

Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting of the WAHVM

**Thursday 9th September 2004,
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Turin,
Grugliasco (Torino), Italy**

1. The President, Dr. P. A. Koolmees, and the incoming President, Prof. G. Forstenpointner, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the members present and wished them fruitful discussions.

The Board and Liaison Committee of the WAHVM met yesterday (8th September) for general discussions and preparation of this General Assembly Meeting.

During this year's 35th International Congress of the WAHVM and the simultaneous IV Congresso Italiano di Storia della Medicina 73 oral presentations and 26 poster presentations are given. All credits go to Prof. M. Galloni who, together with his team, organized the Congress(es). The English-Italian interpreters are doing an excellent job and therefore the WAHVM is grateful to them.

The President expressed a special welcome to Dr. S. Jones from the USA, who is with us for the first time and will organize next year's Congress.

2. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted. The President confirmed that the number of voting rights present (31 out of 56 and 1 additional representative of Mexico) allows us to take the necessary decisions. It was decided that non-members of the Association could attend and participate in the meeting.

The Honorary President Prof. Dr. E.-H. Lochmann indicated that he was unable to attend this Congress and sent us his best regards. Prof. Dr. K.-D. Fischer (Mainz, Germany) and Prof. Dr. J. Kovats (Hungary) sent their regards. The Treasurer, Dr. P. Paulsen, is unable to attend this year's Congress/Meetings and sent his regards. The President of the WAHVM received a letter from the Chinese Association indicating that they are willing to get into closer contact with the WAHVM.

The Board decided to award the Cheiron medals for 2004 to Prof. Dr. A. Veggetti and to Prof. Dr. A. Mantovani in recognition of their contributions for the advancement of the history of veterinary medicine and/or for their contributions to the WAHVM and its activities. The medals will be conferred tomorrow night during a special ceremony.

3. The minutes of the General Assembly Meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2003 at Mexico City, Mexico, were adopted and ratified by the President and Secretary.

4. The WAHVM Annual Report 2003 was adopted. The Board is grateful to the former Secretary, Dr. P. Leeflang, for his excellent work. As elected

5. The WAHVM Financial Report 2003 was presented and discussed.

6. The Meeting endorsed the 2003 cash auditing report by Dr. J. B. Berns, member of the cash auditing committee, which was read by the President, and exonerated the Treasurer and the entire Board from their financial responsibilities for the year 2003.

7. The Meeting elected Dr. J. B. Berns (The Netherlands) and Dr. Ch. Mache (Austria) as members of the cash auditing committee 2004.

8. The Treasurer and the Secretary suggested to keep the various subscription rates for 2005 unchanged:

National Societies US\$ 5.00 per full member,

National Societies in Europe € 4.00 per full member,

Individual members US\$ 20.00 or € 15.00,

Veterinary Schools US\$ 200.00 or € 160.00,

Veterinary Libraries US\$ 100.00 or € 80.00,

Veterinary Museums US\$ 50.00 or € 40.00.

This proposal was adopted.

9. The proposed budget for the year 2005 was discussed. As the Cheiron medal will be replaced by a diploma the expenses for coinage can be skipped. The Veterinary History Retrospective Bibliography Database on CD-ROM will be sold by a commercial firm from now on and, therefore, the yearly planned costs charged to the WAHVM can be omitted. The Secretary reported that the planned expenses for running the secretariat will be most probably reduced, because the WAHVM Secretariat will be supported financially by the Institute of Anatomy and the Institute of Meat Hygiene of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. The proposed budget for 2005 was adopted.

10. The Secretary referred to the membership list on the 31st August 2004:

- 13 National Societies (912 members in total)
- 52 individual paying members (+ 7 new members during this year's Congress!)
- 4 Veterinary Schools
- 1 Veterinary Association and
- 2 Veterinary museums, together 7 associate members.

