

Post-Event Report

37th WVA Congress
29-31 March 2022



37th WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION CONGRESS
ABU DHABI, UAE
28 - 31 MARCH 2022

جاهزية، مسؤولية، ابتكار، مستقبل - Readiness, responsibility, innovation, future



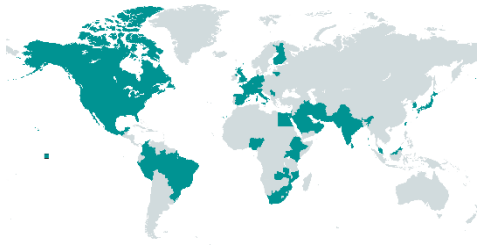
WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION

Overview

The 37th World Veterinary Association Congress was held from the 29th to the 31st of March, 2022. The congress was held as a hybrid event in Abu Dhabi, UAE which allowed delegates to participate fully online. Due to the global pandemic, many WVA members were not able to participate in person, as the travel rules and regulations vary in the countries around the world. Despite the risks and difficulty of organizing a hybrid congress, the WVAC was a great success due to the commitment and hard work of the local organizers, led by Dr Roula Shabaan of the Emirates Veterinary Association (EVA), the speakers and the WVA leadership.



839 in-person delegates



>30 countries



181 virtual delegates

As one of the first congresses to allow in-person participation, it was a pleasure to host 839 delegates in person and interact with 181 delegates virtually from 27 countries. The 3 congress days were packed with interesting lectures by more than 70 expert speakers, delivering 6 parallel streams of CE. These lectures covered a wide range of topics, including animal welfare, epidemiology, food safety, camelids, education, wildlife conservation, the latest technologies, One Health and many more.

This report is a summary showcasing selected events and WVA activities held at the WVAC 2022.

Opening Ceremony

The WVA Congress 2022 was opened on the 29th of March, 2022 with an Opening Ceremony. During the ceremony, the delegates were welcomed by WVA President, Dr Patricia Turner, the President of the Emirates Veterinary Association, Dr Roula Shabaan as well as addresses from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, by His Excellency Eng. Saif Mohammed Rashid Saeed Al Shara and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture & Food Safety Authority, by His Excellency Rashed Mohamed Ali Alrasas Almansoori.



8th Annual WVA Global One Health Summit

On 30 March 2022, the 8th Annual WVA Global One Health Summit with high-level support from the OIE and WHO was held. This year's theme was: *The Role of Private Public Partnership in Preventing the Next Pandemic*. The participants were welcomed by the moderator, Dr Bernadette Abela-Ridder (Team Leader Neglected Zoonosis Diseases at the WHO). The opening address was given by Dr Rafael Laguens, the WVA President.

Dr Monique Eloit (Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), followed and welcomed the participants, virtually and in person. She expressed that the OIE and WVA have a strong partnership and both hope to strengthen this even more at this event. Dr Eloit explained that the pandemic has shown that partnerships can create rapid and innovative solutions. Now, these



partnerships have to be made sustainable and streamlined into our structures worldwide. The robustness of the processes should be built before a crisis, to enable an adequate response to a crisis. Our traditional partnerships should reach out and include other sectors, as One Health principles now also welcome environmental science. She explained that the tripartite with the WHO has been expanded [to include the UN Environmental Program](#). The collaboration is working on creating a One Health action plan, which adopts One Health with a broader perspective to include human health, animal health and the health of plants and the environment. This plan aims to create sustainable solutions for the sustainable future of the planet. Next, it is important to set clear goals, responsibilities, and timelines. Private-Public-Partnerships (PPP) need to be in place to support the implementation of the plan. The OIE encourages its members to engage in such partnerships. To engage in commitments to create global and regional policies that are inclusive of all stakeholders, including the private sectors. A paper was drafted with the WHO and World Bank [addressed at the G20](#), to focus on One Health. Dr Eloit emphasized that One Health must not only be a principle but needs to be able to be implemented in the field.

Dr Jan Vaarten (former FVE Executive Director and WVA Executive Secretary) followed with a presentation on “The Importance of Private-Public-Partnerships (PPP) in Preventing and Combating Endemic and Pandemic Diseases”. He explained that the principles of the public and private sectors in preventing and fighting diseases are equally important in humans, animals and plants. If we do not look at the circumstances that allowed the virus to flow over from animals to humans, we will have the next pandemic on our doorstep. He continued by highlighting that PPPs is a joint approach in which the public and private sectors agree on responsibilities and share resources and risks to achieve common objectives that sustainably deliver benefits.



private veterinarians still work in the interest of the client and the public. PPP is needed in the prevention and control of pandemics to ensure good coordination, authority, adequate facilities, qualified and reliable people, diagnostics, vaccines and other support services. He concluded that neither the public sector nor the private sector can provide these parts alone, so they will need to collaborate.

