annette Lychau Petersen, was placed at the disposal by DVA. With her we made the agreement that she should work out the Strategy Plan Questionnaires and join us in the work of our international duties. She is still working on the strategic plan (second draft) and I am very happy with her dedication.

In the personal way we have a very friendly and good cooperation.

I thank the Secretariat for the dedicated and experienced carry into execution of the task during the whole 15 years period and I would like to do this on a personal way later on.

Dr Tjeerd Jorna
WVA President
WVA Signs Contract with FVE to Host WVA Secretariat

On 15 October, an agreement was signed by the presidents of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) for providing secretarial services to the World Veterinary Association. The agreement will enter into force at the beginning of the New Year, 1 January 2010.

The FVE secretariat is a small - 5-person – team, all professionals and very committed to their tasks. Apart from our daily administrative duties, we deal with a broad range of topics in the fields of Animal Health and Welfare and Public Health. We are involved in many issues that are increasingly being dealt with at a global level, such as prevention and control of transmissible diseases, responsible use of veterinary medicinal products and veterinary education. Over the years, we build a strong network with many international organisations, like OIE, FAO, IFAH, WSPA, farmers organisations as well as with many Chief Veterinary Officers and governmental institutions. Besides this team members have knowledge of several languages: English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish and even Italian.

At the picture from the left to the right you see: Jan Vaarten (Executive Director), Nicole Schreiner (Veterinary Policy Advisor), Nancy De Briyne (Deputy Executive Director) and Ulrike Tewes (Office Manager).

We just hired a fifth person for the position of Veterinary Policy officer: Francesco Proscia.

Jan Vaarten graduated in 1984 from the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Utrecht (the Netherlands) and started his career in a mixed practice in the eastern part of the Netherlands. He then joined the pharmaceutical industry where he worked on the development of animal vaccines. After 11 years, he changed the industry for the Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association where he worked as veterinary policy officer. From there he went to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Hague. Here his main area of attention was zoonotic diseases. In 2003 he started working at FVE as Executive Director.

Nancy de Briyne graduated in 1996 from the Veterinary Faculty in Gent (Belgium) and worked first as a practitioner in Belgium and The United Kingdom. She joined the FVE in 2000 where she is responsible for the topics animal welfare and cooperation with non European countries. Three children and three cats at home keep her busy in her free time.
Nicole Schreiner, graduated in 1999 from the Veterinary Faculty in Hanover (Germany) follows the public health dossiers and is in charge of both internal as external communication. Ulrike Tewes, FVE’s office manager is indispensable to ensure the office runs smoothly.

Our office is based in Rue Defacqz 1, 1000 Brussels, in the centre of Brussels and Europe close to all institutions. See website: http://www.fve.org/contact/map.html

The whole team looks forward working to contribute to the global work of WVA and to assist all WVA members.

OIE actions on pandemic H1N1 2009 in animals
The OIE has been actively and closely monitoring, together with its partner organisations, the development of the ongoing pandemic since the detection of the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus in humans in April 2009.

Surveillance, prevention and control
The OIE has continuously encouraged all of its Member Countries to intensify their surveillance for potential influenza virus infections in animals, including swine. The OIE has also recommended that adequate biosecurity measures be taken at the farm level to minimize the infection from humans to animals and amongst animals. The OIE does not recommend to cull infected animals as a measure to protect animal health and human health from the pandemic H1N1 2009.

Transparency
The OIE has asked its Members to notify occurrences of pandemic H1N1 2009 in animals, qualifying this as an “emerging disease” on notification forms. Prompt reporting of pandemic H1N1 2009 in different animal species demonstrates that the international community is responding and mobilising in the interests of all.

Trade (related to the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus risk)
The OIE repeatedly stated its position on the modifiability of international trade of pigs and susceptible animals and their products. There is no scientific ground for prohibiting the export of healthy animals including those originating from infected countries. No specific laboratory tests for the pandemic virus should be required for international trade in live pigs and other susceptible animal species and/or their products.

