A message from the WVA President, Dr Patricia Turner

Dear Colleagues,

We have greatly missed the opportunity to connect in person with WVA members from around the world over this past year. Unfortunately, because of continuing challenges brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, it has been necessary to hold our 2021 General Assembly as a virtual event. We appreciate your continuing patience and support as we all work through this unprecedented time. Despite the pandemic and the inability of new Council members and the Secretariat to meet each other in person at the beginning of their term last year, these individuals have pulled together to form a cohesive group, united in their common interest to advance the global veterinary profession. I am very appreciative of the dedication and efforts of our Council members and Secretariat, who have maintained their focus, despite many personal and professional obstacles caused by the pandemic, to work on so many new and ongoing WVA activities and projects, which you will see listed in this report. I also want to thank our sponsors, partners, and volunteers, with whom we are continuing to explore and develop new activities and opportunities for the coming year.

Because of the uncertain road ahead for all of us, the WVA is already planning for a hybrid in-person/virtual congress for 2022 and will continue to offer continuing education seminars throughout the year on a range of topics that are pertinent to the global veterinary community. We also are looking forward to meeting virtually with our member associations in ‘listening sessions’ over the coming months to understand how the WVA can help to address your association’s suggestions and needs.

We look forward to ‘seeing’ you at the upcoming WVA General Assembly virtual meeting on April 28 as well as at the WVA Food Security Seminar, which will be held on the following day.

Yours truly,

Pat Turner
CONTENTS

1. A message from the WVA President 1
2. Introduction 3
3. WVA Council 4
4. Secretariat 6
5. WVA Committees and Ad Hoc Committees 7
   a. Finances Committee 7
   b. Policy Committee 7
   c. Standing Committee of the WVAC 8
   d. Ad Hoc Executive Committee 9
   e. Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws Committee 9
   f. Ad Hoc Working Group on Communication 10
6. WVA Strategic Focus Groups 10
   a. Animal Welfare 11
   b. One Health 12
   c. Veterinary Education 12
   d. Pharmaceutical Stewardship 13
7. Collaborations and Projects 14
   a. Sustainable Business through Training for Veterinary Para-
      Professionals (VPP) 14
   b. Global Quality Standards for Veterinary Education 15
   c. Global list of Essential Medicines for Food-Producing Animals 15
   d. Veterinary Student Scholarship Program 16
   e. Global Animal Welfare Awards 17
   f. World Rabies Day 2020 17
   g. World Antibiotic Awareness Week 18
   h. Calls for Action / Open Letters 18
   i. Global Technical and Advisory Platforms 18
   j. Renewal of Collaboration Plans and New Partnerships 20
8. Communications 22
   a. WVA’s Media Channels 22
   b. World Veterinary Association Congresses 23
   c. WVA Virtual Seminars 24
   d. Press releases 26
   e. World Veterinary Day Award 26
   f. Participation in Veterinary Events around the World 27
INTRODUCTION

Over the past year, the WVA focused its efforts on adapting the association work to the global pandemic situation, implementing the new WVA strategic plan, clarifying internal operations processes, and increasing association visibility through global projects and virtual events. The WVA is revising the communication strategy, exploring ways to enhance the association’s finances to become more sustainable and engaging in new partnerships.

The WVA continues its efforts to unify the veterinary profession amongst different world regions and across veterinary disciplines and to speak with one voice representing the veterinary profession globally. The WVA connects veterinarians with other health professionals via several initiatives and projects and supports the veterinary profession in delivering its responsibilities to benefit society and all animals.

The WVA is striving to fulfil its mission to assure and promote animal health, animal welfare and public health globally through developing and advancing veterinary medicine, the veterinary profession as well as public and private veterinary services.

More detailed information on specific topics can be received from the Secretariat or via the WVA website [www.worldvet.org](http://www.worldvet.org)
The WVA Council 2020 – 2022 began its term on 7th April 2020 and held eight conference calls in the past year under the leadership of the WVA President, Dr Patricia Turner. In March 2021, Dr Cicero Pitombo elected to step down from his position of WVA Councillor for Latin America. The WVA Council approved the CFMV request to replace Dr Pitombo with Dr Heilo Blume as acting Councillor according to Article 7.5.5 of the WVA CBL. All Council meetings in 2021 were conducted electronically.

The main items of discussions in these Council meetings included:

- Establishment and follow-up of the work of WVA SFGs and Committees and Ad Hoc Committees.
- WVA strategic focus issues on Animal Welfare, Pharmaceutical Stewardship, Veterinary Education and One Health.
- Revision of the WVA CBL and APM documents.
- Review of WVA finances and preparation of the 2022 budget.
- Increasing the WVA Secretariat capacity.
- Revising the WVA Communication Strategy.
- Review and publication of WVA position papers, press releases and articles.
- Strategies for Engaging with Member Organisations during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Membership applications and approval of new members.
- Renewal, adoption and revision of MoUs and collaborations plan with WVA partners.
- Participation in technical advisory groups of WHO, OIE, FAO and other partners.

