

NAVS NEWSLETTER

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY
NEW DELHI - APRIL, 2013



OUR MISSION

“To consolidate and promote the views of scientific community on all policy matters related to Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry in the welfare of India; to encourage better training and utilization of veterinary talent and enterprise in the country; to strive for advancement of livestock sector in the national economy; to promote animal welfare; to protect environment; and to safeguard the interests of the profession and to gain greater recognition and acclaim for it”.

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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA)
(Registered with the Registrar of Societies vide Regn. certificate No.S-2/4471 of 1993 dated 7th July 1993)

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1. First NAVS Convocation: 18th December 1996 at Vigyan Bhawan, **New Delhi**
2. Second NAVS Convocation: 30th January 2000 at Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi**
3. Third NAVS Convocation: 16th April 2002 at IVRI, **Izatnagar**, U.P.
4. Fourth NAVS Convocation: 7th May 2005 at GBPUAT, **Pantnagar**, Uttrakhand
5. Fifth NAVS Convocation: 5th May 2006 at JNKVV, **Jabalpur**, M.P.
6. Sixth NAVS Convocation: 28th June 2007 at KVAFSU, **Bangalore**, Karnataka
7. Seventh NAVS Convocation: 16 May 2008 at SKUAST, **Jammu**, J & K
8. Eighth NAVS Convocation: 23rd January 2009 at SVVU, **Tirupati**, Andhra Pradesh
9. Ninth NAVS Convocation: 30th October 2010 at NDRI, **Karnal**, Haryana.
10. Tenth NAVS Convocation: 12th November 2011 at RAJUVAS, **Bikaner**, Rajasthan.
11. Eleventh NAVS Convocation: 2nd November 2012 at DUVASU, **Mathura**, U.P.)

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APRIL, 2013

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2. EDITOR'S NOTE

2.1: Longevity

The NAVS' 11th Annual Convention cum Convocation held on 2nd & 3rd November, 2012 at Mathura was the highlight of the January 2013 issue of the Newsletter. The editorial coverage of the interaction with a **centenarian veterinarian** - Dr. Janarthan Prasad Kukreti - at that occasion led us to reflect on age & ageing and do some loud thinking upon the idea of 'growing old'. We also shared with you a piece of research that attempted to answer the eternal question: how long would a person live?

While pondering over the issue further in the first quarter of 2013, we stumbled upon another piece of research that tends to provide a weird test that predicts longevity. Forget needles, x-rays and treadmills. A new "test" that seems completely bizarre in its simplicity is all the rage now in determining how long you have to live. Researchers (in Brazil) studied predictors to longevity in a completely unexpected way. They studied the ability of a person to go from a standing position, to a sitting position on the floor, and back to a standing position. Seems simple enough, but the results were anything but simple. And speed wasn't even a factor. What they found was that people who needed the most help and support going from standing to floor to standing again were the most likely to die within the next five years. Support counts as not only holding on to furniture on the way down or back up, but also using the floor or even a hand on the knee to brace oneself.

The factors that influenced the person would be to be able to pick they were dropped, or even being able defeating arthritis, type 2 diabetes and

So the next time you go see your a seat...make sure you know where

P.S. 1. *However, the most loving way simpler.* Oftentimes when talking have to follow a pretty complicated diet and exercise approach. However, scientists in New Delhi have proven a very loving way to improve your overall health and well-being. Plus, it will help you live longer. A psychiatrist with the Cosmos Institute of Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences in New Delhi has asserted that proof of a happier, healthier life goes right along with a longer life for people in loving relationships. His research showed that the risk of dying early was cut nearly in half for people with strong relationship ties. Positive feedback from loving relationships lowers depression, which is a major source of negative stress that causes high blood pressure and other deadly conditions.

P.S. 2. The boon of long life, however, also raises the plight of the elderly in societies that do not have any safety net for them. "In India, we have been happy to deceive ourselves that ours is a caring society where family will take care of its elderly", says author Lalita Panicker and adds that "our respect and caring for the elderly is very much a part of our collective hypocrisy". It is not a secret that geriatric care in India is a very grey area and there is an acute necessity for specialized care for the elderly. The old people, instead of depending on their children, should have a choice of living in assisted surroundings. In case of those who can not afford it, the state should consider investing more in facilities for the elderly. We must, as a nation, ensure empathy for them.