11. The Board and Liaison Committee proposed to the Meeting to award diplomas ("Cheiron award") instead of medals from 2005 on and to award a Cheiron diploma in 2005 to our member Prof. Dr. Robert H. Dunlop (USA). Dr. S. Jones gave some comments on the excellent work of Prof. Dunlop in the field of Veterinary History and reported that the American Association had voted for Prof. Dunlop in July 2004. Another proposal nominating Dr. O. Stalheim (USA) was not approved. The audience did not come up with other nominations. The Meeting decided accordingly to the proposals of the Board and Liaison Committee. The Board is expecting a proposal from the Spanish Association for the Cheiron award in 2006.

12/13. Future International Congresses/Congress themes:

The 36th Congress in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, 13th-16th July 2005 (the World Veterinary Congress will be on 16th-20th July):

The Board and Liaison Committee recommended to the Meeting to accept the following themes for this Congress:

- History of veterinary therapeutics (history of the discovery and use of veterinary pharmaceuticals, history of veterinary materia medica, history of homeopathic and other "alternative" veterinary therapeutics)

- History of developments in veterinary medicine during and after wartime, with emphasis on the Second World War and later wars (veterinarians in international and national voluntary work, specific

contributions/official roles of veterinarians in wartime, impact of wars on the development of veterinary medicine, changes in veterinary medicine as a result of war experiences, animals in warfare and recovery)

- open session.

The Meeting endorsed the recommendations by the Board and Liaison Committee. The President expressed our thanks to Dr. S. Jones and her team for organizing the 36th Congress. We are looking forward to visit Minneapolis next year.

The 37th International Congress at León, Spain, 2006: The Spanish Society will prepare a proposal for the Congress themes during its national meeting in October 2004.

The Board and Liaison Committee proposed to the Meeting to postpone the Congress in Switzerland (planned for 2007) to 2008 and from then on, to plan biannual congresses. This proposal was accepted by the Meeting.

The 38th International Congress in Switzerland, 2008: The offer has been made by Board member Dr. M. Becker.

The 39th International Congress in Turkey, 2010: The offer has been made by Prof. F. Dinçer and his colleagues.

The 40th International Congress in The Netherlands, 2012: The offer has been made by our President, also Board member of the Dutch Society on the History of Veterinary Medicine.

The new congress theme "Human-animal relationship: past and presence" arose, which might be included in the congress 2008. Board member Dr. M. Becker (Switzerland) argued that this should be discussed within the Swiss Society. Furthermore, he proposed that future congresses should be held exclusively in English. The President P. Koolmees recommended that selection of language(s) should be decided by the local organizers and that they will be responsible for providing translation services. Drs A. Mathijsen (The Netherlands) proposed that workshops (e. g., "historical writing", "literature search", "photographic techniques", "search on the Internet", "oral history") should be included within the congresses. The President P. Koolmees replied that this can be done locally and that the main purpose of congresses is to present results from research. Drs. A. Mathijsen advised the Board to invite researchers who work in the mentioned fields.

14. Reports by the various WAHVM working groups:

- Veterinary Museums:

The WAHVM homepage includes a list of the veterinary museums in the world. There are new activities in Argentina and Italy. Our webmaster should be informed about new developments.

- Veterinary education and curriculum development:

A handbook is proposed, which will be edited by P. Koolmees, J. Schäffer and S. Jones. Board member Prof. J. Schäffer recommended to include a chapter on Sources/Methodology. This handbook might be published on the Internet and/or as a printed book(let).

- International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography:

Drs. A. Mathijsen reported that 308 biographies out of 36 countries are present by August 2004 but large countries are missing. He reported, that at least 500 biographies will be the target. Drs. Mathijsen is very

grateful to A. Rosenbom (Denmark), who helped in the digital processing of many manuscripts. Once more all National Societies were challenged to participate in this valuable project.

- Retrospective bibliography:

Drs. Mathijsen reported that the 2nd edition of the CD-ROM is available, which is now produced by a commercial firm. People who wish to order/purchase a copy should contact Drs. Mathijsen.

- WAHVM Homepage:

Although the executive Board changed to Austria, the Homepage will be further on the Utrecht server.

- Proposed working group on "The veterinary hippocratic oath":

The President P. Koolmees presented a proposal by Prof. Sanchez de Lollano (Spain) for establishing a new working group on veterinary oaths. The possible outcome can be a proposal for a worldwide uniform oath. Interested people should contact the Board and the Board will contact the WVA.

