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Buongiorno, WAAVP!

Dear Colleagues,

Firstly, I would like to thank our Past-President and friend Doug Colwell for his job as the president of the WAAVP over the last four years. Special thanks to the ‘heart’ of our college, our secretary, Richard Wall, for his never-ending commitment and to all the executive committee (EC) for their contribution to the WAAVP activities over the last few years. I would also like to thank them for nominating and electing me as new President for the term 2019-2023. I am grateful to Maggie Fisher and Silvina Fernandez for having accepted to be my Vice-Presidents.

The WAAVP conference in Madison was an exceptional opportunity for getting together with colleagues of the AAVP and the LIWC with 751 participants registered, from 55 countries and 662 abstracts presented. It was a great scientific and social success around the theme *Sifting and Winnowing the Evidence in Veterinary Parasitology* and we are extremely thankful to our host, Tom Kennedy and the marvellous organizing committee. They made our time in Madison unforgettable!

Since my first WAAVP conference in 1999 (I was 27 years old), several things have changed in the scientific world, the way of doing research in parasitology is no exception. For example, internet has facilitated communications, accelerating almost all the activities that, I remember with a feeling of *nostalgia*, took time, much thinking, more discussion with peers and senior colleagues and, finally, work in the field and in the lab rather than… in front of a laptop. The molecular biology and the –omic approaches have changed our way of working in veterinary parasitology by refining knowledge in many fields but, often, making us lose the wide view on the clinical, diagnostic, epidemiologic, control approach we had as veterinarians and parasitologists. In this context, one of the challenges for the WAAVP is to find a balanced compromise between these two worlds. *Both need each other!*

I would like to remind all of you of the *Purposes* of our Association, namely:

(i) To encourage research in veterinary parasitology and to promote exchange of information and material between individuals and organizations interested in this field;

(ii) To organize scientific meetings on topics relevant to veterinary parasitology, including zoonoses;

(iii) To cooperate with international organizations, such as WHO and FAO, in all matters concerning veterinary parasitology;

(iv) To prepare and publish technical guidelines for important fields of veterinary parasitology, such as testing of antiparasitic drugs, diagnostic methods, etc.

In particular, a critical mission of the WAAVP is “encouraging research in veterinary parasitology and promoting the exchange of information and material amongst researchers, veterinary practitioners and animal health investigators.” This activity is essential to keep our discipline developing and and vibrant, particularly when our efforts are directed at encouraging the younger generation of veterinary parasitologists.
President’s Address

We should not only feel part of this college every two years, during the WAAVP congress general assembly, but we should rather find our strong identity in being active members of this community. This is a major goal for me.

I feel and see that we can undoubtedly achieve much more by promoting new initiatives in addition to the organization of the biennial congresses and the preparation of guidelines. The latter is the main (if not the only) activity, which works well beyond the organization of the congresses/conferences and, in the last few years, together with the reorganization of the website.

We can indeed do much more by 1) encouraging the transboundary collaboration-promoting research; 2) organizing hands-on practical courses to foster continuing education all over the world and 3) reviewing the guidelines for the treatment of antiparasitic drugs (and vaccines).

Other goals that I envisage include increasing the number of subscriptions of next generation (young) parasitologists and committing significant financial resources in initiatives supporting this agenda (a good example is the WAAVP African Foundation). An immediate way for us to enhance our programs would be by empowering with more responsibilities the EC members, and benefitting from the experience and guidance of the past-presidents and, ultimately, of all the WAAVP members.

I hope that all of you are reading this letter, will realize how important is your contribution to the WAAVP international as well as to the national communities you represent. Please see more on our website https://www.waavp.org and do not hesitate to contact me directly or through our secretariat contact@waavp.co.uk.

Finally, but most importantly, a message to the youngest researchers and members: never feel afraid to propose initiatives, in pursuing your projects and discussing your ideas in the scientific field of interest. Your contribution is fundamental to our work since you represent, our future, the future of WAAVP!

Regards,

D. Otranto
President
World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

This is the report presented to the membership at the Madison WAAVP general meeting.

Communication

We receive regular emails about membership issues, password resets and problems associated with dealing with the website. These are usually dealt with in 1-3 days. Regular communications have gone out for the 27TH WAAVP International Conference in Madison.

