



# WSAVA

Global Veterinary Development



## CE goes from strength to strength

The WSAVA's continuing education programme supported 30 meetings and helped 4,000 vets during 2011. David Wadsworth reports

**N**ow in its 19th year, the WSAVA's global CE programme for graduate veterinary surgeons continues to be a key focus for us and is, I'm delighted to say, going from strength to strength. In 2011 we supported thirty meetings globally and helped 4000 veterinarians improve their skills – a great achievement! Looking round the world, it is noticeable that our need to provide training in Europe is reducing as most countries in the region now have veterinary associations capable of providing their own meetings. This is a welcome development, enabling us to devote more resources to other regions.

Our Asian section is growing fast for instance. While we've continued to serve the needs of our established partners – India, Sri Lanka and Nepal – under the stewardship of Dr Umesh Karkare from India, we've also started to reach out to other countries including Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines. Our coordinator for these countries is Dr Clement Anthony from Malaysia. You can expect more progress in this region during 2012.

Dr Louis Liu from China has also taken over as our coordinator in China and we're delighted to welcome him. The three meetings in this vast country were lectures by Dr Michael Day who also chairs the One Health committee. Our activities in Latin America are also continuing to grow under the direction of Dr Luis Tello from Chile/US. We undertook ten meetings across the continent during 2011 – a continuing year on year increase.

Meanwhile, Dr Lawson Cairns has taken our programme to sub-Saharan Africa. Running meetings in Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya, he has succeeded in engaging practitioners in the health of small animals rather than the food producing or game animals that we all assume are the norm there. This programme is sponsored entirely by donations from the BSAVA and from NACAM from the Netherlands, two veterinary associations with a long-term view of veterinary education that extends beyond their borders.

Our CE programme would not be possible without the long-term commitment of our partners Bayer Animal Health, MSD Animal Health and Hill's Pet Nutrition. I'd like to thank the representatives from these companies, Drs Meyer, Siebert and Renard, for their personal involvement and for the energy that they put into driving our CE programme forward. Special mention must also be made of Dr Lidiya Alaverdova from Hill's who, mainly in her own time, worked on the successful first WSAVA webinar which was 'attended' by 400 participants from around the world. We plan a follow-up during 2012.

I would also like to thank my colleague Dr Roger Clarke who, after many years overseeing the Asian section, is stepping down in April 2012. Dr Julian Wells is also stepping down after carrying out sterling work in Europe as is Dr Luis Tello in South America.

I will also be retiring in April 2012 and passing the CE baton to my colleague Dr Jill Maddison. Jill is currently working at the Royal Veterinary College in London and we're looking forward to her guidance and expertise as the CE programme continues to develop. It has been a privilege working with so many of my colleagues to build our CE programme in recent years and I wish them all every success in the future. ■



A CE session in Peru



Find out more about Dr Peter Ihrke, who is President-Elect of the WSAVA and begins his Presidency in April

**Tell us about your career to date and your 'day job'**

I taught in the Philippines for two years as part of the US Peace Corps before attending the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where I pursued a residency in dermatology and became a junior faculty member. I then moved to the West Coast to become a faculty member at the University of California (UC Davis). I've been there ever since. I juggle the typical responsibilities of clinical and classroom teaching, research and committee work. I've also tried to serve the national and international veterinary community.

**What do you most enjoy about your role and what's most challenging?**

My first loves are the clinical teaching of residents and students – classroom teaching and continued professional development for veterinarians. The most challenging part of a career in academic medicine is balancing the varied aspects of the role. It requires constant multi-tasking. I've always tried to make a difference by giving back to the profession I love so much. This has included serving my specialty college; national and international dermatology organisations and teaching around the world.

**Do you have any stand-out moments?**

That's a hard question! I've always derived so much enjoyment and personal reward from so many aspects of veterinary medicine. I am most proud of my former residents and what they have achieved – they are my family. In teaching, stand-out

moments always include watching a student, resident or clinician make that jump to a correct diagnosis as they hone their clinical skills.

