



President
John de Jong

President's message

Colleagues and Friends,

It is my humbling honor to write to you all for the first time in my new role as your President of the WVA! I envision great things ahead for us and for our profession as we work collaboratively to improve animal health and also the health of humans and the environment. It is my goal for us to be more visible and transparent than ever before as we protect and promote our profession. It is up to us to advocate for veterinarians and veterinary medicine to governments, regulatory authorities, and the public at large to better understand the breadth and depth of what we do!

Our recent World Veterinary Association Congress was hosted by the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) and we can all thank them for hosting us so wonderfully in Cape Town. We had over 1500 registrants and excellent programming throughout. Supported by Ceva Santé Animale, we held our WVA Global Veterinary Awards ceremony with well deserving recipients in several categories and [Dr. Simon Doherty recognized as Veterinarian of the Year 2024.](#)

A week later, your WVA hosted World Veterinary Day with the theme this year being, Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers, [and we are!](#) It is incumbent on all individual veterinarians and veterinary organizations to take great pride in the work that we do locally, regionally, nationally, and globally and to be sure to find our voices and articulate all that we do.

Soon after the Congress and a wonderful African safari where my wife and I observed beautiful animals in their natural environments, I returned home and got right to work.

Within days, I filmed a video for the Iranian Association of Veterinarians, a video for a veterinary school in Turkey, and did a live greeting for a regional conference on anesthetics in India. I have made assignments for our Council to serve on our four Working Groups – Animal Welfare, One Health, Pharmaceutical Stewardship, and Veterinary Education. We will also soon be asking for volunteers to serve on these as well as some of our core committees. Importantly, I am establishing a Strategy Committee so that we may put together a new strategic plan for 2025-2030 to follow our current plan from 2020-2025.

Time Magazine has just published the Time100 Most Influential People in Health of 2024. Imagine my disappointment in not finding one veterinarian among those listed! I am submitting a letter in the hope that they recognize our profession and how essential veterinarians are now and in the future among the global leaders in health.

Next week, I will be attending the United Nations Multi-stakeholder hearing on Antimicrobial Resistance. They do understand the relevance and significant role of veterinarians on this important topic. In our next newsletter, I will update you on the busy calendar of global meetings that I will be attending to spread the message of the WVA and all that we do. I look forward to meeting many of you and working together in the years ahead in the hope that we can grow the WVA and the success of all that we do.