Scientific research
The OIE ensures that all information on the virus and its spread is shared amongst all stakeholders. OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, primarily through OFFLU - the OIE/FAO joint network of expertise on animal influenzas - play a key role in developing technical guidance for the international community, thus providing the animal and human health sectors with basic information on animal influenzas.
WVA and “Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World”.

The Executive Committee of the World Veterinary Association had an opportunity to participate in the recent World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) conference “Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World”. This program engaged leaders in veterinary education from around the world and served as a forum of exploration of the areas of need in the growth of our profession.

The twenty eight final recommendations from the participants in the conference can be found on the OIE web site and are reprinted below. I highly recommend that all interested persons study these recommendations. They cover a very broad and deep range of subject matter. Different individuals and organizations will find different recommendations more or less relevant to their situation. However, taken as a whole they must serve as an early signal of the amount of work that must be done to insure the veterinary profession continues to move forward and fulfill its commitment to society.

Obviously, as the international body representing veterinarians on a global basis, the World Veterinary Association must provide leadership and input into this very significant issue. We must investigate the essential elements of a core educational curriculum necessary to define the basic education required to be recognized as a veterinarian. Additionally the “day one competencies” required for a recognized veterinary graduate to enter the profession must be clearly identified. In order to do this it is essential to have a clear picture of the roles played by veterinarians in all the various fields of endeavor.

The published recommendations identify “the fields of animal health, veterinary epidemiology, public health (zoonoses, food safety, food security), animal production, economics and trade, and social values, such as companion animal medicine, sports and recreation animals, animal welfare and the conservation of biodiversity” as areas of education that must be provided to all veterinarians as initial education. This establishes a base for the scope of activities that veterinarians engage in. There is a requisite that this is inclusive enough and that specific engagements of all individual veterinarians are recognized under these broad topics.

In order to be confident that all entry veterinarians have a broad base education in all these areas and to ensure that they obtain at least day one competencies to enter the field, some mechanism must be developed to evaluate veterinary education systems. This will be a very difficult task and will require the engagement of a variety of organizations, governments and institutions. It is essential, however, if we are to maintain our position of value to society.

As I stated earlier, there is very much work to be done. I believe that significant opportunities exist for the WVA to be engaged in and to provide leadership for this ongoing process. It is paramount that member countries pay close attention to the recommendations and become part of the dialogue.

Dr. Duane Landals
Vice President
World Veterinary Association
Recommendations from “Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World”

Considering:
1. The need to increase the capacity of all countries worldwide to create or maintain national animal health and veterinary public health systems that cover all national territories and are able to provide surveillance, and early detection of, and rapid response to any natural or intentional aquatic and terrestrial animal disease outbreak;

2. The emergence of new or re-emergence of existing animal diseases, the growing threat of transboundary animal diseases, the impact of environmental changes and the globalisation of commodities and movement of people, as well as the new societal demands in the field of food security, food safety, veterinary public health and animal welfare;

3. The need to train veterinarians to respond to new threats and to meet the new societal expectations at global, regional and national levels;

4. That the mandate of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as an intergovernmental organisation is ‘to improve animal health and welfare worldwide’;

5. That initial and continuing veterinary education programmes should be revised, whenever necessary, in order to train veterinarians able to fulfil at least the basic missions recommended by the OIE in order to improve animal health and welfare worldwide;

6. That apart from the core veterinary education necessary to address the basic needs as recommended by the OIE, the different regions or countries have specific needs and requirements which must also be met;

7. That “core curriculum model” means the basic skills and knowledge allowing the veterinarians to have key competencies needed and recognised worldwide;

8. The importance and need for highly qualified veterinarians, as well as the fact that the OIE includes the issue of initial and continuing veterinary education as part of its commitment to encourage its Members to improve the quality of their National Veterinary Services;

9. That Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) means in this document the veterinary education establishments involved in the training of veterinarians with a high level of quality. The establishments involved in the training of para-professionals are not covered by the present document;

10. The implementation of the global concept ‘One World-One Health’, which brings together animal health, public health and environmental health globally;

11. The existence of both similarities and wide disparities in educational contents and requirements and graduate competencies of veterinary education establishments, even within the same country or region;

12. The continuing technological and pedagogical improvements in veterinary education delivery;

13. The need for additional knowledge and skills for veterinarians, such as skills in communication, management and leadership;