**When and how did you first become involved in the WSAVA?**

I was first involved with the WSAVA World Congress in Barcelona at the start of my career. I recall being so excited by the energy created by enthusiastic vets from so many countries! I became more heavily involved 11 years ago when I helped the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD) join as an affiliate member and became its first assembly representative. I've attended every WSAVA World Congress since then.

**What have you learnt through your own involvement?**

The WSAVA has reinforced my belief in the importance of organised veterinary medicine, locally, nationally and globally. Our members are all striving to elevate veterinary medicine at all levels and to help us become key players in developing the concept of One Health.

**What have you been focusing on during your time as President-Elect?**

Juggling! As President-Elect I still have my full-time university job and I sit on the board of our global dermatology body, the WAVD. I'm learning the complexities of all the good things the WSAVA is doing globally and I've been the Executive Board link to the WSAVA's committees and projects.

**What are you plans for your presidency?**

I'm privileged to be part of a wonderful group of committed people, serving the WSAVA in many ways. I'd like to continue the strides already made to be more responsive to all of our constituents – our assembly members, our member associations and vets globally. I'm looking forward to involving more

young vets and want the rest of my career to focus on driving the global development of veterinary medicine and the links to all medicine.

**What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?**

I'm yet another veterinarian who works too many hours in a week! When I'm in California, I love reading, listening to music, swimming, staying in shape, exploring and good food and wine. I've always loved travel and enjoy learning about other cultures.

**What would you like to say to WSAVA members?**

The WSAVA is about thinking globally but, at the same time, being responsive to the needs of member associations. Without the membership, there is no WSAVA! ■

**PETER IHRKE'S BIOGRAPHY**

Peter graduated from and completed a Residency in Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a Diplomate of the ACVIM (dermatology) and then became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD). Currently, he is Professor of Dermatology at the University of California, School of Veterinary Medicine. He also is an Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology at Stanford University School of Medicine. His interests include all skin diseases in all species with emphasis on infectious skin diseases and immunological skin diseases.

In addition to his role with the WSAVA, Peter has served as President and other positions on the executive boards of the ACVD, the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology (AAVD), the Academy of Veterinary Allergy (AVA), the 4th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, and the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS).

His most meaningful honours include the Faculty School-wide Distinguished Teaching Award at UC Davis, the AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) 'Veterinarian of the Year Award', Honorary Life Membership of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology (ESVD), three school-wide student teaching awards at Davis, the ACVD Award for Excellence, being named an Honorary Foundation Diplomate in the Asian College of Veterinary Dermatology, and receiving the WSAVA Hill's Excellence in Veterinary Healthcare Award.



# Global Pain Council reports progress

Launched last year, the WSAVA's Global Pain Council (GPC) aims to enhance the level of understanding of pain and its management in small animals. It is focusing initially on the following activities:

- **Phase One:** The first priority is the collation of global pain assessment and management data. From this we intend to produce a 'Global Pain Treatise' which will be available to vets around the world and which will form the foundation for regional CE activities. We're also developing a global inventory of attitudes to and products for pain management around the world together with key pain management needs in each region.

- **Phase Two:** The priority for this phase will be to disseminate the Pain Treatise within WSAVA member associations and to develop a prioritised programme of pain assessment and pain management CE.
- **Phase Three:** During this phase we will update the Treatise as necessary, refine and enhance our CE efforts and extend our activities to include pet owner education.

Members of the Global Pain Council include:

- Karol Mathews (Canada) (pictured)
- Peter Kronen (Switzerland)
- Duncan Lascelles (USA)
- Sheila Robertson (USA)



- Andrea Nolan (UK)
- Paulo Steagall (Canada)
- Bonnie Wright (USA)
- Kazuto Yamashita (Japan)
- Walt Ingwersen (Canada): WSAVA Honorary Secretary, WSAVA Executive Board liaison

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