Newsletters have continued, as previously, to be assembled by Shernacre Ltd, with the previous 2 editions available on-line to non-members and the archive available only to members. Note we are still only getting about 50% of members to at least open the email.

The website has been working well over the last 2 years, but with some issues relating to membership renewal. There have been several relatively minor changes required, largely associated with the need for better personal data protection. The website continues to be managed through Blue Fusion Web.

Approximately 381 members have paid dues since 1st June 2017 using the PayPal system.

Executive Committee Election

This year we chose to use a Google form with images and send a Mailchimp that also had images along with the PDF link of each candidate information. The email had a clear layout with a large voting button to the Google form. We also emailed recently expired members to encourage a sign up and vote.

The Mailchimp email to members had 283 subscribers with a 186 “opens” (67%) open rate and 95 “clicks” (34%). The Mailchimp email to expired members had 23 “opens” (55%) and 12 “clicks” (29%). We re-sent the voting as a reminder to a further 233 subscribers.

We received 132 recorded votes and Professor Grace Mulcahy and Dr Silvana Fernandez were declared as elected. Other candidates for election were notified that they had been unsuccessful and thanked.

Finance Report

I am very grateful to Ann Donoghue for her continued assistance with the US accounts

5.1 PayPal

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Prizes and awards

Calls for the Bayer research and teaching prizes and the Peter Nansen Young Scientist prize were circulated by email, and advertised in the Newsletter, web site and Facebook. Only one nomination for the Bayer prize for research excellence and no nominations for the teaching prize were received. The nomination was forwarded to the President who oversaw the awards committee process. Several nominations for the Peter Nansen Young Scientist award were received and these were forwarded the PNYSA committee which oversaw the selection process. The Odile Bain prizes were not dealt with by WAAVP. Several nominations for honorary fellowship were received and forwarded to the President for consideration by the fellowship committee. The awardees are reported elsewhere.

Richard Wall
University of Bristol, UK
Bayer Research Award Recipient

Professor Domenico Otranto is a graduate of the veterinary school at the University of Bari in Italy. He pursued a PhD at the same university which he completed in 1999 and was appointed as an associate professor of veterinary parasitology in 2001 and a full professor in 2006, at the University of Bari. He is the director of the Parasitology Unit of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and more recently also the director of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the same university. During the course of this career, Professor Otranto has demonstrated his exceptional dedication and skills as a veterinary parasitologist and is someone who has made an immense contribution to parasitology in research, education, and international collaboration.

His research work spans a broad range of parasites and host systems, including studies of helminths and protozoa, but he has particular interests in arthropod vector/pathogen interactions. His research is characterised by careful and meticulous studies of life cycles and parasite morphology in a clinical context, but also uses the full range of cutting-edge methodologies available, including advanced molecular techniques. His output and appetite for work are prodigious with over 450 research publications produced to date. He is without doubt one of the leading researchers of his generation in veterinary parasitology and there is clear and substantial evidence for sustained quality and breath in his research, combined with outstanding academic leadership. His work often uses an integrative and collaborative approach and his network of collaborators spans the globe. All this has been achieved while also coordinating and teaching multiple undergraduate subjects as well as contributing to academic administration.

Importantly, Professor Otranto also makes a significant contribution to the wider community of parasite and vector biologists. He became a board member of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC) (2009-2012), then vice president (2012-2015) and finally president (2015-2018). In addition, he has been editor or on the advisory board of several research journals, such as Parasites and Vectors, Medical and Veterinary Entomology and Parasitology Research. He was instrumental in developing and running the Odile Bain Memorial Prize, which aims to encourage young researchers. An important element of his contribution is that he is very active in training the next generation of researchers and has advised a large number of exceptional postgraduate students who have themselves gone on to develop successful careers in veterinary parasitology. Professor Otranto is clearly a role model for others who aspire to academic research leadership.
Maria Martinez-Valladares is the recipient of the 2019 WAAVP Peter Nansen Young Scientist Award highlighting her innovative research on nematode and trematode infections of animals. Her focus to date has been on evaluation of new drugs and drug combinations; new methods to detect anthelmintic resistance, and novel approaches to control such as vaccination and genetic selection of resistant animals.