14. The need for countries and institutions to work together to address the high cost of veterinary education of adequate quality; for example the possibility to share human resources and available infrastructure for the initial and continuing education of veterinarians;
15. The OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services, in particular the provisions of chapter 3, section 2.12 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code on Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB);

16. The potential to apply existing education evaluation processes and/or methods to contribute to the establishment of quality standards in veterinary initial and continuing education as a component of the OIE tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS tool);

17. The disparities between registration, accreditation and monitoring procedures for veterinarians, and the differences between applicable legislation for the constitution of VSB in the various regions/countries, as well as the current absence of formal VSB or equivalent institutions in some countries;

18. The increased regional integration and the subsequent transboundary mobility of veterinary professionals;

19. The sometimes insufficient participation of private veterinarians and their associations, and insufficient development of public–private veterinary partnerships in the overall prevention and control of OIE listed and emerging diseases.

The Participants in the Conference ‘Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World’ Recommend:

1. That the OIE develop recommendations for VEE on a core curriculum model that includes those key competencies of veterinarians that are required to perform the necessary OIE and public policies tasks including those defined in the OIE terrestrial and aquatic animal health codes and takes into account new threats, opportunities and societal expectations;

2. That national, regional and international professional veterinary bodies develop, using OIE guidelines, recommendations on minimum day-one competencies of a graduate veterinarian for adequate delivery of national veterinary services;

3. That VEE, taking into account the recommendations of the OIE and specific/regional national needs/circumstances and recommendations, define and implement a core curriculum model that ensures graduate veterinarians to have the day-one competencies needed by a veterinarian to perform the required OIE tasks including delivery of national veterinary services. This includes knowledge on governance, veterinary legislation and basic management. These competencies should focus on capacity for analysis, and adaptation to complex situations rather than on encyclopaedic knowledge of specific issues;

4. That the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and other professional veterinary bodies examine, with the support of the OIE, how initial and continuing veterinary education curricula can best meet societal expectations for safeguards for public health, safe food, and prevention and mitigation of transboundary diseases complying with OIE recommendations at a global level;

5. That VEE strongly support initial and continuing veterinary education programmes in the fields of animal health, veterinary epidemiology, public health (zoonoses, food safety, food security), production, economics and trade, and social values, such as companion animal medicine, sports and recreation animals, animal welfare and the conservation of biodiversity, that provide positive socio-economic benefits to society;

6. That VEE maintain or develop relevant education in basic sciences to ensure that graduate veterinarians understand the scientific developments, global evolution and emerging needs;
7. That VEE incorporate education in the diseases of wildlife and aquatic animals that can impact on public health, food production, biodiversity or environmental health and the means to control these diseases, and to incorporate an understanding of animal taxonomy;

8. That VEE strengthen the education of veterinarians on the appropriate use of veterinary drugs and vaccines;

9. That VEE incorporate training in communication, cross-discipline collaboration and team working as appropriate within the core curriculum model, notably to enable veterinarians to communicate the complexities of technical issues, including risk analysis, in lay language;

10. That VEE develop and implement as appropriate the use of new informatic technologies for distance learning during initial and continuing education;

11. That veterinary and other national, regional and local authorities support continuing access to live animals for use in research, testing and teaching, subject to appropriate management and veterinary oversight of the welfare of these animals in accordance with OIE standards and the ‘three Rs’ principle;

12. That national, regional and local governments develop incentives for students to convince some of them to work in rural areas and in production animal veterinary practice, so that animal populations in all parts of the national territory are covered by veterinary surveillance networks; and that VEE ensure a cadre of veterinarians is educated, available and supported to work in rural environments in sufficient numbers;

13. That the VEE of the developed world recognise the importance of helping VEE in developing countries. Relevant organisations and donors should provide adequate resources for support programmes using the guidance of the OIE;

14. That the OIE, WVA and other national, regional and international veterinary associations examine how to improve the public perception of the importance of veterinary activities for society as a whole, and convince governments and/or international donors of the need to better finance initial and continuing veterinary education as a Global Public Good, and not only a commercial or agricultural good and is guided by ethical principles;