Click on the underlined dates to access the reports of the meetings
- Review applications and provide decisions for WVA projects (Global Animal Welfare Awards with Ceva, Veterinary Student Scholarship Program with MSD, List of Essential Medicine with the Brooke, Global Quality Standards for Veterinary Education with AAVMC, World Veterinary Day Awards with HealthforAnimals).
- Preparation, launch, assessment and reports of WVA surveys.
- The organisation of three WVA virtual global seminars.
- Launching together with FAO and HealthforAnimals a project on better Veterinary Para-Professional Skills Training in Africa and Asia.
- Postponement of the WVAC2021 to 2023.
- Preparations bids for organising future WVAC2022 and selection of the WVAC2024 venue.
- Preparations for the 2021 WVA GA Virtual meeting.
- And many other issues.

### Councillor participation in meetings/conference calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>28/04/20 Call Conf.</th>
<th>26/05/20 Call Conf.</th>
<th>23/07/20 Call Conf.</th>
<th>22/09/20 Call Conf.</th>
<th>23/11/20 Call Conf.</th>
<th>26/01/21 Call Conf.</th>
<th>24/03/21 Call Conf.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Turner</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WVA President</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafael Laguens</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Chiang</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clive Warwick</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntombi Mudenda</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Tansey</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for America (North)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy McPerson</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for America (North)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jannet Velez Rivas</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for America (Latin)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cicero Pitombo</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Stepped out)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for America (Latin)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helio Blume (joined in March 2021)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Councillor for America (Latin)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chirantan Kadian</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for Asia and Oceania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juhyung Hur</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for Asia and Oceania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maaike van den Berg</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oddgeirsson Olafur</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roula Shaaban</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for the Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamil Mettias</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for the Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bambang Priosoeryanto</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for International Regional Organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsutomu Kurosawa</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor for International Discipline-Centred Organisations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Since 2010, the WVA Secretariat has been hosted by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and is based in Brussels, Belgium. The Secretariat serves as the coordination point for all WVA activities and communications. It supports the preparation, logistics and follow-up of meetings of the WVA General Assembly, Council, Committees, Standing Committees, Working Groups and global events. The Secretariat oversees the implementation of all WVA GA and Council decisions. It is also responsible for WVA internal and external communications and the maintenance of the WVA website, Facebook page and Twitter account. When appropriate, member(s) of the Secretariat represents the WVA at conferences and meetings.

Since 1st January 2020, Dr Zeev Noga has fulfilled the position of WVA Executive Secretary. Between May and December 2020, he was assisted part-time by Dr Samantha Morici. In November 2020, the WVA Council increased the fees paid to FVE for 2021 to permit the hiring of a full-time Policy Officer/Assistant for 2021 (one year contract) to support the WVA Secretariat and to increase capacity. On 1st March 2021, Dr Athanasios Angelou assumed the role of WVA Policy Officer. The WVA has also held an internship position for 6-month periods to assist with the delivery of daily tasks, and veterinary students or new veterinarians fill this.
WVA COMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE (FC)

The WVA Finance Committee (+ Ex officio members) met six times by teleconference and had numerous electronic exchanges. The main issues discussed were the WVA's financial situation, Membership status, approval of budgets for WVA projects and virtual events, increasing Secretariat capacity, re-examining the WVA/ FVE Secretariat contract, preparing the budget for 2022, exploring investment possibilities and banking solutions, and evaluating the financial health of the association.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation and global travel restrictions, WVA expenses were less than anticipated, and the financial year resulted in a modest surplus. Considering the forecast for the continued pandemic in 2021, the WVA Council approved the AH ExCom proposal to use part of the surplus to increase Secretariat capacity to deliver on the growing number of WVA tasks.

During the past year, the WVA continued to successfully deliver several projects and signed agreements with two member associations to host future WVA Congresses. Notwithstanding the positive financial results from the past year, the WVA had "doubtful debts" of >50.000€ from outstanding fees of delisted member associations that were not expected to be settled. In October 2020, income was released from an investment account, and the FC explored several options for short-term investments in Belgium, where the Secretariat is based.

Due to the pandemic, there is a negative interest rate in high-income countries and no realisable “safe” return on short term investments. Considering the above circumstances, the FC is continuing to explore the health of the WVA finances and develop an investment policy to support the organisation's sustainable financial future.
POLICY COMMITTEE (PC)

The Policy Committee met four times in the past year to discuss, evaluate, and propose several policy statements to the WVA Council.