2.2: Newsletter helps establish lost contacts:



risk of dying included how likely a things- like pills- up off the floor if to exercise- a critical piece in high cholesterol.

doctor and he or she tells you to have they're asking you to sit.

to live longer seems to be much about natural health we sometimes

The policy of sending complimentary copies of the NAVS Newsletter to veterinarians unconnected with NAVS is helping to reestablish lost contacts between vets located in the different regions of the world. Let us cite the most recent example of this. As on some earlier occasions, the January 2013 issue of the Newsletter was also mailed to a few additional IDs without the knowledge of their whereabouts or their biographical particulars. In response, we received the following mail: “Dear Kohli Saheb, Congratulations for bringing out such an impressive newsletter. I enjoyed reading about my former teacher Dr Kukreti and a note from my former student Dr MP Yadav. Let me now introduce myself: My name is Nihal Singh Agar, a graduate from Mathura Veterinary College; came to University of New England, Armidale, NSW, in Australia in 1967 and retired from there in 2000; currently I’m a Hon. Associate at the University of Sydney but am spending more time in the service of our Indian community. Thank you for including my name in your mailing list; I look forward receiving your newsletter in April. With warm regards, Nihal S Agar”. When this mail was forwarded to Dr. M.P. Yadav (along with our reply to Dr. Agar), our President was extremely happy to have reestablished his lost contacts with his teacher. The Newsletter found a new friend in **Dr. Nihal S Agar**. In a subsequent mail Dr. Agar expressed his thrill to Dr. Yadav for having reestablished the contacts in these words: “You are a true student of our beloved late Dr. C.M. Singh. He would have been as proud as I am. A father wishes to be beaten only by his son and a teacher only by his student in success and glory in life.” He further writes: “I am out of "science" (my last paper published was in 2005) but now even more busy than ever in Hindu Council of Australia where with the help of few friends trying to make HCA a true voice of over three hundred thousand Hindus living in this country. The task is much harder than the laboratory work but I am enjoying it.”

Similarly Dr. M.B. Chhabra, an eminent retired Professor of Veterinary Parasitology got the e-mail Id of another eminent professor, Dr. J.S. Bhatia, through NAVS’ Newsletter so as to get in touch with his old colleague & friend and exchange notes and also use the occasion to make to him some serious and light hearted friendly comments on his “View Point.

2.3. World Veterinary Day on Saturday the 27th of April

The **Selected Theme 2013 is: “Vaccination to prevent and protect”**. Please plan now to organize / participate in World Veterinary Day activities!

Many of us throughout the veterinary profession use vaccination of companion and production animals to prevent and protect animals from diseases that can affect not only animals, but also in some cases to humans (zoonoses). If you work in clinical practice, you can promote vaccination on World Veterinary Day to your community and clients. You could hold a special vaccination clinic. If you work in large animal practice, you can promote the value of vaccination to your clients. Successful farming of production animals requires proper protection against disease to prevent outbreaks and maximize production. In regulatory medicine, vaccination is used to prevent regional, national and trans-boundary outbreaks of disease. World Veterinary Day is the opportunity for us all to show our communities that protection that we can provide their animals to the benefit of those animals and all of us. For those who are members of the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), there is also the opportunity to enter for the annual World Veterinary Day award. **Let’s all Vets get together on World Veterinary Day on Saturday the 27th of April, to show the World the value of our work!**

Prof. Dr. R.N. Kohli (rnkohli@gmail.com)

3. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for the January 2013 issue of the NAVS Newsletter which is quite interesting and informative. You have done a wonderful job. My thanks are also due to you for the nice words you have put in there about me and the thought that it was appropriate. But I hardly deserved it. Of course by God's grace and the good wishes of all well wishers I completed the Century mark. I feel quite fit and there is no major illness. I take one day at a time. I have enjoyed the convocation of the Mathura where I was given the VIP treatment and was the Chief Guest and also received the award of Honorary Fellowship of N.A.V.S. I thank NAVS Committee for the award of the fellowship which is a great honor and has put a feather on my cap. Please convey my thanks to all the members of the Mathura Faculty and the Academy.
Janardan P. Kukreti [<mailto:jpkukreti@gmail.com>]

Many thanks for sending me the academy news letter of January 2013 along with special issue on science, health and society which contains much important information of various topics. It is, indeed, a herculean task to collect, compile and consolidate varied information for the benefit of the profession. You and your team deserve hearty congratulations for regularly publishing the news letter of the academy and circulating to all the Fellows and Members of the academy in India and abroad. I am of the opinion that you should continue for at least one more term as the Chief Editor of the academy news letter. The members of the academy should appreciate your sincere efforts for performing an outstanding job for veterinary profession. May God bless you and your family a happy and healthy long life? **Dr. Mahendra Pal**, Professor of Veterinary Public Health, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, Addis Ababa University, P.O. Box No.34, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. (Email ID: palmahendra2@gmail.com)

I received the NAVS Newsletter and its supplement. The news letter is fast improving. Your collection of information is wonderful. The Newsletter will reach new heights very shortly with your hard efforts. Keep it up sir. **Brig (Dr) N M Singhvi** [<mailto:singhvnm@gmail.com>]

I very thankfully acknowledge the receipt of the copy of the JANUARY 2013 ISSUE of NAVS Newsletter as well as the Special Supplement of the Newsletter on Science, Health and Society. The article on Foreign Direct Investment in the multi brand retailing (FDI-MBR) in India by Dr. R. S. Khanna was an interesting analysis. The cooperation between physicians and Veterinary Scientists will be very beneficial. "Upon Growing Old" is a practical advice. I found the contents of the news letter and supplement very informative and of very high standard. Please accept my heartiest congratulations and convey them to all the learned Veterinarians of NAVS Governing Council and those associated with NAVS Newsletter.