Dr Isabelle Ieuzy-Labaye (Senior Advisor Partnerships at the OIE) next presented “Private Public Partnership – Success Story – A Case Study”. She then explained that in 2019 the OIE released the

OIE PPP handbook of guidelines to develop impactful and sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen national Veterinary Services. Several projects have been initiated by the OIE since 2016 and she shared some examples from Tunisia and Latin America.

Jennifer-Christelle Essolomwa (Regulatory Affairs Officer at Health for Animals) then presented on the joint project of the EuFMD-FAO, HealthforAnimals and the WVA on “Sustainable Business in Animal Health Service Provision through Training for Veterinary Paraprofessionals”. She explained that the project aims to bridge the qualification gap for veterinary para-professionals to improve the quality of animal health services in Africa. In many rural areas, people still depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The 3 pillars of the project are; competency-based training, certification and support to the Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPP) business environment.



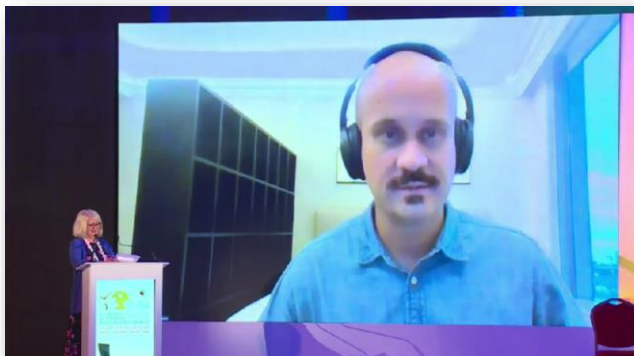
Anna Ciekiewicz (President of the International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA)) addressed the delegates and explained that One Health focused on collaboration, which includes the innovative abilities of students as they are full of ideas to bring to the table. The summit concluded with a Q&A panel discussion. The new WVA President, Dr Rafael Laguens provided a summary of the presentations and the discussion, thanked the speakers, panellists and participants and closed the Summit. The full 8th WVA Summit recording can be found [HERE](#).

WVA Animal Welfare Seminar on Pain Management in Livestock

The WVA Global One Health Summit was followed by the WVA Animal Welfare Seminar on Pain Management in Livestock on 30 March 2022. WVA President, Dr Rafael Laguens opened the seminar and welcomed Dr Patricia Turner to set the stage. She addressed the lack of validated tools for the assessment of pain in farm animals. She presented some results of the survey for the Essential Medicines List that showed that 15% of the respondents indicated not having access to any pain-relieving medication for animals.



Dr Paulo Steagall (Professor of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Pain Management, City University of Hong Kong and Université de Montréal) followed with a presentation on "*Pain Management in Livestock*". He addressed the importance of pain management in livestock and the cost-benefit of pain management that is supported by the literature. He emphasized that pain is neglected, underrecognized and undertreated in farm animals. The legislative framework must meet the animal needs. Dr Steagall emphasized that future veterinarians need to be educated better on pain management. He presented behavioural changes due to pain, in different farm animals and that a Bovine Pain Scale is under development and will result in a useful pain assessment tool for

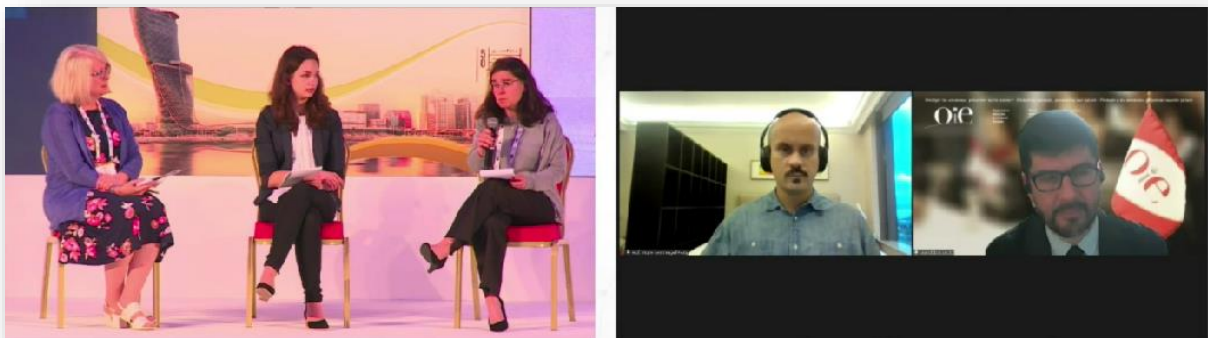


cattle. He explained that pain therapy needs to be improved and this includes understanding anatomy and pharmacology in different species, reviewing the cost/benefit, and using alternative therapies or methods as well as new technologies. As a closing remark, animal welfare considerations are no longer optional.

