**New Year’s Message from the President of WVPA**

As we leave 2017 and head into 2018 we should first of all reflect on the old year of 2017. First and foremost 2017 will be remembered for the global WVPA congress that was hosted by our British Branch – the BVPA – and, with some 2,200 delegates was the largest ever WVPA congress. But size is not everything! and the BVPA coupled quality to the quantity with an excellent scientific programme and two memorable social events – the opening reception at Edinburgh Castle and the gala dinner in the National Museum of Scotland. Thank you BVPA for a great WVPAC2017!

This was one of those events that just clicked! This reflected so well on the British Organising Committee and our commercial associates who now do more than just be generous with their sponsorship – now they interact with the WVPA and the local organising committee with useful and positively constructive feedback. May I thank them all for this input.

This congress saw the presentation of our awards, namely the Rispen’s Award for the best paper in Avian Pathology (supported by MSD), the WVPA-Zoetis Young Poultry Veterinarian Award and the WVPA-Boehringer Ingelheim Innovation in Vaccination Awards. The last two of these are annual awards and we will soon be requesting nominations for the 2018 awards – so please start to think of suitable nominations for these two awards.

2017 also saw us take up the invitation to provide a one day technical symposium at Poultry Africa in Kigali, Rwanda. This not only provided a highly successful meeting that focussed on antibiotic resistance, zoonotic pathogens, avian influenza and poultry welfare but it enabled seven of our members (two from the USA, one each from the UK, Brazil, Bangladesh, Ghana and Kenya) to attend this event as speakers. We understand that this event will run again in 2019 with WVPA again hosting the technical seminar.

So, what will 2018 bring? Well for a start there will be the 4th WVPA Asian Meeting which our Malaysian branch will be hosting in Kuala Lumpur in early October and will be using its proven formula of a first day of technical presentations from the events commercial supporters and a second day of submitted presentation from members. The arrangements for this event a progressing well.

In June 2018 we will again be hosting a half day technical symposium on the second day of VIV Europe. With broad theme of ‘Managing Data’, vice president Nicolas Eterradossis is leading on this activity

This year will see internal discussion within your organisation to see whether it should extend it constitutional brief to be able to make relevant comments or give opinion on technical subjects to external agencies and bodies. This arises for the use of formalin in animal feed debate in the EU which your officers decided that for them to comment on the subject as officers on behalf of the WVPA would have been unconstitutional. But I will stress here that this would only relate to technical issues for which our considered opinion would be useful to other parties.

This could then well open up another debate on whether and how WVPA should become a provider of technical knowledge – whether we like it or not, as professionals we have a responsibility to inform and educate others and it is not our role to be the protective guardians of new knowledge and information for our sole use.

In closing, may I confirm that your organisation is being competently run and is in financial good health! If we have a problem, it is a reluctance of branches and individual members to claim the various grants that they can rightfully claim. Please give me the opportunity to report at our General Business Meeting in Bangkok the good uses we have put our funds to and not high cash reserve in your organisation’s accounts!



Nigel Horrox

President of WVPA.

December 29th 2017

Chiang Rai