Professor S C Kohli, Department of Medicine, Manipal College of Medical Science, Pokhara, Nepal [<mailto:profsc kohli@rediffmail.com>]

Congratulations for bringing out such an impressive newsletter. I enjoyed reading about my former teacher Dr Kukreti and a note from my former student Dr MP Yadav. I am a graduate from Mathura Veterinary College; came to University of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia, in 1967 and retired from there in 2000. I'm currently a Hon. Associate at the

University of Sydney (but spending more time in the service of our Indian community). Thank you for including my name in your mailing list. I look forward to receiving your Newsletter in April. **Dr. Nihal S. Agar** [<mailto:nihalagar2@gmail.com>]

Thank you very much Dr Kohli for sending the Newsletter along with the supplement. Both are Excellent and hope our readers will like these. Already there is appreciation from Dr N.S. Agar from Australia, Dr Honnappagol and other Fellows. I am sure you must have sent it to Dr Kukreti also. The response received from Dr Nihal Singh Agar from Australia is very encouraging as the Newsletter joins us with veterinarians in India and abroad even if they are not our Fellows/Members.

Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Yadav, President, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS), India

I thankfully acknowledge the receipt of NAVS NEWSLETTER. A commendable job has been done. NAVS has become vibrant over the time and Editorial board under your dynamism is duly discharging its responsibilities in timely disseminating effectively its activities to the veterinary fraternity. Besides this, it keeps the fellows abreast with national and global developments. It makes us proud to be the component of a scientific organization which is alive to the needs of the profession and would stand committed in bringing reforms in all spheres of professional growth.

Dr. J.S. Bhatia [<mailto:bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com>]

Thanks for the efforts. Keep it up. **Dr. S.N.S. Gaur**, New Delhi. [<mailto:gaursns@gmail.com>]

I am delighted to receive the soft copy of NAVS Newsletter along with special supplement issue on science. Your efforts are praise worthy. I sincerely congratulate you for your untiring efforts in bringing out these two issues. **Dr P K Gupta**, Patron and Founder Society of Toxicology; Founder Editor-in-Chief Toxicology International; and President Academy of Sciences for Animal Welfare [mailto:drpkg_brly@yahoo.co.in]

Thanks for forwarding the 'NAVS NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2013 ISSUE and Special Supplement on Science, Health and Society. I have gone through the contents and wish to congratulate you to make a subject specific newsletter so interesting for any non-specialist like me to go through it! I wish you a greater success ahead!

Animesh Banerjee [<mailto:banerjeeanimesh@rediffmail.com>]

The newsletter is very informative. **Dr. Ajay Kumar Upadhyay** [<mailto:ajay.akup@gmail.com>]

Thank you so much for sending me the January 2013 issue of the 'NAVS Newsletter' as well as the Special Supplement. You have put in much effort to make the Newsletter both informative and exhaustive. Hearty congratulations, Sir! I am most grateful to you for your kind words on "Dairy India" and look forward to your kind encouragement and guidance always. As discussed, due coverage will be given to NAVS and its activities in the upcoming edition, scheduled for publication in the second half of 2013. I will be sending you the necessary data forms soon. Kindly do add my name to your e-mailing list for Newsletters and any other updates you send out from time to time. **Sharad Gupta**, Editor, Dairy India Yearbook.

[<mailto:dairyindia@gmail.com>]; yearbook@vsnl.com.

I am very happy to see the NAVS News letter. The Editor has taken lots of pains to bring the Newsletter in this present shape which is of very high quality. I must congratulate the Editor for the job well done. Now it is time to bring out some focused articles to impress upon the Government to take up some programmes in Animal husbandry and Veterinary Sciences as a mission to augment the economy of the farming community. It is heartening to know that Mr. Ratan Tata is to establish a Veterinary Hospital of international standards in Mumbai. It is music to the ears of all of us. May the other industrialists realize the importance of this profession and make other generous proposals like Ratan Tata did to uplift the economy of our country through this profession. **Dr. Chandan Rajkhowa** [<mailto:rajkhowac@gmail.com>]

Thanks for the concern and commitment (regarding: production and delivery of the Newsletter)
Dr. Rama Kumar V. [<mailto:drramakumarv@gmail.com>]