The PC reviewed its Terms of Reference and Policy Statements documents to enhance the committee work and review process of the WVA draft position statements. The PC initiated and prepared position statements on the Role of Veterinarians in Food Safety and on Veterinary Telehealth Services. The PC revised and finalised for Council approval the SFGs draft position statements on Global Climate Change Emergency, Leishmaniosis, Zoonoses Emergence in Relation to Wildlife Disruption and Trade and the reviewed suggested revisions to the WVA Position on the Role of the Veterinarian in Animal Welfare.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION CONGRESS (WVAC-SC)

In March 2021, following the launch of the WVAC2022 preparation process, the WVA Council re-established the WVAC-SC. The main task of the WVAC-SC is to look at the long-term development of the WVACs and develop the general template for an international standard. The WVAC-SC will follow up the work of the WVACs Local and Scientific Committees and will provide support and advice to deliver a successful congress. The WVAC-SC is composed of a WVA Officer, WVA Councillor, a member of the Local Organizing Committee and an ad hoc member with experience in organising congresses and will be supported by the WVA Secretariat. The first meeting of the WVAC-SC occurred in April 2021 to launch the committee work for the preparation of the WVAC2022 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, on 28-31 March 2022.
AD HOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (AH-ExCom)

In March 2020, the WVA Council adopted a proposal to form an Ad Hoc Executive Committee for the Council term 2020-2022 to assist with operational decision-making and to provide organisational oversight on operational aspects such as budget, Secretariat, contracts etc.

The AH-ExCom is composed of the three WVA officers and the Chairs of the Finance and Policy Committees and has the authority to act on behalf of the Council between meetings. In January 2021, the Council adopted a proposal to revise the WVA Constitution and Bylaws, including an article that permanently adds the Executive Committee back into the WVA structure. In the past year, the AH-ExCom met six times and had numerous communications to discuss and prepare proposals for Council decision on various operational issues.

AD HOC CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

On 28th April 2020, the WVA Council established an Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) Committee to review and propose changes to the current WVA structure, governance, organisational operations, and contingency planning.

The AHC-CBL met four times to discuss and propose changes to the WVA CBL and Administrative Procedures documents. In November 2020, the AHC-CBL presented a draft revision of the CBL to the Council. The main significant changes proposed by the AHC-CBL was to divide the Constitution and Bylaws into two separate articles, to reduce the number of Councillors from 17 to 10 and to formalise a WVA Executive Committee. During the review process of the AHC-CBL proposal by WVA AH-ExCom and Council members, the Council
expressed concerns regarding the proposal to reduce the Council size, emphasising the importance of regional representation on Council for transparency. In January 2021, after several months of discussions, the WVA Council adopted the AH ExCom proposal for the WVA CBL revision and propose it to the WVA GA 2021 in its forthcoming virtual meeting on 28th April 2021. Additional changes suggested by Council members include grammar corrections, specification of some articles more appropriately, deleting irrelevant and repetitive articles and format changes.

WVA Ad Hoc Working Group on Communication

Throughout the fall of 2020, the WVA Council discussed considerations for updating the WVA’s approach to communications. In March 2021, the WVA Council established a WVA Ad Hoc Working Group on Communication (CWG) to develop effective communication and marketing strategies. The main CWG tasks focus on renewing the WVA website, improving regional communications and use of social media, and enhancing the marketing aspects of the WVA.

WVA STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUPS

In March 2020, the WVA Council adopted the WVA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 to focus on four priority areas; Animal Welfare, Pharmaceutical Stewardship, Veterinary Education and One Health. In May 2020, the Council established and launched the work of the WVA Strategic Focus Groups (previously Working Groups) and revised the Terms of Reference for the SFGs work and Ad Hoc Experts.

The SFGs generally met every 6-8 weeks throughout the past year to revise and prepared WVA position papers, factsheets, statements, press releases and programs for seminars and events. The SFGs also provided advocacy and technical advice, collected data and functioned as a review committee for different award/scholarship projects related to their focus issues. The SFGs reinforced their expertise by welcoming new external experts nominated by WVA member associations to support the work of the different SFGs. The SFGs established subgroups to focus on specific projects related to the SFG priorities, and these subgroups met at regular
ANIMAL WELFARE

Goals
• to raise awareness of current and ongoing animal welfare issues globally.
• to develop and maintain key partnerships with other global AW advocacy groups.
• to promote animal welfare education and training within the veterinary curriculum and as a critical component of veterinary continuing professional development.