15. Composition of the Board:

Dr. Peter Koolmees stepped down as President after his term of 4 years and presented the new President Prof. Dr. Gerhard Forstenpointner (Austria) a specially designed WAHVM-hammer for usage in forthcoming congresses, meetings and ceremonies. Prof. Forstenpointner thanked Dr. Koolmees for his work and the useful present. Prof. Marco Galloni stepped down after his 1 year term according to article 9.3 of the Constitution. Dr. Susan Jones (USA) was elected according to the Constitution. The composition of the Board is:

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Forstenpointner, Austria, President
Dr. Gerald Weissengruber, Austria, Secretary
Dr. Peter Paulsen, Austria, Treasurer
Dr. Max Becker, Switzerland, Member
Dr. Georges Theves, Luxemburg, Member
Prof. Dr. Dr. habil. Johann Schäffer, Germany, Member
Dr. Susan Jones, USA, Member for 1 year

16. The present composition of the Liaison Committee is:

Austria	Prof. Dr. Ch. Stanek
Denmark	Dr. A. Rosenbom
France	Dr. J. Blancou
Finland	Prof. Dr. I. Alitalo
Germany	Dr. R. Grimm
Hungary	Prof. Dr. J. Kovats
Japan	Dr. O. Katsuyama
Mexico	Dr. M. Marquez
The Netherlands	Mrs. Drs. Ingrid Visser
Norway	Dr. J. Kristoffersen
Spain	Dr. M. Pumarola
Switzerland	Dr. K. A. Buchi
USA	Dr. Susan Jones
WAHVM member	Dr. Dr. h. c. I. Katic, Denmark
WAHVM member	Mr. J. O. Broberg MRCVS, UK

17. Contacts with the WVA:

Since the contact to the WVA is more or less restricted to paying a yearly membership fee, the benefits of being an associate member of the WVA and the further procedure should be discussed properly on the next meeting in Minneapolis.

18. Cooperation between WAHVM and *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae*:

The GA-Meeting 2003 endorsed the proposal to continue the present cooperation with HMV for the next two years and to invite the Board to prepare a recommendation for future cooperation, to be discussed at the 2005 GA-Meeting. In the mean time, the Board has the opportunity to publish its newsletters in the 'yellow pages' which are included in issues of HMV and which will be distributed to all WAHVM members.

19. There was ample time for reports by the representatives of the National Societies. In the absence of any reports at this time, the President asked the representatives of the National Societies that the reports should be sent to the Board.

20. The President informed the Meeting that the Board is planning to move the archive of the WAHVM from Utrecht to Vienna. The archive will be incorporated into the historical archive of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna run by Dr. Christa Mache.

Board member Dr. M. Becker informed the Meeting that he received an e-mail from the Chinese Society. He proposed that we should get into closer contact.

21. In the absence of any other business, the President closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to the members present for their contributions and patience during the meeting. He was looking forward to meet everybody again next year in Minneapolis, USA.

G. E. Weissengruber, Secretary

Date of ratification:

Prof. Dr. G. Forstenpointner, President

Dr. G. E. Weissengruber, Secretary

List of Attendance

Dr. P. Koolmees	President, The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. G. Forstenpointner	Incoming President, Austria
Dr. G. Weissengruber	Secretary, Austria
Prof. Dr. M. Galloni	Italy
Dr. S. Jones	USA
Dr. M. Becker	Switzerland
Prof. Dr. J. Schäffer	Germany
Dr. J. Theves	Luxemburg
Dr. I. Katic	Denmark
Prof. A. Mantovani	Italy
Drs. A. Mathijssen	The Netherlands
Dr. M. Marquez	Mexico

Dr. J. Kristoffersen
Dr. J. Blancou
Dr. R. Grimm
Dr. J. Broberg
Dr. C. Henriksen
Dr. A. Rosenbom
Dr. E. Overby
Prof. Dr. I. Alitalo
Dr. R. Roncalli
Dr. E. Dumas

Norway
France
Germany
UK
Denmark
Denmark
Denmark
Finland
USA
France