Thanks for the "re-sent" Newsletter. I think you are doing a marvelous (if voluntary, read thankless) job. Supplement is a treasure trove of useful tips for well-being. Provides information to keep & share. Good job in compiling it. The piece by Dr. J.S. Bhatia on structural changes proposed for Veterinary Regulatory System in that the NAVS should be a representative all India body, is a viewpoint I share & endorse. I had earlier taken a dim view of NAVS. However, the new dispensation, more particularly you as the Editor have given it prestige & status. You are undoubtedly the best thing to have happened to the academy as honest to God, you are doing great as the Editor. The Newsletter with the quality of its contents is more than what the academy deserves. More power to your pen. Perhaps I should not be so much awed & amazed by your editorial skills as I recall the times at Hisar circa 1969-70 when as the Editor of "Punjab Veterinarian", you earned a good name for yourself. Since nothing is wholly flawless, I found that while the Newsletter is a bit too long. Since it has to be a healthy blend of news, readers' views, personal glimpses, professional milestones, etc., you can seriously consider raising the status of the Newsletter to a journal. Newsletter should be more inclusive, meaning it should look beyond the confines of NAVS of which it is the mouth piece. I liked reading the January 2013 issue so much that I feel like requesting you for the favour of sending me the Oct.2012 issue, if possible. **Prof. Dr. M.B. Chhabra** [<mailto:chhabra.manmohan@gmail.com>]

Many thanks for sending me the soft copy of the Jan. 2013 issue of NAVS Newsletter and its special supplement. I do appreciate the special supplement. You have justified its release by incorporating valuable information on some of the most important lifestyle diseases and the usefulness of some of the fruits, vegetables and of course honey. That onion, when cut and kept, is poisonous was truly useful tip for kitchen keepers and for the health conscious.
Dr. R.S. Khanna [<mailto:dr.rsksk@gmail.com>]

I While I thank and congratulate you for bringing out the Newsletter regularly, I wish you a very happy and productive year of 2013. **Dr. B. C. Patnayak** [<mailto:bpatnayak@yahoo.co.uk>]

I heartily congratulate you for the nice work you are doing for NAVS (I). The yeoman's service, you are rendering, I am sure, is being appreciated by one and all. Once again our profound thanks. **Dr. R.K.Paul Gupta** [<mailto:rkpaulgupta@hotmail.com>]

The Newsletter is very comprehensive, informative and useful. Congratulations for establishing the NAVS! **Dr Ravish C. Maheshwari** [<mailto:maheshwarirc2002@yahoo.co.in>]

Please accept my thanks for the January 2013 issue of the NAVS Newsletter. The selfless efforts put in by you for the organization are exemplary and admirable. Congratulations.

Col (Dr) Vasant Ballewar, Head, Animal Science Division, DIHAR, Leh.
[vasant_ballewar@yahoo.co.in]

The NAVS Newsletter has come up nicely and is more informative. My deep sense of appreciation to you for such a commendable job for the cause of the profession. Thank you for the special supplement and its mind blowing and wonderful cover picture. The scientific information in the issue is very good.

Prof Suresh S Honnappagol [<mailto:sskvafsu@yahoo.co.in>]

Thank you for sending me the Special supplement January 2013 issue of the Newsletter of esteemed NAVS (I). The newsletter discusses elaborately many novel and unknown issues in the field of science, health and community. This keeps us updated on the various proceedings throughout the globe related to advancement in research and investigation.

Dr. Subha Ganguly [<mailto:ganguly38@gmail.com>]

Bravo for forwarding a mine full of information. You have brought me out of slumber of the past 23 years of retired life. Keep it up. **Brig V.P. Manchanda** [brigvpmanchanda@gmail.com]

I thank you very much for sending the NAVS Newsletter - January 2013 Issue to me which is quite informative and exhaustive. I am also glad to learn that Chapters on Science, Health and Society have been included in a Special Supplement of the Newsletter. I have no doubt that the latest Members' Directory (2013) would also be brought out by you in due course of time. I once again congratulate you on keeping members informed about the activities of the NAVS.