15. That the OIE extend the current concept for laboratory twinning and prepare recommendations for a pilot twinning programme between VEE, and/or other eligible organisations, of developed and developing countries;

16. That the responsible national, regional and local veterinary authorities support the development and implementation of programmes to evaluate the continuing education of veterinarians in their respective jurisdictions, taking into account OIE PVS tool criteria;

17. That national veterinary authorities of countries that have done a PVS evaluation, be urged to consider the findings of the evaluation and, where appropriate, apply the relevant post-PVS activities including a PVS Gap-analysis to address shortcomings, and a review of veterinary legislation, to support general compliance with OIE standards, including those developed for a core curriculum model covering competencies in public health, food safety, and transboundary diseases and other day-one requirements for effective delivery of national veterinary services;

18. That the OIE consider creation of a mechanism similar to the OIE PVS tool using relevant existing national and international veterinary education evaluation systems and methods and support the evaluation of the quality of both entry-level and more experienced national
veterinary services personnel on the basis of appropriate initial and continuing education, particularly where recognised evaluation systems currently do not apply;

19. That countries which have not yet done so, be urged to create a VSB complying with the OIE Code definition;

20. That VSB be urged to comply with the OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services, in particular the provisions of chapter 3, section 2.12 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code on VSB;

21. That VSB, or equivalent body complying with the OIE Code definition, of countries/regions be entrusted with the assessment and evaluation of the VEE, except where an official national or regional accrediting agency, or an internationally recognised body for academic evaluation of the higher education and research qualification already exists;

22. That VSB be encouraged to increase the quality of national veterinary services delivered by accredited veterinarians by accrediting only veterinarians who have graduated from high-quality educational programmes (eg, those programmes accredited by a recognised educational accrediting body or complying with the core curriculum model recommended by the OIE);

23. That countries/regions encourage the collaboration between VSB, or equivalent body complying with the OIE Code definition, or official national or regional accrediting agencies in order to harmonise programme evaluations and facilitate regional integration of veterinary services and regional mobility of veterinary professionals;

24. That, when they do not already exist, the OIE encourage the creation of regional associations of VSB and/or other organisations with delegated educational accrediting authority in order to establish a list of VEE that are subject to regional accreditation after appropriate external audit preferably in accordance with the mechanism described in the recommendation n° 18 and whose graduates are eligible for registration or licensure, the criteria of which may be accepted throughout the region where transboundary mobility of veterinarians is possible;

25. That the OIE extend the current concept for laboratory twinning and prepare recommendations for a pilot twinning programme between VSB, or equivalent body complying with the OIE Code definition, of developed and developing countries;

26. That the OIE convene an expert group, with the participation of invited deans, respecting a geographical balance, to conduct an in depth global review, with a world wide scope, of the current approaches to veterinary education taking into account current and future expectations of the day-one graduated veterinarians and examine whether approaches to, and structures for, veterinary education should be modified to produce better equipped profession. The expert group mentioned above will also be in charge of drafting guidelines listed in recommendations n° 1 and contribute to OIE support to recommendations n°3, 4, 14 and 16;

27. That VEE make provision for new graduates during their initial veterinary education and training to be in contact with experienced practitioners and practice management to get mentoring and support of colleagues for training in daily veterinary activities, including relationships with clients;

28. That the OIE encourage national veterinary authorities, VEE and other eligible groups in partnership with relevant donors to develop a recognised evidence based veterinary education and in particular to establish methodologies that help to identify and measure the veterinary contribution to society at a global level;
One Health Commission Summit at National Academy of Sciences
Institute of Medicine announces study on One Health

The newly formed One Health Commission, in partnership with the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, held a groundbreaking summit at the National Academy of Sciences convening leading health science experts across the human, animal and ecosystem disciplines. The One Health Commission Summit aimed to raise awareness of the importance of transcending institutional and disciplinary boundaries to improve health outcomes for all species. During the Summit, the Institute of Medicine formally announced its intent to conduct a study that will shape the One Health vision.