Activities
The Animal Welfare Working Group met six times by teleconference over the past year, with additional teleconferences and electronic discussions amongst subgroups. The major projects undertaken by this SFG included preparing formal papers on recommendations for caring for horses used for biologics and therapeutics production and recommendations for pain management in food animals. Once this work is completed, it is anticipated that shorter guidelines will be extracted for development into WVA position papers. A survey of members and partners was also conducted to evaluate management and care of stray, unowned and owned dogs and cats during the global SARS CoV-2 pandemic, and the results of this were communicated to members in January 2021 Newsblast. The WVA Animal Welfare Policy was reviewed updated and disseminated to members for comment in early 2021. Discussion of veterinary ethics discussions during student education occurred, and a repository of resources was initiated.

Further work on this issue may be explored in 2021. A meeting of past recipients of the WVA-Ceva Animal Welfare awards was convened in December 2020 to review the activities and projects of these individuals. From this, a project was conceived concerning the donkey skin trade and the challenges that this imposes on communities, animals, and the veterinarians who care for them. This video is intended to be released on World Donkey Day in 2021. Additional projects initiated more recently include a position statement on animal depopulation and a position statement on the humane care of research animals.
ONE HEALTH

Goals

- Identify and develop opportunities for veterinary professionals to contribute their expertise and leadership in One Health.
- Facilitate and encourage the capacity building necessary to meet the challenges associated with a One Health approach.
- Develop resources and guidelines for use by veterinary and allied organisations to promote education and advocacy on the importance of One Health.

Activities

The One Health SFG met six times by teleconference during the past year with additional correspondence by email between meetings. To capture the wide range of expertise needed for One Health, ad hoc members from the World Medical Association and members with expertise in food security, agriculture, wildlife, and environmental health, were appointed to serve on the OH-SFG. Building on the Zoonotic Disease Working Group’s work in 2019 related to food security, the One Health SFG developed a webinar on food security, which will be held on 29th April 2021. The OH SFG drafted the following documents: factsheets on leishmaniasis and avian influenza, position statements on the global climate emergency and zoonotic emergence related to wildlife disruption and trade, and a press release recognising November 3rd as “One Health Day.” A subcommittee on One Health Education was formed; the subcommittee’s main activities are focused on the education of veterinarians and veterinary students by promoting and supporting the One Health concept within the current curricula in the veterinary faculties. An additional task of this SFG was to review applications for the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and HealthforAnimals 2020 World Veterinary Day Award, the theme of which was “Environmental protection for improving animal and human health.”

VETERINARY EDUCATION

Goals

- To improve the quality of veterinary education and continuing education for veterinary students, veterinarians, and veterinary para-professionals around the world.
- To improve access to veterinary medical education globally.
- To support OIE Day One competencies in veterinary education.
Activities
The group met five times via virtual means in the past year. VE-SFG members prepared a grant proposal to develop a self-assessment tool for veterinary educational establishments to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) - Council on International Veterinary Medical Education (CIVME). The grant was approved and resulted in the addition of external personnel to assist with the coordination and administrative aspects and formation of two project groups: one focused on surveying and data collection, and the other on drafting guidelines for publication. This project has also incorporated an aspect of assessing the global standards in Continuing Education provision. The group also started to develop a policy statement on the training of veterinary educators to include segments on teaching methodology and the value of soft-skill training, etc. The VE-SFG was involved in the evaluation process of 420 applications for the 2020 MSD Scholarship. The group also worked on updating the application form for the 5th WVA/MSD Student Scholarship Program.

PHARMACEUTICAL STEWARDSHIP
The WVA Strategic Focus Group on Pharmaceutical Stewardship met five times with group correspondence via email between teleconferences. From the seven nominees for ad hoc membership, Dr Patrick Vudriko from Uganda was welcomed to the group.

Activities
The most challenging activity is the project on the Essential Medicines list for Livestock being done in conjunction with The Brooke. Producing this list is a first step in ensuring global medicine availability and improving animal health and welfare worldwide. After having expressed the PS-SFG keen interest to involve the veterinary profession in the global discussions on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), a WVA nominee, Professor Scott
Weese, was selected to serve on the Global Leaders Group on AMR. In the following months, a WVA consultative group will be established to support Dr Weese in his work for the GLG. The PS-SFG will arrange a separate meeting devoted to discussing actions that could reinforce veterinary activities in low- and middle-income countries. This meeting will be focused on the availability of veterinary pharmaceuticals.

COLLABORATIONS AND PROJECTS

The WVA is committed to the One-Health approach and strives to globally establish effective partnerships to protect animal health, welfare, and public health. The WVA has a Memorandum of Understanding and effectively collaborates with relevant global partners on various One Health issues.

The EuFMD (FAO unit), HealthforAnimals and the WVA have been working together to launch in May 2021 a new project; Sustainable Business through Training for Veterinary ParaProfessionals (VPP).