Dr Leopoldo Stuardo (Scientific Coordinator - Animal Welfare, Standards Department, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)) addressed the delegates next and explained that the OIE has developed animal welfare standards that are included in the terrestrial and aquatic code. Pain management has been an important topic and focus area when creating the chapters on animal welfare in the code.

Dr Nancy de Briyne (Executive Director of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)) spoke next and explained that pain management has been high on the agenda of the FVE. The FVE has been working on several projects and collaborating with other associations to improve animal welfare. It is important to have practical protocols, that need to be established on a national level due to the varying therapeutic availability. In a previous survey, FVE members were asked to indicate what they feel are important areas of animal welfare and pain management ranked in the top 5 for species.

Anna Cieckowicz (IVSA President) in the final presentation expressed that IVSA has a policy paper on the five freedoms and has a standing committee on animal welfare. IVSA is committed to raising awareness of the five freedoms, especially freedom of pain as well as the inequality in animal welfare between species. They promote this among their members, through their social media channels and their animal welfare ambassadors worldwide.



WVA President, Dr Rafael Laguens provided a summary of the presentations and the discussion, thanked the speakers, panellists and participants and closed the seminar. The full WVA Animal Welfare Seminar recording can be found [HERE](#).

WVA Veterinary Education Seminar on Global Quality Standards for Veterinary Education

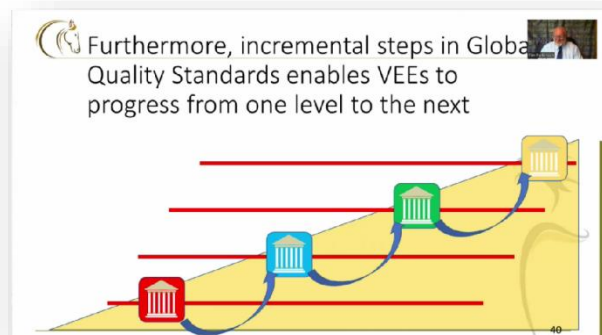
The day was concluded with the WVA Veterinary Education Seminar on Global Quality Standards for Veterinary Education – moderated by Dr Nancy de Bryine. WVA President, Dr Rafael Laguens opened the seminar and welcomed Dr Patricia Turner to set the stage.

Dr Patricia Turner (WVA Immediate Past President) presented the Global VEE Quality Standards Project, which was co-founded by CIVME. The aim is to create an updated list of veterinary educational establishments (VEE), develop a list of standards for VEEs to conduct program quality assessments and conduct a survey of VEEs to determine the needs for the standards and self-evaluation tools. The survey received 184 eligible responses from 43 countries. She presented some of the responses received.

Dr Tim Parkinson (Professor of Farm Animal Reproduction & Health at Massey University) followed with the keynote speech. He explained that the Veterinary Statutory Bodies register veterinarians based on their local accreditation or other accreditation body. These accreditation requirements look at the standards of the education of the veterinarian. The OIE has created Day 1

Competencies for veterinary education that are often used by veterinary statutory bodies to set the standards for accreditation. He expressed the need for 4 levels of standards, the lower set with the OIE Day 1 Competencies and the higher-level set with the criteria set by global accreditation bodies with 2 intermediate levels to help bridge the gap. He reiterated that it is incremental to create steps to allow VEEs to plan the development from the lower to the higher level. Dr Parkinson concluded that Global Quality Standards for Veterinary Education would provide veterinary statutory bodies with clear benchmarks for the assessment of graduates for registration.

Dr Mohamed Alhosani (Director of the GCC and Yemen Office and OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Abu Dhabi) then presented “*Veterinary Education Establishment Accreditation*”. Veterinary Education is the keystone of veterinary services. The OIE aims to ensure



high-quality veterinary education globally. An assessment done by the OIE on Performance of Veterinary Services showed that VEEs were not adequately preparing their veterinary graduates and that continuing education for veterinary staff is weak and not fit for purpose. Dr Alhosani explained that these outcomes then lead to the creation of the Day 1 Competencies. He presented other programs and activities, such as the VEE Twinning Program, Competency



Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals, Continuing Education, and the OIE Training Portal. He concluded that OIE is an international leader in animal health and partner in public health and it is working continuously to support veterinary services and veterinary education in the member countries.