Maria Martinez-Valladares is Senior Postdoctoral Researcher in Parasitology at the Institute of Mountain Livestock – University of Leon. She has an MVM (2001) and a Ph.D (2007) from work on selection of sheep for resistance to nematode infections. Additionally, she holds a Master degree in Innovation Management (2014). She is the founder and CEO at SOLPAX – a novel biotechnology company offering diagnostic tests for early diagnosis of canine leishmaniosis and ehrlichiosis. Maria Martinez-Valladares has 45 peer reviewed scientific papers and book chapter to her name.
For the first time there were female recipients of Honorary Membership to WAAVP. Prof. Rosina Krecek, Dr Chandra Panchadcharam and Dr Ann Donoghue received the award for their service to WAAVP and to veterinary parasitology.

Rosina Krecek holds a DSc/PhD (1984) and a MBA (2003) with both being actively used to pursue her academic and consultancy career in parasitology. She has held the position of Professor of One Health with a strong focus on zoonotic diseases. Rosina was President of WAAVP (1997-2003) and also the co-convener of the Local Organizing Committee for the WAAVP 1997 conference in South Africa. She is co-founder and chair of the WAAVP African Foundation Committee. Rosina is a strong advocate for women the sciences. She is a past winner of the Elsdon-Dew Medal for Services to Parasitology in Africa. Rosina is a member of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitology, the European Veterinary Parasitology College and the Parasitology Society of Southern Africa where she is a Past President. She holds or has held numerous roles on Editorial Boards of prestigious scientific journals including many that are dedicated to parasitology. Rosina has 229 publications to her name of which 139 are in peer reviewed scientific journals.

Ann Donoghue holds a DVM (1987) and a Master of Science with a Parasitology major (1992). Ann’s dedication and significant contributions to veterinary parasitology are diverse. Within WAAVP Ann has been a member of the Executive Committee holding the position of secretariat and treasurer for 10 years. She played a significant role as a member of the program committee for the WAAVP 2019 Madison Conference. Importantly Ann has been the back bone of WAAVP’s history by holding the role of association archivist.

Outside of WAAVP, Ann is actively involved in the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (being on the Executive plus a Past President) and the American Society of Parasitologists (various committee roles therein). Ann has over a dozen peer reviewed scientific publications to her name along with scores of presentations plus abstracts. She is a reviewer for the AJVR and the JAVMA.

Chandra Panchadcharam holds a DVM (1985), MSc (1988) and PhD (2004) all strongly focusing on veterinary parasitology. Within WAAVP Chandra has been a members of the Executive Committee plus also co-chaired the WAAVP 2017 conference in Malaysia. She has also been President on two occasions for the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. Chandra’s career has seen her in academic roles as well as senior postions within government veterinary research facilities. She has 100 peer reviewed scientific papers to her name along with 242 oral/poster presentations in veterinary parasitology veterinary tropical medicine. Chandra is a reviewer and/or on the Editorial Board for 7 scientific journals.
African Foundation Scholarships 2019

There were seven recipients of African Foundation Scholarships in 2019: Dr. Rebecca Ackermann (South Africa), Dr. Yosra Amdouni (Tunisia), Dr. Abiodun Joseph Fatoba (Nigeria), Dr. Donald Mukolwe Lubembe (Kenya), Dr. Achille Sougrinoma Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Dr. Whatmore Munetso Tagwireyi (Zimbabwe) and Dr. Marliese Truter (South Africa). Reports of their conference experience from three of the awardees are presented here.

Report from Dr. Yosra Amdouni

I have received the Award of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) African Foundation Scholarships. It was an opportunity for me to get trained, interact with people, and learn new knowledge in parasitology.

During the 27th annual conference of the WAAVP, innovative techniques were used to make attendees understand subjects better and help you to receive intelligent insights from some of the leading professionals. Hear experts in parasitology who share advice and insights into topics that my researches benefit from, was a motivating factor for personal as well as professional growth.

The group discussions and question answer rounds that allow every individual to interact with other professionals. It also allows me to address key issues and clear all my doubts have regarding the concerned topics. Discussions enable the young researchers in parasitology have their problems solved without having to read through lengthy documents and books.