Doug O'Brien, J.D., Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, delivered the keynote address, calling for integrated solutions and collaborative leadership to address the significant challenges of a changing environment populated by interconnected animal, human and ecosystem interactions.

"As we combat global pandemics, such as H1N1 influenza, it is imperative that health science professions, academia, government agencies and non-governmental organizations act in unison across the human, animal and ecosystem sciences," said Mr. O'Brien.

Leading experts from such disparate organizations as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University also expressed the critical need for a One Health approach through the purview of their diverse fields.

The Institute of Medicine study will examine the interdependencies of human, animal and ecosystem health and assess the potential value to be gained through a collaborative approach towards improved health worldwide. The results of the study will be utilized to develop a strategic roadmap for public and private policies and initiatives that will be instrumental in shaping the implementation of the One Health vision. The Institute of Medicine study is scheduled to launch in early 2010, pending the acquirement of sufficient funding.

Dr. Roger Mahr, DVM, Chief Executive Officer of the One Health Commission, indicated, "The Institute of Medicine study will afford the opportunity to develop an evidence-based rationale for One Health and offer recommendations to guide the implementation of One Health, both domestically and internationally."

An audio webcast of the event is available at www.national-academies.org. A comprehensive agenda and additional information about the One Health Commission Summit can be accessed at www.onehealthcommission.org.

The One Health Commission Summit was created to establish closer professional collaborations and educational opportunities across the health science professions and their related disciplines.
Swimming with the Tide: Animal Welfare in Veterinary Medical Education and Research

On November 8-11, 2009 the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) jointly conducted an Animal Welfare Symposium titled “Swimming with the Tide: Animal Welfare in Veterinary Medical Education and Research” at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

An international line-up of expert speakers presented information on the role of the veterinary profession in animal welfare education, research and advocacy to a full auditorium. An animal’s health, its conscious experiences, and its ability to engage in species-typical behaviors were all recognized as being important to an animal’s welfare and, consequently, that the study of animal well-being requires the collaboration of researchers and practitioners from many scientific and non-scientific disciplines.

There was wide agreement that veterinarians are key to protecting animal welfare because of the important role they play as intermediaries between animals, their owners, and the public. To assume their rightful place as leaders, however, speakers and panelists emphasized that veterinarians must accept the study of animal welfare as a legitimate discipline and actively participate in the wider social discussion about how animals are appropriately used and cared for.

While some colleges/schools provide positive models for preparing students for this role, overall there is a noticeable gap between aspiration and achievement, and challenges exist in finding room in already crowded curricula to deliver more information. Given the considerable knowledge and time burdens occupying students and working veterinarians, organizations that represent the profession such as the AVMA, the AAVMC, and state and allied veterinary associations, also need to take an active role in preparing veterinarians to respond to their obligations.

During the event, veterinary students, as individuals and as representatives of the Student AVMA, clearly expressed their desire to develop their animal welfare expertise and embrace this aspect of the veterinarian’s oath in their careers.

Papers from the AVMA-AAVMC Symposium will be published in a future issue of the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education. In addition, recorded proceedings of the event will be provided in an audiovisual format. More details on accessing the papers and proceedings will be available shortly.

Otto von Bismark is credited with remarking: “Man cannot create the current of events. He can only float with them and steer.” The AVMA-AAVMC Symposium reflects recognition that concern for animal welfare is a strong and prevailing current, and the veterinary profession wants, and needs, to take its place at the helm.

Disclaimer

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CVMA Animal Health Week Wraps Up for 2009

A very successful 24th Animal Health Week campaign took place from Oct. 4-10, 2009.

Veterinarians across Canada took advantage of this opportunity to educate clients on the importance of being prepared to care for their animals in emergency situations.

For the second year in a row, Alberta had the highest number of participants! Thank you to the clinics, veterinarians, veterinary health care team members and college programs in Alberta that celebrated Animal Health Week.

Animal Health Week 2010 which takes place from Oct. 3-9. The 2010 campaign will focus on the importance of animal identification.