Dr. S. K. Ranjhan, Former President, NAVS [<mailto:nizamuddin@hind.in>]

It is really a comprehensive Newsletter. It is so meticulously drafted and includes all the news on the Veterinary profession across the world. Persons of our generation have a lot to learn from this dedicated effort for the profession. **Dr. J.M. Kataria** [<mailto:jmktaria@rediffmail.com>]

It is a very useful newsletter. Keep it up! **Maj Gen Shri Kant**, [shrikant28@hotmail.com]

Thank you very much for sending the January, 2013 issue of NAVS Newsletter and Special Supplement. Some of the items of the Newsletter are very interesting e.g. information about 11th Convocation of NAVS at Mathura, View Point and National and International Veterinary News. The Special Supplement is full of a lot of information on many Scientific and Health Care advances, which will be very much helpful for the Newsletter readers. Thanks a lot for your splendid job. **Md. Nasim Ali Mandal**, FAO, Bangladesh. [Nasim.Mandal@fao.org]

4. FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK

India ranks first in the world in milk production. Dairying in India is a classic example of production by masses rather than mass production. Due to changes in human food basket; demand of milk and dairy products, meat, poultry eggs, fish products and fruits has been increasing in recent years. Among the different food sectors, the growth in dairy sector has been commendable. It was not a simple task to increase the milk production from 17 million tons in 1950-51 to 127.3 million tons in 2011-12. Per capita milk availability which was 130 gram per day in 1950-51, is expected to reach 290 gram in 2013, well above the ICMR recommended level of 280 gram. The demand of milk and milk products in India is projected to increase to 142.9 million tons in 2015 and further to 191.3 million tons in 2020. At the existing rate of growth in milk production, the supply is likely to fall short of the demand in near future.

The Livestock plays an important role in the national economy and in the socio-economic development of the country. This sector contributes about 4.5% to national GDP and 40% to agricultural GDP (when contribution from hides & skins, leather, dung, animal power, fish and honey is also included). The major contribution comes from dairying through milk which is the largest agricultural commodity and widely consumed consumer product in India. To meet the ever increasing demand for milk, dairy products and meat, milk production need to grow minimum 5 % per year as against 3.8%. One of the major targeted growth in livestock sector diseases, like Foot-and-Mouth Brucellosis. After the eradication of dreadful diseases of livestock, the dairy and livestock sector in India are estimated at Rs. 20,000 affects the export potential of milk By effective FMD control, milk annually and the export of meat could further be enhanced by 3 times. Realising the importance of FMD, GoI has taken up FMD control program in several States through mass vaccination of bovine population. During the 12th Five Year Plan, about 900 million US dollars have been provided for this purpose. Limited availability of the vaccine and cold chain facility, emergence and re-emergence of different genotypes/lineages within the FMD virus serotypes, unrestricted movements of carrier animals across the states in the country are some of the concerns posing difficulty in FMD control program, requiring their effective redressal. In India, we need to enhance the investment for FMD control and eradication. It is worth mentioning that all developed nations are free from FMD.



the present growth rate of about impediments in achieving the is the prevalence of infectious disease (FMD), Mastitis and Rinderpest, FMD is one of the most resulting into enormous losses to Direct economic losses due to FMD crore per annum. It also adversely and milk products, meat, hides etc. production can be increased by 5%

Mastitis, one of the most important diseases in dairy animals, affects the economy of the farmers, resulting in huge economic loss to the country. Prevalence of mastitis is increasing in parallel with increase in milk production. Increasing concerns among the consumers about the antimicrobial residues in milk, antimicrobial drug resistance, milk quality and animal welfare demand proper policies in place to effectively prevent and control mastitis. The loss of milk production is not just during the course of the disease but may continue throughout life because of the permanent damage that mastitis can cause to the mammary secretary tissue. Subclinical

mastitis is more important than clinical mastitis. In several studies, it has been reported that subclinical mastitis is 15 to 40 times more prevalent than the clinical form.

In recent years, high incidence of subclinical mastitis ranging from 20 to 83% in cows and 45 per cent in buffaloes has been reported. Analysis of data from studies spread over 21 states of India, indicate overall prevalence of mastitis from 25 to 97% with an average prevalence of about 50 per cent. The losses are due to temporary or permanent loss of milk production, poor milk quality, discarding of milk from affected animals after antibiotic treatment, veterinary fees, drug expenditures, premature culling of animals, and reduction in the commercial value of cows. In India, annual economic losses incurred by dairy industry on account of udder infections have been estimated about Rs. 7165.51 crore. Both clinical and sub-clinical mastitis harm the health of the animals, and their reproduction and production at several stages in number of ways. Mastitis delays the postpartum ovarian activity and alters some of the key reproductive functions like ovulation, fertilization, implantation, and maintenance of pregnancy. Acute mastitis delays the first service interval after calving, calving to conception interval, and increases the number of services per conception. Bacterial toxins can lead to the loss of an established pregnancy. Bioactive molecules, like *E. coli* endotoxin, can induce release of cytokines, triggering neural and endocrine changes which play a key role in the inflammatory process. Clinical mastitis also induces hormonal alterations like decreased pulsatile secretion of LH, significant decrease in ovulatory LH peak, decreased estradiol production leading to decreased estrus expression and failure of ovulation. Probability of conception decreased by 73% when mastitis occurred during the week of insemination. The effect of mastitis is not only limited to the affected animals but also continue on the developing foetus, since the daughters born to the cows that suffered mastitis during gestation have reduced reproductive efficiency. Mastitis in pregnant cows could decrease the number of healthy follicles in the developing foetus and compromise future fertility. Anti-Mullerian hormone, a reliable biomarker for potential fertility, is decreased significantly in the developing foetus as the number of mastitis events during gestation of their dams increases. For timely diagnosis of subclinical mastitis, estimation of biomarkers associated with the onset of the disease, nucleic acid markers, sensor based platforms, electronic tongue/ nose need to be developed. Effective and efficient management of clinical as well as subclinical mastitis in dairy animals need highest priority.