Attending the 27th annual conference of the WAAVP gives me the chance to interact with other people and other expert in parasitology; it was the best way to meet other professionals and share my experiences with each other, and to be part of such a conference was also enabling me to integrate with my professional community. Sharing meals with other attendees at the conference was also a great way to interact and understand my profession better.
My professional experience acquired at WAAVP

OUEDRAOGO Sougrinoma Achille, Laboratory of Parasitology and Parasitic Diseases, Center for Fundamental and Applied Research for Animal and Health (FARAH), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liège, Liège, Belgium

Introduction
Within the framework of the project of my thesis on Ticks and Tick-borne diseases, I received a travel grant to attend the 27th conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP), which took place from 7-12 July 2019 in Madison, Wi, USA. This report provides a brief overview of the professional experience acquired at this conference in three points.

Poster presentation: my participation to the conference has been an important opportunity for me to share my preliminary results with worldwide veterinary parasitology researchers. This was achieved through the presentation of my poster (Fig.1) entitled: “Cross border transhumance, a dissemination way of ticks and tick-borne pathogens in west Africa.” Many researchers were interested in this study and I used the occasion to gather suggestions when following my work.

Presentation follow-up: this conference allowed me to gain a broader view of the field of dust mite studies and to acquire new knowledge through the many presentations I followed. I also paid attention to the different presentation styles. There are some that I will certainly take into account.

Contacts creation: I used this conference to create a new network and to make so many friends (Fig2). This will certainly be useful for my future career. Researchers whom I only knew by name through their publications, I met them physically. It was a very moving time for me. This has rekindled my enthusiasm to persevere in my research activities

Conclusion:
The objectives pursued during this conference were achieved. The only difficulty that prevailed was the language that I tried to overcome to achieve the expected results. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the organizers and sponsors who have placed their trust in me by awarding me this travel grant. I hope I have lived up to their expectations.
Short article on WAAVP 2019 experience - Donald Lubembe Mukolwe

First, I wish to express my gratitude to the WAAVP Africa Foundation for enabling me realize my dream. Being an aspiring researcher in veterinary parasitology, it was my greatest desire to attend the WAAVP 27th International Conference, and this being my first ever WAAVP and international conference, I must affirm that it was an exceptional experience beyond my expectation. It was an ideal opportunity to present my research findings and hold discussions with experts in veterinary parasitology. I did not only get valuable technical inputs on my work but also received constructive criticism on how to improve on my scientific communication. I also learned valuable scientific communication attributes, and current advances in veterinary parasitology research from the experienced keynote speakers as well as other presenters. This indeed bolstered my knowledge and skills for career improvement. The networking opportunities during the conference were amazing. I was able to meet and network with young and re-known researchers in veterinary parasitology for future research collaborations and mentorship. For instance, I was privileged to meet the parasitology technocrat Prof. Patricia Conrad from the School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis who promised to offer mentorship to the young researchers from Africa. From the networking fora, we initiated a research collaboration group “Young Researchers Forum” under which we are exploring opportunities of initiating research and mentorship activities for career development and making an impact in disease control in Africa at large. Congratulations to the organizers of the WAAVP 27th conference, they made it a complete package for learning, networking and fun. I look forward to attending the WAAVP 28th International Conference in Ireland. I wish to sincerely thank Prof. Rosina “Tammi” Krecek, and my supervisor Dr. Kgomotso Sibeko.
Members will recall from our WAAVP 2017 conference in Kuala Lumpur that our guest speaker was Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Mustaffa Babjee. We sadly update on his death this year at the age of 82. He was an advocate of life-long learning.

The former Veterinary Services Department director-general’s credentials included a Masters of Science in Environment Biology from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), a PhD in virology from the University of Queensland, Australia, as well as two honorary doctorates from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and the University of Queensland.

At the age of 69, Mustaffa earned his seventh degree — Masters of Science in Environment Biology — from USM.

Mustaffa was dubbed Malaysia’s green warrior being a prominent figure on nature conservation, and playing an instrumental role in the preservation of Malaysia’s rare and special biodiversity species.

He catapulted Malaysia into becoming one of the top 12 mega biodiversity nations in 2009 with his country securing this prestigious spot based on its 15,000 species of flowering plants, 1,500 species of terrestrial vertebrates and 150,000 species of invertebrates at the time.

In one (Glimpses of the Environment) of the many books that he authored, Mustaffa was candid on how he had started to develop an interest in the environment. In the Preface he said the Japanese occupation had had a profound impact on his life during his growing-up years in Sungai Petani, Kedah.