The EuFMD (FAO unit), HealthforAnimals and the WVA have been working together to launch in May 2021 a new project; Sustainable Business through Training for Veterinary ParaProfessionals (VPP).

The project aims to reinforce veterinary service provision systems through the improved capacity of VPPs to deliver animal health services. The project will evaluate and provide a model for sustainable VPPs in which competency acquisition is a gateway to recognition and increases access to new business opportunities in the “last mile” delivery of
quality-assured animal health services. This will be accomplished by a competency-based training system, in line with OIE Guidelines, allied to a digital engagement strategy supporting recognition and business development in the animal health care services marketplace. Through its worldwide network, the WVA will assist in the project through positive interactions between its memberships and the VPPs representatives in countries in Africa and Asia, helping to shape the design of the national VPP development from a frequently competitive one into a collaborative one. The WVA will support the training and VPP business support activities through its access to a range of expertise. The project duration is 36 months.

**GLOBAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR VETERINARY EDUCATION**

In November 2020, the WVA and the AAVMC’s Committee on International Veterinary Medical Education (CIVME) agreed to collaborate and to launch a project on Global Quality Standards for Veterinary Education to improve the quality of veterinary education around the world and to develop a self-assessment mechanism for veterinary colleges in regions or countries without formal accreditation systems.

The project will establish a global network and examine global standards for veterinary education to survey veterinary medical colleges worldwide about quality assessment standards and strategies used to meet national and regional veterinary workforce needs. In January 2021, the WVA established the project’s Steering Committee (SC) led by WVA President Dr Patricia Turner and coordinated by Dr Lida Anestidou and includes members from WVA, CIVME, EAEVE and IAWG (Drs. Tim Parkinson, Rafael Mondadori, Christophe Buhot, R.S.Sethi, Linda Prescott-Clements and Ntombi Mudenda). The project will also develop a self-assessment tool for veterinary colleges to use in regions or countries without formal accreditation systems. Currently, the SC is working in parallel to develop the global survey and self-assessment tool. The final project report is expected to be published by the end of 2021.

**GLOBAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS**

In March 2021, the WVA and Brooke launched a joint project to create a global list of essential veterinary medicines for livestock. The list is intended to be used as a model to assist countries in ensuring global medicine availability, support the process of self-evaluation, registration and license, and facilitate the regulatory oversight of veterinary pharmaceuticals.
In February 2021, a call for expertise was sent to WVA members and partners to nominate experts to serve on species-specific working groups (SWG), drafting lists of essential medicines for large ruminants, small ruminants, equids, poultry, porcine, aquaculture, bees and rabbits. Currently, the WVA and Brooke are finalising the composition of the SWGs to launch their work in May 2021. In parallel, the WVA and Brooke launched in March 2021 a global survey to gather information from all relevant stakeholders around the world to assist the SWGs to create their lists. Once drafted, the combined lists will be reviewed by a designated variety of stakeholders across animal health systems to help to finalise the global list and to understand the current gaps and needs of animal health practitioners in the field. The global list of essential veterinary medicines for livestock is scheduled to be published in April 2022.

VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than 420 applications were received from over 50 countries for the 2020’s MSD Animal Health / WVA Veterinary Student Scholarship Program. The 4th Scholarship Program granted 41 veterinary students from nearly 30 different countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East a 5,000 US Dollars monetary price in recognition of their academic achievements and to aid in the development of their academic and veterinary career. Especially in 2021, with the Covid-19 global pandemic, the WVA and MSD Animal Health recognise the challenges that veterinary students around the world are facing, and this program can help to ensure a skilled veterinary profession is available to deal with ongoing global animal and human health issues in the years to come. The MSD Animal Health and the WVA are delighted to continue their collaborations and launched in February this year the 2021’s Veterinary Student Scholarship Program to include 80 scholarships to be granted to selected students from countries in the regions of Latin America, Africa, North Africa/Middle East, and Asia/Oceania. The deadline for application submissions is 15th May 2021.
GLOBAL ANIMAL WELFARE AWARDS

Since 2017, the WVA and Ceva Animal Health have partnered to prepare the Global Animal Welfare Awards (AWA) to recognise veterinary champions in Animal Welfare at the global level, showcasing their daily dedication to protect and improve the well-being of animals. The AWA awards allow the WVA and Ceva to raise awareness and understanding about best practices in animal welfare with concrete and inspiring examples to engage others to protect and improve the welfare of animals around the world. The announcement of the 2020 award winners was streamed live during WVA’s fall webinar on Covid-19 Pandemic (2020 Global Animal Welfare Awards), and awards were presented to three veterinarians, one veterinary student, one veterinary school, and one veterinary Technician. In April 2021, WVA and Ceva agreed to continue their collaboration and launch the WVA Animal Welfare Award 2021 to include nine awards (6 veterinarians, one student, one technician/nurse, and one veterinary school). The 2021 AW Award ceremony will take place in a virtual format in fall 2021.