Brucellosis affects humans, dairy animals and other livestock species. There is need of better validated diagnostics, DIVA test and marker vaccine for effective control of brucellosis. National Bovine Brucellosis Control Programme (NBBCP) through mass vaccination has been launched by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, GoI. However, inadequate availability of the vaccine remains a major handicap. There is a need to unravel the molecular epidemiology of brucellosis in different species of animals and man to understand the determinants of disease in different ecological/ geographical zones of the country. Some of the action points needed for management and effective control of Brucellosis are: surveillance strategies and vaccination policy; risk assessment, communication and management need to be undertaken for effective control of the disease. Private sector vaccine manufactures and state veterinary biological units should be encouraged to produce more vaccine with policy intervention to meet the demand. Veterinarians should not have any reservations to vaccinate the animals. However, they should use proper protective clothing such as gloves, masks, aprons and goggles.

Prof. Dr. M.P. Yadav

5: OBITUARY

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) regrets to announce the **sad demise of Dr. R.C. Pathak and Dr. A.K. Singh**, the two very eminent Fellows of the Academy and joins in prayers to the almighty to bless eternal peace to the departed souls and to give courage to the members of their bereaved families to bear the tragic loss.

5.1: Dr. R.C. Pathak passes away on February 11 in NOIDA

Dr R.C. Pathak, an esteemed Fellow of NAVS and a renowned Microbiologist breathed his last on February 11 in NOIDA after a protracted illness and his last rights were performed the next day at Mathura. In Dr Pathak, the Academy and the profession have lost one of the finest of its personalities. The loss is irreparable. We pray to Almighty to grant absolute peace to the departed pious Soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear this great shock.



(15.7.1929- 11.2.2013)

Dr Ramesh Chandra Pathak was born on 15.7.1929 at Mathura, got his B.V.Sc.&A.H. and M.V.Sc. (Veterinary Microbiology) degrees from Agra University in 1951 and 1959, respectively, and his M. S. (Veterinary Medicine) in 1962 from Illinois University, USA. He earned his Ph.D. (Veterinary Microbiology) in 1967 from Agra University. Dr. Pathak served College of Veterinary Sciences, Mathura in various capacities for more than 38 years. He remained Head of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology for several years and Dean of the College from 1975 to 1982. He also served as Chief Executive Head / Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Mathura Campus of C. S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur from 1979-1982. After his retirement, he served as an Emeritus professor at Mathura. During his career Dr. Pathak got recognition as one of the top

microbiologists and a pioneer mycoplasmaologist of the country and was instrumental in establishing Indian Association of Mycoplasmaologists (IAM). He was the President of Indian Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in infectious diseases (IAVMI) and the Indian Association of Mycoplasmaologists (IAM) for several years. He was pioneer in initiating research in the field of Animal Mycoplasmaology in India and spearheaded the research projects on “Genital Mycoplasma infections in domestic animals” funded by DST, Govt. of India. Besides, Dr. Pathak also worked as Project Coordinator of the All India Coordinated Research Projects of the ICAR on FMD, Brucellosis and Respiratory Diseases of Poultry. He established the Regional Enterobacteriaceae Centre, Animal Virus Laboratory with cell culture facilities and Mycoplasma laboratory for conducting research in animal mycoplasmaology as Principal Investigator at Veterinary College Mathura. He had more than hundred research papers published in journals of national and international repute. Dr. Pathak had reported for the first time in India the existence of PPLO in poultry and isolation of PI3 virus, *Aspergillus fumigatus* from metritis and *Candida species* from poultry.

Dr. Pathak was a member of numerous selection boards of UPSC, ICAR and SAUs etc. He also organized several Symposia, workshops and Conventions including the one on “Respiratory Infections of livestock and Poultry”, the All India Convention of the “Indian Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases” and a workshop of the Indian Association of Mycoplasmologists (IAM). His contributions to the profession brought recognition in the form of Fellowships of NAVS, IAM and IVS and other awards. Dr Pathak will be remembered not only for his academic contributions but also for his religious thoughts and temperament. He was a soft spoken, kind hearted and generous person. Dr Pathak is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons and grand children.