“Our immediate environment provided our daily needs for food”.

Mustaffa, who was identified by his trademark long grey hair and moustache, had been wheel-chair-bound for quite some time due to a nerve disease, said one of his relatives, who declined to be named.

WAAVP acknowledges Mustaffa’s contribution to veterinary science specifically and the environment in general. We extend our condolences to his extended family, work colleagues and friends.

Peter Holdsworth
Upcoming Events

Training workshop: New Anti-leishmanial Leads from Natural Sources: Concepts and Approaches
Date: 8-9th Nov 2019
Location: Karachi, Pakistan
Link: https://ntd-network.org/event/karachi2019/
Theme: Practical training for PhD students, post-docs and faculty members in basic concepts and modern applications to find new anti-leishmanials using natural sources.

Anthelmintics: Discovery to Resistance IV
Date: February 3-7, 2020
Location: Santa Monica, California USA
Link: https://register.extension.iastate.edu/anthelmintics/about
Theme: Recent progress in anthelmintic drug development, medicinal chemistry, modes of action of anthelmintic drugs, and how resistance to anthelmintic drugs emerges. The conference focuses on helminth parasite infections of humans and animals, including flatworms, tapeworms, filaria and roundworms.

The 56th Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) in conjunction with 3rd Asian Simuliidae Symposium
Date: 11 – 12 March 2020
Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Link: http://msptm.org/
Theme: “Neglected, Tropical and Vector Borne Diseases: The Evolution of One Health from Challenges to Solutions”

World Veterinary Association Congress 2020
Date: 6-8 April 2020
Location: Auckland, New Zealand
Link: https://www.wvac2020.com/
Theme: In conjunction with the NZVA Annual Conference WVAC focuses primarily on clinical veterinary medicine, veterinary public health, animal welfare and academic research across all domestic species.

The British Society for Parasitology Spring Meeting
Date: 15-17 April.
Location: University of Edinburgh
Link: http://bsp.uk.net/
Theme: Draw attention to the unique importance of parasitology as a distinct discipline within biology.

10th International Symposium for Fish Parasitology and Australian Society for Parasitology Annual Conference
Date: 6-9 July 2020
Location: Cairns, Australia
Link: https://www.isfpx.org/
Theme: Scientific program included a large number of disciplines and research fields on fish parasitology, with special reference to the “New Challenges in Fish Parasitology”
Upcoming Events

95th Annual Meeting of American society of parasitologists
Date: 16-19th July 2020
Location: Kansas City, USA
Link: https://www.amsocparasit.org/
Theme: Scientific exchange across the broad discipline of parasitology

10th Tick and Tick Borne Pathogen Conference TTP.10
Date: 24 and 28 August 2020
Location: Murighiol, Danube Delta, Romania
Link: http://www.zooparaz.net/ttp10/
Theme: Ticks Taxonomy and evolution, Genetics and genomics, Ecology and epidemiology, Spatial modeling, Diagnosis and treatment, Immunity and vaccines, Infection and pathogenesis.

IECID 2020: Impact of Environmental Change on Infectious Disease
Date: 3-5 June 2020
Location: James Cook University, Singapore
Link: https://www.elsevier.com/events/conferences/impact-of-environmental-changes-on-infectious-diseases
Theme: Impact of current and predicted future environmental changes on the distribution and epidemic potential of several important infectious diseases across the globe, and what actions need to be taken.

XXXV Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Protozoology
Date: 04th to 06th November, 2019
Location: Caxambu, Brazil
Theme: Focuses on Protozoology and Basic Research in Chagas’ disease

Eastern Mediterranean Region VIII Parasitology Summer Course (ParSCo) a Residency Course on PARASITES, ARTHROPOD VECTORS AND TRANSMITTED PATHOGENS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION
Date: 5th-14th June 2020

WAAVP 2021
Date: 18—22nd July 2021
Location: Dublin, Ireland
Link: http://www.waavp2021.com/
Theme: Parasitologists without Borders
Abhilasha Dadhich
The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology is published twice a year with issues in April and November. Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome and should be submitted by the first day of the month prior to issue.

**WAAVP Newsletter Submission deadlines:**

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