WORLD RABIES DAY 2020

To celebrate World Rabies Day in 2020, the WVA, together with the World Medical Association and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, published a press release on the theme; Learning from COVID-19, Implementing One Health Approach to Eliminate Rabies. On that occasion, the WVA President, Dr Patricia Turner said; given our ongoing lessons in confronting SARS-CoV-2 transmission threats at the animal-human-environment interface, we must realise that we live in an era where zoonotic disease threats and risks may only be effectively mitigated through comprehensive measures driven by multisectoral and multidisciplinary alliances. To eliminate dog-transmitted human rabies by 2030, the veterinary profession must join forces with all the relevant professions and communities to control and eradicate dog-mediated rabies in the spirit of One Health.
**WORLD ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK**

To prepare for the World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2020, the WVA was invited by WHO/OIE/FAO Tripartite to participate in a stakeholders’ consultative meeting to revamp the WAAW. The three-day meeting focused on seizing the opportunity of the current global architecture and political momentum on AMR and drawing on lessons from other campaigns with a grassroots movement to make WAAW everyone’s business. WVA President Dr Turner also talked at the 10th International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine in November 2020. The WVA also collaborated with the International Dairy Federation (IDF) to prepare several joint communications and infographics published on social media supporting the WAAW 2020.

**CALLS FOR ACTION / OPEN LETTERS**

**Open Letter on the Value of Animal Agriculture**

In June 2020, the WVA joined a multisectoral effort and signed an open letter to emphasise the importance of animal production workers in supporting global nutrition, high standards of food safety, and public health during the Covid-19 pandemic and to ensure that society supports these efforts and tap into their knowledge to build a more resilient world in the future.

**Action for Animal Health**

In November 2020, the WVA joined a multisectoral coalition that was initiated by Brooke to call on global leaders to take Action for Animal Health to secure greater support for animal health systems with a focus on increasing and improving the animal health workforce, closing the veterinary medicines and vaccines gap, improving animal disease detection, surveillance, and management, enhancing collaboration for One Health and supporting community education and engagement.

**GLOBAL TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY PLATFORMS**

In the past year, the WVA was invited to participate and to nominate experts to serve on global technical and advisory platforms on various veterinary issues.
As an integral component of the One Health triad, veterinary professionals understand that environmental, human, and animal health are inextricably linked. Growing public health threats at the human-animal-ecosystem interface warrant multisectoral responses inclusive of all major relevant parties. The veterinary profession plays a crucial role in global efforts to safeguard the public, animal, and environmental health. As such, the WVA holds the need for veterinary representation and engagement in global advisory and advocacy groups and related policy and regulatory decisions to be self-evident.

One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

In 2020, the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) established a Global Leaders Group on AMR (GLG) as a key global governance structure to fight the development of AMR globally. The GLG includes members from UN member states, civil society and the private sector. WVA nominee, Professor Scott Weese, was selected to serve as a member of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. In this capacity, Dr Weese provides advocacy and advisory functions on behalf of the global veterinary community to ensure that action is taken to promote global antimicrobial stewardship and address threats related to antimicrobial resistance. The WVA is currently establishing a WVA consultative group to support Professor Weese.

United Nations Food Systems Summit

The United Nations will convene in September 2021 at the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) to raise global awareness and shape global commitments that can transform food systems to resolve hunger, reduce diet-related diseases and restore planetary health. The FSS will follow action tracks on ensuring access to safe and nutritious food, shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, boosting nature-positive production, advancing equitable livelihoods and building resilience. WVA President Dr Patricia Turner was selected to serve on the FSS Secretariat Scientific Group to prepare and organise the event program and oversee the development of content related to the action track and ensure that key issues for that action track are tackled, including drafting of papers, statements and online content.
Covid-19 Thematic Platform on Animal Welfare
In April 2020, the OIE collaborating centre, IZSAM, initiated a COVID-19 Thematic Platform on Animal Welfare to bring together worldwide institutions and experts to assess and describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on animal welfare. The work of the network has shown the value of collaboration and highlighted the need for reflection on what can be learned during a disaster and when reporting on its aftermath. Dr Zeev Noga, WVA Executive Secretary, is a member of the group that continues to meet to address emerging issues, strengthen the network for future emergencies, and share information with stakeholders, including National Veterinary Services, responding to the epidemic.

OIE Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance
In June 2020, the WVA received a request to nominate a poultry expert to assist the OIE to develop a poultry species-specific reference document to complement the OIE List of antimicrobials of veterinary importance. The WVA appointed Dr Thierry Chambon (FVE) to assist the OIE to create the list.

