

WVA NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2021

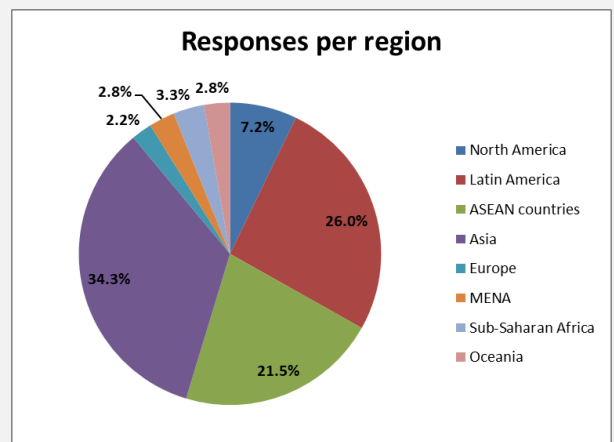
A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT: DR. PATRICIA TURNER



Dear Colleagues,

Despite continuing challenges with COVID-19, 2021 was a busy year for the World Veterinary Association with the launch of several major projects and the continuation of many activities with committee members, partners, and sponsors. I've highlighted progress on a few activities below.

In January, the WVA launched an educational project via the Veterinary Education-Strategic Focus Group and through funding support received from the AAVMC's Committee on International Veterinary Medical Education (CIVME). The aims of this project were: 1) to develop a global list of national or regional associations [councils] of veterinary medical colleges and veterinary accreditation bodies; 2) to survey veterinary colleges globally about current practices for developing and updating veterinary medical curricula, including educational quality assessment standards, internal and external reviews of the program, and strategies to meet national and regional veterinary workforce demands; and 3) to develop a self-assessment tool for veterinary colleges to use in regions or countries without formal accreditation systems. A global list was developed, and a survey was sent out to veterinary colleges between July to October of 2021. Approximately 250 responses were received representing over 180 veterinary institutions from around the world. The breakdown by region is depicted in the figure. Analysis of the responses is ongoing, and a full report will be presented at the upcoming WVA Congress in March of 2022. We thank all respondents for their participation!



A self-assessment tool was developed and presented as part of the OIE's sub-regional virtual workshop on veterinary education establishment on accreditation in September 2021. The tool intends to support the stepwise progression of standards development for nonaccredited veterinary schools around the world.

In May of 2021, the WVA launched a new project together with the FAO and HealthforAnimals on [Sustainable Business for Training for Veterinary Paraprofessionals](#) (VPPs). This project is funded through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and it 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 training and competency acquisition for VPPs. The three countries selected to participate in this pilot project are Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda.

A third major project was overseen by the Pharmaceutical Stewardship-Strategic Focus Group – that of developing an [essential medicines list for food animals](#). The project was launched in September 2021 and species-focused working groups are completing surveys on regional medication and biologics use as part of this process. This project is expected to wrap up in early 2022.

The One Health-Strategic Focus Group supported a [virtual conference on food security](#) in 2021, as well as working on [various position statements](#) and a new factsheet on [avian influenza](#). Because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the WVA partnered with the OIE in July of 2021 to issue a [statement](#) petitioning governments around the world to recognize veterinarians as essential health workers and ensure that they are prioritized for vaccination.

The WVA's Animal Welfare-Strategic Focus Group was busy creating position statements and a factsheet on the use of horses for therapeutic and biologics production, pain in food animals, animal depopulation, and welfare issues associated with [brachycephalic dogs](#), respectively, as well as updating the WVA's position statement on the role of [veterinarians in supporting animal welfare](#).

Together with various partners and sponsors, the WVA was able to maintain the [World Veterinary Day Award](#) (HealthforAnimals), the global animal welfare awards (Ceva), and assist with the selection of [80 veterinary student scholarships](#) (MSD). In addition, the WVA partnered with HealthforAnimals to co-host a webinar on [innovations in animal health](#) in 2021 and has supported the tripartite ongoing development of a One Health field epidemiology training program for global health professionals. The WVA also continued activities as part of the [Action for Animal Health Coalition](#), which hosted a session at the C20 civil society summit in October as well as lobbying attendees at the G20 meeting on the need for coordinated global action on animal health.

These represent just a few of the activities for the WVA over the past year. This work would not be possible without the support of our dedicated Secretariat and we were delighted to welcome Ms Emma van Rooijen as the WVA Policy Officer in October. We are so grateful for the support of all our member associations, as well as subject matter expert volunteers, partners, and sponsors for the continuing support. By working together we are able to achieve so much more for veterinarians around the world, even during difficult times! We look forward to seeing colleagues as well as making new contacts at the upcoming [37th WVA Congress](#) in Abu Dhabi at the end of March 2022.

On behalf of the WVA Council and Secretariat, I wish you and your families peace, joy, and good health for the coming year!

**Yours respectfully,
Dr Patricia Turner
World Veterinary Association, President**

The WVA needs your expertise and opinion in preparing a cohesive global message on our role as veterinarians for the global public good. As Constituent & Observer Members of the WVA, we welcome your input in our discussions! Don't be left out of the process!

PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFO-NEWS TO YOUR MEMBERS

If interested in learning more, please contact:

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