Highlights from CVMA Survey of Recent DVM Graduates

Last June, the CVMA, in partnership with Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, commissioned a survey of veterinarians who graduated in 2006, 2007 or 2008 and were practicing in a private practice in Canada. The objectives of this survey were to:

- determine the specific challenges faced by recent DVM graduates
- profile recent DVM graduates experiencing greater difficulty in comparison to those experiencing less difficulty throughout the transition; and
- compare and contrast perceptions of the key issues across different graduation years

A summary of key findings are published in the December 2009 issue of The Canadian Veterinary Journal. Here are a few interesting takeaways:

- 73% characterized their transition as either ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ challenging.
- 50% switched practices at least once since the start of their career.
- 58% had a ‘job coach’ who helped them gain confidence in their abilities, while those that did not have a coach were twice as likely to have an ‘extremely challenging’ transition to life in a veterinary practice.
- When it comes to managing ‘difficult’ clients, discussing the cost of treatment or communicating a poor prognosis, young veterinarians lack confidence in their ability to do so effectively.

The findings from the study will be used to directly influence the development and delivery of a new CVMA National Support Program for Recent DVM Graduates that would meet the needs of this segment of the profession as they make the transition from student life to their new professional life.
The much publicised concept “One World, One Health” indicates that the world has awakened to the link between animal diseases and public health. It has long been known that 60% of known infectious diseases are common to humans and animals (whether domestic or wild); 75% of recent emerging human diseases came from animals and 80% of the pathogens that could potentially be used in bioterrorism are zoonotic. It is also known that human populations need a regular diet of protein particularly from milk, eggs or meat, and that a deficiency can also be a public health problem.

The unprecedented movement of commodities and people between nations provides opportunities for pathogens to spread and multiply. Further, climate change can enable pathogens to extend their range, notably through vectors, such as insects colonising new areas that up until a few years ago were too cold for them to survive the winter.

The only way to minimize the impact of these new hazards is to adapt the existing systems of animal and public health governance at world, regional and national levels in a harmonised and coordinated manner. From the animal health perspective, “One World, One Health” should eventually lead all countries to make a firm commitment to establishing mechanisms for the early detection of disease outbreaks, as well as allowing rapid implementation, by veterinarians, of any required preventive or therapeutic measure directed to animals.

From the human health perspective, “One World, One Health” should induce all countries to adopt a united approach by veterinarians and human physicians for the control of zoonotic diseases, especially with regard to the prevention and post-exposure treatment of these diseases.

The 2010 Award will reward the veterinary association that best publicises the theme by involving all stakeholders in the organisation of events along with all other stakeholders such as the media and the general public.

The 2010 Award will be delivered at the 78th OIE World Assembly to be held in Paris, France on 23-28 May 2010. The prize: US$ 1,000 will be donated to the winner.

National veterinary associations that celebrate World veterinary day alone or in cooperation with others can participate in the competition of being selected WVD award winner of the year by sending in a completed application form.

This could be accomplished via public events organised with support of the media, open days, competitions or any event that creates attention and delivers a message to a large number of people in an interesting, entertaining and stimulating way (using, for example, musical and gastronomic events as a support).

The application for the award must include:
• Name of the individual veterinarian representing the veterinary association involved
• Country and e-mail address
• Number of veterinarians members of the applicant association
• The specific audience attending the event and the attendance rate
• Press coverage received
• Number of non veterinarians and veterinarians attracted to the event
• Number of stakeholders involved in the organisation of the event and number of stakeholders attracted to the event
• Proposed actions to be taken as a follow up
• Copies of posters, stickers, photographs, press releases, TV spots etc.

Applications should be submitted by 1 May 2010 to the World Veterinary Association: secretariat@worldvet.org
Pan Pacific Veterinary Conference 2010

Come to Brisbane in 2010 and join fellow veterinarians from around Australia and New Zealand for a week of learning and networking in this perfect meeting destination.

As Queensland's vibrant capital city, Brisbane offers the very best in food, wine, arts, entertainment and major sporting events with relaxed sub-tropical flair.

New WSPA Director General Visits New Zealand

Mike Baker, the new Director General of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) visited New Zealand where he met with officials and industry organizations. Mike has 20 years experience working with animal welfare organizations, including the President of the Eurogroup for Animals and CEO of The Brooke.