5.2: Dr. A.K. Singh passes away on January 20

Dr. A.K. Singh, Retired Director of Animal Husbandry, Government of Uttar Pradesh passed away on 20th January 2013. He was a very good professional with a dynamic personality and all those who came in contact with him personally, professionally or socially shall miss him badly. He was a veterinary graduate of the first batch that passed out from the pioneer Agricultural University at Pant Nagar (UPAU) in 1964 and was the batch-mate of many eminent veterinarians and Fellows of the Academy including Dr. Kiran Singh, Dr. Amresh Kumar, Dr. Harpal Singh, Dr. D.N. Garg, and Dr. S.N. Maurya, among others.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh was born District of Uttar Pradesh. He grew Varanasi. After a brief spell as a (65) following his graduation, he Department as Veterinary Assistant serve the U.P. State Animal positions including: Project Officer UPPSC (1974-1976); Deputy Deputy Director (1980 to 1987) in



on 9th July, 1945 in Varanasi up there and did his schooling in lecturer in a degree college (1964-joined the State Animal Husbandry Surgeon in 1965 and continued to Husbandry Department in different (Poultry) after selection from Director, S.F.D.A. (1976-1980); Varanasi and Faizabad circles and

also as Deputy Director, Intensive Cattle Development Programme (ICDP) in Allahabad; Joint Director (Poultry) (1987-1992); Additional Director Hills (1992-1994); Additional Director, Planning (1994-1996). In 1996 he became Director, Animal Husbandry, U.P. and remained on this post till retirement in July 2005. As a VAS, he studied for his M.V. Sc. degree in Animal Genetics and Breeding from July 1968 to July 1970 also at the Pant Nagar University.

During his tenure, he worked for the development of Poultry and poultry husbandry; and also formulated need based breeding programme in cattle by specifically incorporating cross breeding with Jersey Semen. He also conceptualized and introduced several other projects. During his period as Director, A.H. the state registered a significant growth in milk and meat production. He also visited Israel and Egypt in the year 1996 and interacted with the Agricultural and Animal Science experts of these countries. He won many awards and was honored and felicitated on several occasions for his multifarious achievements. He was elected as Vice President of Indian Veterinary Association and was a part of efforts towards the formulation of road map for ICVR. He was elected a Fellow of NAVS (I) in 2005-6 and was also a Fellow/Member of several other professional associations including the veterinary council, apart from numerous official committees etc.

6. VIEW POINT

6.1: STATUS OF VETERINARY INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA: NEED FOR REVIEW - *Dr. Jitendra Singh Bhatia*

Under the authority vested in the Veterinary Council of India (VCI), Minimum Standards of Veterinary Education, BVSc&AH degree, Regulations 1993, (MSVE) were laid down. These regulations were enforced in the all the States where IVC Act, 1984 was extended. On continuous persuasions from the VCI, the States Governments principally committed to faithfully implement these Regulations in their State run Veterinary Colleges/ institutions in the Country. Though it was mandatory for the States to translate these regulations in letter and spirit but on face of it, the process of granting needed support remained very slow and low in some States. Thus, the wide gap between the mandatory requirements as per the regulations *vis a vis* the actual support provided, continue to persist. These colleges were/ are facing the ordeal of performing under all adversaries and had to squeeze their activities with sub-optimal infrastructure and truncated manpower. These colleges needed massive support for infrastructural developments with competent and qualified human resource to fulfill the requirements. Besides manpower, permanent asset in terms of land building, farms and other permanent assets were/are to be provided by the respective State Governments. States have had limitations in meeting these needs owing to resource crunch. It cannot be denied that livestock sector remained low priority with the States. Further, within the State Agricultural education system the requirements as per Minimum Standards of Veterinary Education, Regulations (MSVE) were considered high in comparisons to other faculties. However, Central support coming in form of grant in-aid through ICAR, has been handy and served as a saving grace for these colleges in timely meeting the contingent educational needs. This assured support, though meager, but invariably remained critical in bringing fair amount of sustainability toward fulfilling academic standards.

In 2005, the VCI commissioned a study to take stock on the Status of Veterinary Colleges of India on the basis of available data base and periodic inspections it got made since the implementations of MSVE, Regulations, 1993. This report highlighted certain glaring shortfalls which were seriously impeding the needed developments in veterinary education. Certain suggestions were also put forth in the report to revamp the system. It is doubted if any substantial or meaningful gains have been drawn from this study. By the end of 20th century some States opened additional colleges with Maharashtra taking a lead to have created 5 colleges. Likewise, States like AP, Karnataka Gujarat, MP, UP established more than 2 colleges while, Kerala, Assam added one more college. None of additional colleges could create facilities in commensurations to the needs and requirements. The VCI adopted a see saw relationship with these newly created colleges in order to make a dent in minds of the mother bodies to provide substantial support to effectively foster these institutions. Such approach marginally improvised the scenario here and there. Even some of the age old veterinary colleges were/ are still far below the required standards. Establishment of private veterinary at the beginning of 21st century opened a new chapter in veterinary education. Though, the need for opening colleges in private sector was being felt since long at the highest policy planning forums both at the Centre and the State Government levels but no serious attempts were made to work out the operational