FAO Technical Working Groups
During the past year, the WVA was invited to join several FAO technical working groups to coordinate actions animal Health events at global and regional levels, supporting critical agricultural value chains in food crisis countries in the context of COVID-19 and assisting Lebanon veterinarians after the Beirut blast. The WVA Secretariat staff are representing the WVA in these working groups.

RENEWAL OF COLLABORATION PLANS AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS
World Health Organisation (WHO)
In January 2021, the WVA renewed its collaboration plan with the World Health Organisation for 2021 – 2023. The renewed agreement shall result in a solid network of effective and efficient veterinary services and effective collaboration and communication.
mechanisms between the human, veterinary, and food sectors on managing public health risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interface (One Health Concept). The two organisations engaged in promoting and increasing biosecurity at the farm level; supporting animal disease surveillance and control efforts to prevent animal and zoonotic diseases increasing food safety; and promoting responsible use of veterinary drugs antimicrobials concerning critical drug lists for animals.

**AAALAC International**

In June 2020, the WVA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AAALAC International outlining ways the two organisations will work together to promote animal health and welfare. AAALAC International accredits institutions around the globe that use animals in research, teaching and testing. Research animals, including those studied in agricultural research and wildlife studied as part of ecosystem health initiatives, are not equally protected in every country. Veterinarians do not always receive sufficient training and education in how best to meet the needs of these animals. This MoU represents an opportunity for the WVA and AAALAC International to strengthen veterinary education and their overall role in supporting this sector and ensuring humane care of research animals.

**World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)**

In June 2020, the WVA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) to promote one health globally. WFPHA is a worldwide professional society representing and serving the broad field of public health internationally to make a difference in the health of the people in today's globalised world. It represents over 5 million public health professionals worldwide. The WVA and WFPHA agreed to focus their collaborations on preventing zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance and advocating for one health.
WVA’S MEDIA CHANNELS

The WVA continually updates its media channels with articles, statements and news related to the WVA activities and global veterinary issues.

The [WVA Website](#) was created in 2013, and it is widely agreed among Council, WVA members and key partners that the website is outdated. Currently, the WVA Ad Hoc on Communications Working Group is working on renewing the WVA website and media channels to make it more attractive and engaging for the readers. More than 32,000 people follow WVA activities on the [WVA Facebook page](#) and around 3000 on the [WVA Twitter account](#). The WVA also has a [YouTube](#) channel to share WVA videos and, recently, WVA virtual seminars and recorded presentations. In April 2021, the WVA joined [Instagram](#). The WVA communicates regularly with its members via electronic mails and monthly [info-news](#) to inform them about WVA activities and events, inviting them to nominate representatives to different activities, provide comments on WVA position papers and provide useful information regarding veterinary issues. Click [HERE](#) to read all the WVA communications items.
WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION CONGRESSES

The 36th World Veterinary Association Congress (WVAC2020) was held from the 25th of April to the 15th of May 2020 in virtual format for the very first time!. The congress was initially set to take place in Auckland, New Zealand, on 6-8th April 2020, but due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 outbreak, the WVA, along with the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA), were forced to seek alternative options. Out of adversity, however, came innovation; with the NZVA and the WVA partnering with The Webinar Vet to deliver the WVAC virtually, the online festival of veterinary learning consisted of live and recorded lectures from over 80 expert speakers from all regions of the world. The event was a resounding success, attracting almost 20,000 delegates from more than 50 countries. The 100+ hours of recorded lectures were available on the WVAC2020 website for six months.

Given the continuing uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, including global travel restrictions and the potential for future viral outbreaks, in June 2020, the Taiwan Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) and the WVA agreed to postpone the World Veterinary Association Congress to 2023. TVMA and WVA will resume the preparation process for the WVAC2023 soon.

Considering the favourable Covid-19 situation and the successful vaccination campaign in the United Arab Emirates, the Emirates Veterinary Association decided to launch preparation procedures for the WVAC2022 to take place on 28-31 March 2022 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The WVAC2022 will be a hybrid congress and accommodate both physical and virtual delegates, and the venue will be prepared to ensure the safety of attendees, including suitable Covid-19 protection measures. More information regarding the WVAC2022 will be published soon.

In February 2024, the WVA and South Africa Veterinary Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding to organise the WVAC2024 in Cape Town, South Africa, on 14-19th April 2024.
WVA VIRTUAL SEMINARS

7th Annual WVA Global One Health Summit
On 26th April, during the WVAC2020 virtual congress, the WVA held its 7th WVA Global One Health Summit focusing on *Climate Change and its Future Impact on Disease Burdens, Food Security, and the Economy*. The Summit was offered free to all global viewers and included presentations by representatives of the WHO, OIE, FAO, WMA and IVSA. The Summit was concluded with a panel discussion, addressing questions by the audience. The recording of the 7th Summit meeting can be found [HERE](#).