Mike spoke of the links between animal welfare and the people who rely on animals for their livelihood, especially in situations of poverty. He said that WSPA was a practical and constructive organization. WSPA has a global strategy to bring together international organizations and introduce animal welfare standards. It had a major role in disaster management by bringing in resources in response to disasters. That way it could provide something very practical for animals and people.

He said that WSPA recognized success and a job well done, rather than merely criticize when things go wrong.

Mike spoke of the progress towards getting the United Nations to adopt the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW). UDAW was now supported by 45 governments around the World.

Brisbane is the centre of a region rich in world-class beach, river, rainforest and mountain experiences.

The Pan Pacific conference offers delegates and exhibitors the chance to further expand their networking circles, exhibit and view an even greater variety of products and services and learn from the experiences and expertise of our neighbours.

For further information please visit: www.panpac2010.com

Photo:
Mike Baker WSPA Director General; Dr AC David Bayvel, Head of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group; and Dr Barry O’Neil. Immediate Past President of the OIE
2010 Penn Vet World Award: Nominations Open

The Penn Vet World Leadership in Animal Health Award of $100,000 will be given to a veterinarian who has dramatically advanced the frontiers of knowledge, practice and/or image of veterinary medicine and substantially influenced the lives and careers of others. The winner may have contributed to any aspect of veterinary medicine from any part of the world. All nominees will be reviewed based on their vision, life-time achievements, and future potential.

Past World Award winners include Bernard Vallat, director general for the Organization of World Animal Health and Dr. Frederick A. Murphy, the James W. McLaughlin Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

The Awards were established in 2007 by a major gift from the Hill Family Foundation to identify and encourage visionary thinking, life-changing accomplishment, and ambition in the profession. This is the world's most generous awards in veterinary medicine.

Nomination deadline: February 1, 2010.

For more information see www.vet.upenn.edu/worldawards or contact worldaward@vet.upenn.edu

FAVA Council Meeting in Bangkok

The FAVA Council held its annual meeting in Bangkok on the 4th of November.

Present was Professor Jean-François Chary who is coordinating the Vet2011 celebrations of the 250th anniversary of veterinary education.

The 16th Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations Congress and 78th Philippine Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention and Scientific Conference will be held at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino on February 16th to 18th, 2011. An estimated 1,200 local and 300 foreign delegates will attend the joint occasion.

WVA OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: Dr Tjeerd Jorna (The Netherlands)
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Dr Duane Landals (Canada); Dr Faouzi Kechrid (Tunisia)
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Prof Leon Russell (USA)
SECRETARIAT: Dr Lars Holsaae (Executive Secretary); Mrs Birgitte Sørensen (Secretary)
Newsletter Editors: Dr Jim Edwards, Mr Bob Stevenson
WVA to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary at 2013 World Veterinary Congress in Prague
30th World Veterinary Congress

AFRICA IS CALLING YOU

Come on an awe-inspiring congress safari to South Africa in 2011

Top Tourist Attractions in the Western Cape

**Table Mountain**
Something for everyone: magnificent views, cable car rides, mountain biking and hiking. Visitors are treated to a spectacular view during the ride to the top aboard a modern cable car with a revolving floor.

**Cape Point**
The most southern tip of the Cape Peninsula and the African continent with breathtaking scenery that will ignite all your senses. Experience the world's only fynbos floral kingdom including a variety of wildlife.

**Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens**
This is internationally acclaimed as one of the great botanical gardens of the world. The tiny Cape Peninsula has more floral diversity than the whole of Europe combined.

**Robben Island**
One of SA's World Heritage sites. The former President, Mr. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned here for 18 years. Experience the view that kept Nelson Mandela's dream of freedom for his country alive.

Winelands/Wine Routes
SA produce some of the world's best wines. Come and experience these at the numerous wine estates less than one hour's drive from Cape Town.

South Africa is a melting pot of rich cultural diversity. The mix of African, European and Asian peoples are fondly referred to as "The Rainbow Nation." South Africa has many international airports including Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. There are 11 official languages, English being the main language of communication.
Pre and Post Congress Tours

It makes sense to combine a trip to South Africa with a visit to one or more of the magnificent destinations on offer. From spectacular beaches to superb wildlife experiences. From deserts to one of the most stunning waterfalls in the world. Africa beckons with all that is great and wonderful. Unique, special experiences will be created with tailor-made tours.

