



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION

WVA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW WVA PRESIDENT - DR PATRICIA TURNER



Practicing Self-Care After the Pandemic

Dear WVA Members,

The past several months have been especially challenging for veterinarians and their families, employees, and clients. On top of fear of SARS CoV-2 infection, restrictions on travel, and missing out on seeing our extended families and friends, we've seen significant reductions in client-patient visits and requests for veterinary work, with worrisome loss of income and increase in debt load. For veterinary students and early career veterinarians, there are added concerns about how they will be able to complete their studies and kick off their careers. After a crisis is one of the most difficult times for coping as we begin to face the challenges ahead and there is a real danger of despair setting in. Social scientists have predicted that, on average, 3 in every 10 people will experience a mental health issue in the next 3-9 months as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic. What will be the long term impact on the veterinary profession and how will we successfully move forward? As a profession, we will make it through the challenges ahead by building resiliency in ourselves and others. Resiliency is not about enduring in a crisis or disaster, but it is about developing an effective means of recovering from challenges and failures. Resiliency encompasses fostering coping skills in ourselves, making and finding meaning in the life that we have around us, looking after our physical well-being and emotional health, and seeking social support. As we recover from the current pandemic threat, we need to shift our focus to the present, and specifically, to things that are under our control. This requires some discipline, as the human brain is geared to focus on danger and threats to survival. There are many excellent online resources for veterinarians – some free – that provide more information on self-care and building resiliency. Uncertain times are still ahead, but it is only by being compassionate to ourselves and thankful for what we have in the present, that veterinarians can begin to think about the future and about returning to caring for others.

With sincere regards,
Dr Patricia Turner
World Veterinary Association, President

WVA WELCOMES NEW POLICY OFFICER, DR. SAMANTHA MORICI

Dr. Morici completed her undergraduate studies in biology and animal science at Cornell University prior to earning her veterinary degree from Auburn University in 2018. She discovered her passion for veterinary policy and international veterinary affairs very early in her career and joins the WVA with a strong background in association work. As a veterinary student, Dr. Morici served as the International Exchange Officer of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA), Co-Chair of the SAVMA International Veterinary Experience Committee, and as the External Relations Officer of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). Following veterinary school, she honed her clinical skills through a one-year rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the Animal Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Morici then went on to work as a research/project lead for the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) for a short period before joining the WVA. As the Veterinary Policy Officer, Dr. Morici will be responsible for driving forward the policy initiatives of the Association in addition to expanding the capacity of the WVA Secretariat. In her free time, she can be found reading, learning a new language, or exploring the world with her dog, Luca.



THE WVA AND AAALAC INTERNATIONAL SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The WVA and AAALAC International (accredits institutions around the globe that use animals in research, teaching and testing) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining ways the two organisations will work together to promote animal health and welfare. As part of the MoU, both organisations committed to working together on specific goals to improve animal health and welfare worldwide. *“Research animals, including those studied in agricultural research and wildlife studied as part of ecosystem health initiatives, are not equally protected in every country, and veterinarians do not always receive sufficient training and education in how best to meet the needs of these animals* said Dr. Patricia Turner, WVA President. *This MoU represents an opportunity for the WVA and AAALAC International to strengthen veterinarians’ education and role in this sector.”* Click [HERE](#) for the full press release.



NOMINATE YOUR EXPERTS TO SERVE ON THE WVA POLICY COMMITTEE AND STRATEGIC FOCUS GROUPS (SFG)

Recently, the WVA Council adopted the WVA Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 (based on the results of the WVA Member survey) to focus on Animal Welfare, One Health, Pharmaceutical Stewardship and Veterinary Education. The WVA relies on a diverse global network of scientific experts to drive forward the work of the WVA and is now working on the composition of these new groups. Therefore, the WVA would like to invite its constituent members to nominate experts to these groups. This is a wonderful opportunity for WVA Constituent Members to play a direct role in shaping the policy and projects of the WVA. We need your expertise and participation! For more information and application forms, please contact the [WVA secretariat](#).



The WVA needs your expertise and participation for the world to hear our message on our role as veterinarians for the global public good. We need your input as Constituent Members or Observers for our discussions. Don't be left out of the process!

Please forward this info-news to your members

WVA • Avenue de Tervueren 12 •



1040 Brussels • secretariat@worldvet.org