WVA Global Seminar on Animal Welfare
On 2nd May 2020, the WVA Global Seminar on Animal Welfare returned – this year with a theme of *equine welfare*. The seminar began with a variety of eye-opening presentations centred on the quality of life of equids. It addressed many situations commonly encountered in the equine field, including retirement, rescue and rehoming, sanctuary care, slaughter for meat and by-products, and euthanasia. The AW Seminar included presentations from FAO, Donkey Sanctuary, Horse Trust, Brooke and the World Horse Welfare. The seminar was concluded with a stimulating panel discussion on end-of-life decision-making for equids. During the discussion, the panellists addressed several relevant topics, including measuring the quality of life in equids, the Ejiao trade, the challenges of equine euthanasia, and more! The recording of the panel session is available [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Live Panel Session
On 15th May 2020, the WVAC2020 concluded with a *COVID-19 live panel session* bringing together some of the world’s most influential veterinary voices to address issues such as the role of animals in the COVID-19 pandemic, associated risk mitigation, food safety and security, public health impact, vaccine development and implementation, the differing approaches taken by various nations and their efficacy, the role of veterinary organisations in the pandemic, and long-term challenges for the veterinary profession. The recording of the COVID-19 panel session can be found [HERE](#).
The WVA Virtual Seminar on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Veterinary Profession
On 29th October 2020, the WVA held a follow-up event to present preliminary research findings and discuss the impact of the SARS-CoV2 pandemic on various veterinary services worldwide. The talks were followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session, bringing together all speakers and additional veterinary leaders. The WVA President concluded the seminar by stressing the importance of utilising the pandemic to keep our governments and the general public aware of the critical role and capacity of the veterinary profession in tackling global one health and one welfare challenges. The recording of the free virtual seminar can be found [HERE](#).

WVA Virtual Seminar on Food Security
Due to the continuing pandemic situation, no travel and in-person meetings are planned for 2021. The WVA Council decided to organise three WVA Virtual Seminars in 2021 to maintain continuing education benefits for WVA members.

The first virtual seminar on the theme of Food Security will take place on 29th April 2021, 15:00 – 17:00 CEST. This seminar aims to raise awareness and promote the role of veterinarians in achieving global food security through the establishment of relevant partnerships with other professionals, integrating veterinary expertise into current and future global food security programs and identifying possible workforce opportunities for veterinarians outside of clinical practice. Click [HERE](#) to register for free. The Second virtual seminar will take place in June 2021, focusing on the theme of Veterinary Education and the third event in fall 2021 with a theme to be confirmed. All the WVA virtual events will be available for free on the WVA media channels after the live stream.

WVA/H4A - Innovation in Veterinary Care Webinar
In April 2021, HealthforAnimals and the WVA agreed to host a webinar on 4th June 2021 for the global animal health community on the role of innovation in improving veterinary care. The objective will be to bring together the private sector, veterinarians and IGOs to discuss how these technologies will reach animal caretakers in coming years and help deliver on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More information about the webinar will be published soon.
PRESS RELEASES

All the WVA Press releases can be found HERE.

WORLD VETERINARY DAY AWARD

On 27th December 2020, WVA President Dr Patricia Turner presented virtually the World Veterinary Day Award (WVDA) to the Indian Veterinary Association – Kerala. Since the 2000s, World Veterinary Day (WVD) is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April to recognise the work of veterinarians and their contributions to the advancement of animal health, welfare, and public health worldwide. The WVA and HealthforAnimals worked together to organise the 2020 WVDA to reward the most successful contribution by members of the veterinary profession on the selected annual theme: Environmental Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health.

The WVA and HealthforAnimals received several project submissions from Member Associations around the world, each one highlighting impressive work by veterinarians in the areas of environmental protection and sustainability. After careful consideration, IVA-Kerala was selected as the winner of the WVDA 2020. Their application truly captures the spirit of WVD and underlines the strong commitment of Indian veterinary professionals to the profession’s advancement. In February 2021, WVA and HealthforAnimals launched the WVDA 2021, focusing on the Veterinarian response to the Covid-19 crisis. The deadline for application submission is 24th May 2021.
PARTICIPATION IN VETERINARY EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD

In the past year, the WVA Officers, Council members and Secretariat have represented the WVA in several virtual veterinary events taking place around the world as well as in many informal and bilateral meetings. While we have greatly missed meeting up with friends and colleagues from various associations, partner groups, and sponsoring worldwide, we have tried to take advantage of the virtual opportunity to keep our connections and community strong.