Kruger National Park & Mpumalanga
World-renowned Kruger National Park which exposes travellers to the very best that Africa has to offer in terms of wildlife experiences. The Eastern escarpment of Mpumalanga offers waterfalls and canyons, rich mining history and magnificent scenery.

Garden Route & Eastern Cape
Spectacular coastline of cliffs interspersed with endless golden beaches, huge natural lagoons and dense indigenous coastal forests.

Caring for animals: healthy communities

Location of Congress

Cape Town Convention Centre
Situated on the outskirts of the central business district and close to the vibrant beat of the city's heart. The CTICC combines aesthetics with supreme functionality.

Safety and security

While there may be perceptions to the contrary, Cape Town is as safe as most international cities. Making Cape Town's central business district safe is one of the main drives of the City.

Scientific Programme

Proposed Scientific Programme Sessions:
WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS 2011
- Clinical practice
- Canine and feline
- Medicine, Surgery, Critical care, Anaesthesiology, Dermatology, Neurology, Radiology, Oncology, Dentistry, Ultrasonography, Clinical pathology, Animal behaviour
- Avian and exotic-animal medicine/surgery
- Equine
- Wildlife
- Behaviour
- Complementary veterinary medicine
- Food safety & security/public health: Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Poultry, Ostriches, Aquaculture
- Epidemiology
- Community veterinary science in Africa
- State veterinary medicine/Disease control
- Military veterinary science

ADDITIONAL:
- Veterinary nursing
- Veterinary technology
- Animal welfare
- Veterinary history
- Community and veterinary business management
- Aquatic-animal medicine

Contact us

WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS 2011 EXHIBITION ORGANISERS

SAVETCON EVENT MANAGEMENT
PO Box 25033, Monumentpark 0181, Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27 12 346 1150, Fax: +27 12 346 2929
E-mail: worldvet2011@savetcon.co.za
website: www.worldvetcongress2011.com

www.worldvetcongress2011.com
Conferences and Congresses

2010

International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses conference
3rd – 5th February, 2010
Amelia Island, Florida USA
Registration and Call for abstracts:
https://www.isiv.org/events/neglected-influenza/overview

Foot and mouth disease (FMD)
International Symposium and Workshop
Integrating Science and Management

For further information, please visit the symposium Website at:

24th NKVet Symposium 2010, Copenhagen.
April 19-20, 2010.
Databases in Veterinary Medicine – Validation, harmonisation and application

Further information: www.ddd.dk/nkvet2010

World Veterinary Day
Saturday 24th April, 2010
Theme:
One World, One Health: more cooperation between veterinarians and physicians
Applications should be submitted by 1 May 2010 to: secretariat@worldvet.org

Pan Pacific Veterinary Conference 2010

23rd - 28th May 2010
Brisbane, Australia
For further information:
http://www.panpac2010.com/

62nd CVMA Convention

July 7th to 10th, 2010 Calgary, Alberta
Best Medicine Practices – Timely Topics
For more information, visit www.canadianveterinarians.net and click on the Calgary 2010 icon.

26th Biennial CBVMA Conference

CARIBBEAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
November 3rd – 6th, 2010
Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.
Please visit: www.cbvma.org.

2011

2011 Veterinary World Cup of Cricket
7th - 11th February, 2011, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Further information at:
Contact Dave West at:
D.M.West@massey.ac.nz.

16th FAVA Congress
February 16 to 18, 2011
Cebu City, The Philippines

World conference on veterinary education
12-16 May, 2011
2011 will be the 250th anniversary of veterinary education, marking the world’s first veterinary school in Lyon, France. For more information please contact:
staff@vet2011.org or www.2011vet.org

30th World Veterinary Congress
Cape Town 2011
More information at:
www.worldvetcongress2011.com

For further information:
- 28th May 2010
- 24th April, 2010
- 23rd - 28th May 2010
- 16th FAVA Congress
- 30th World Veterinary Congress