Dr Achariya Sailasuta (Chair of the ASEAN Veterinary Statutory Body Network and Professor at Chulalongkorn University) presented a “*Case study: Australia/Thailand Twinning Project to Improve VEE Accreditation Standards*”. She explained that the OIE PVS evaluation in 2012 ranked the University Bangkok a level 2 and that their goal was then to reach level 4 or 5. The OIE VSB Twinning Program was set up between the Veterinary Council Thailand (VCT) and the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. Four workshops were organized to facilitate knowledge exchange between 2018 - 2020. As a result of the program, the VCT has revised the VEE accreditation standards and an Ad Hoc Group on ASEAN VEE Accreditation Standards has been formed.



The seminar concluded with a Q&A panel discussion, which included the speakers as well as Anna Ciekowicz (IVSA President) and Dr Deborah Thomson (Chair of the WVA subgroup on One Health Education and Founder of One Health Lessons). WVA President, Dr Rafael Laguens provided a summary of the presentations and the discussion, thanked the speakers, panellists and participants and closed the seminar. The full WVA Veterinary Education Seminar recording can be found [HERE](#).

WVA-Ceva Global Animal Welfare Awards

The WVA-Ceva Global Animal Welfare Award 2021 aims to recognize people and institutions for their dedication and outstanding work going 'above and beyond' to protect and safeguard the welfare of animals and promoting the animal welfare concept and approach in their daily life.

The official award ceremony was held during the 37th World Veterinary Association Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE to present the awards to 6 veterinarians, a veterinary student, a veterinary nurse and the University of Veterinary Medicine. During the ceremony, short videos were presented highlighting the work of each of the award recipients in their respective fields under a single common goal – improving the welfare of animals.



[Watch the livestream of the ceremony here](#)

The WVA and Ceva Santé Animale are thrilled to continue their collaborations to underline and recognise the work done by outstanding people and institutions to advance animal welfare.

The winners are:

- Dr Caryn Rademeyer - South Africa (category: veterinarian from Africa)
- Dr Vijitha Perera - Sri Lanka (category: veterinarian from Asia & Oceania)
- Dr Axel Kornerup Hansen – Denmark (category: veterinarian from Europe)
- Dr Juan C Carrascal – Colombia (category: veterinarian from Latin America)
- Dr Wadmia Matar AIDhaheri – UAE (category: veterinarian from the Middle East)
- Dr Jimmy Tickel – USA (category: veterinarian from North America)
- Ana Pascaud – France (category: veterinary student)
- Debbie Whitten – USA (category: veterinary nurse)
- University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany (category: veterinary school)

[Read the full press release here](#)

WVAC2022 Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony of the 2022 World Veterinary Association Congress was held on the 31st of March 2022. The congress was officially concluded with closing remarks from Dr Roula Shabaan, EVA President, and Dr Rafael Laguens, WVA President. In his address, Dr Laguens thanked all the speakers, organizers, exhibitors, participants, sponsors, the WVA leadership and the convention centre staff for making an extraordinary congress possible. He explained that on 10 September



2019, the WVA Council approved the proposal to hold the 37th WVA Congress in Abu Dhabi. At that time, no one could have imagined what would happen in the following years. The restrictions that were implemented, forced the association to transform the WVA congress 2022 into a virtual congress and to postpone the congress scheduled for 2021 in Taiwan. The ongoing and changing uncertainties made it seem doubtful that this congress, which is now closing, could be held. However, the determination of the people and entities mentioned above made this historic congress possible. Dr Laguens expressed that those who were lucky enough to be present in person, have experienced the joy of meeting face-to-face with the friends and colleagues that make up the veterinary community. One of the reasons why Abu Dhabi was selected as a host, was to choose a part of the world that has never held a WVA congress. To introduce the WVA to the veterinarians in this region, and to invite them to join our family, but also because the Middle East is a part of the world where the history of veterinary medicine begins.



He continued that this congress has had humanity, the humanity that the people of Abu Dhabi and the UAE have shown and the face of these people: Dr Roula Shabaan. Sustainability, because together we have managed to give continuity and sustainability to the WVA Congress in these challenging times, 150 years after the first congress was held in 1863. Innovation, because only with the innovation and technology used in this event, has it been possible to stay connected with those who participated virtually. Future, because this congress will help share the future of the WVA and the veterinary profession in the Middle East and the rest of the world. This congress will be a model that will be used to organize other congresses, not only for veterinarians but also for other professionals. He concluded by expressing his hope to have encouraged and inspired the organization of the 38th WVA Congress in Taipei, Taiwan in 2023.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next World Veterinary Association Congress!



WVAC 2023

**38th WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION CONGRESS**



Taipei, Taiwan | April 26-29, 2023 | www.wvac2023.com