modalities to accommodate private sector as a partner in the process of developments. Rajasthan Govt. took a stride forward in granting permissions to private sector to open veterinary colleges in the State. Six more colleges came up one after the other in a span of a decade. The Central Govt., the VCI, the State Govt. and the affiliating University were encountered with new set of situations and since the prevailing system was not fully toned to effectively deal with new establishments of different order, these regulatory authorities have had many hic-cups. More than 10 years have gone by and in between there were many wake up calls but somehow the present situations have dragged to a stage that most of the colleges in private system are seeking intervention through courts of law.

The VCI has been conducting inspections of private colleges through inspection committees. Inspections are conducted through highly qualified experience group of professional and their recommendations though are not bindings for the authorities to accept as such but these do carry value and invariably are required to be honored unless there are procedural flaws in professional/ educational evaluations. However, during most of the times, on the inspections reports of private colleges, the VCI and even at stages the GOI did back office exercises whereby outcome analysis on the review done and the recommendations made by the committee got modified even to the extent of reversal when final outcome emerged from the Council/ GOI.

Having faced the ordeal during the recent past the GOI has now constituted an expert committee to suggest ways and means to revamp the entire system. To assist the committee, it would be prudent for the Govt. or the VCI to commission an independent study to determine the present Status of Veterinary colleges including that of private colleges on the pattern of the study the VCI got made in 2005. Such study will also bring out certain glaring pictures/ facts. It will also guide the planners to work out the extant of support needed and its feasibility to accomplish these. It will also provide ground realities and relative scenario of public and private institutions. Such study will definitely set a path for future developments in right order.



(Dr. Jitendra Singh Bhatia, Former Assistant Director General (Education), ICAR (bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com)

6.2: Import and Export Policy on Dairy: *Dr. R.S. Khanna*

The Global Dairy Trade New Zealand reported that the average winning trade-weighted price of skim milk powder increased by 4.7 percent from the US\$ 3311/tonne at the December 19 to US\$ 3572 per tonne. Similarly, the prices for whole milk powder rose by 1.6 per cent to US\$3199 per tonne. The total volume sold was 45,252 tonnes for US\$ 151.9 million across 13 rounds of bidding. As against this skim milk powder exported by India fetches less than US\$ 2800/tonne.

Milk production in India at 133 million tonnes during 2012-13 and growing is attributed the cooperative and the private dairies paying good prices to the milk producers for the last three years. The private dairy industry now follows the cooperatives in purchasing milk directly from the milk producers. This infuses confidence in the milk producer to invest in dairy farming. Currently the private and the cooperative sectors of the dairy industry are handling 30% of the total milk produced equally between them.

The support from the Government of India has been visible through lifting of ban on export of all types of milk and dairy products; providing incentive in the form of Duty Credit

Scrip @ 5% of the Free on Board value of exported skim milk powder under the Vishesh Krishi Gram Udhayog Yojana; limiting the import of milk powders upto 10,000 MT on import duty of 15% of the Import Value and 60% of the Import Value of milk powders in excess of 10,000 MT in a financial year. But are these adequate enough? The answer is a firm NO. Just have look at the how most developed dairying nations like the United States, the European Union countries and Canada, do to promote the dairy farming. In 2009, about 20 per cent of 1,800 dairy farms in California, for instance, had shut down unable to survive at times of higher feed and transportation costs. Similarly, in 2009, when international milk prices had dipped to a low, the European Union defied the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and reintroduced milk subsidies. It provided Rs 3,600 crore in subsidies to its dairy farmers to offset the losses incurred. Similarly, the European Union under obligation of the World Trade agreement was to phase out all subsidies to the dairy farmers. Instead the European Union reinstated subsidies to support milk production as well as for export to capture 32 per cent of the global dairy market. It is estimated that the dairy farmers of Canada, European Union receive subsidies to the tune of Rs 3.96 lakh crore every year. The US dairy farmers received subsidies worth Rs 27,500 crore since 2009. These subsidies are paid through such programmes as: milk income loss contract payment; market loss assistance; milk income loss transitional payment; dairy economic loss assistance programme; milk marketing fees; dairy disaster assistance; and dairy indemnity. The Indian dairy economy is far different now than it was thirty years ago. We have come along way from facing shortages to facing surplus. It is true that eh surplus milk production is not consistent across seasons as well as years but it is now necessary to make major changes in the policy on development and future growth of the dairy sector.

The Government must give a serious reconsideration. Some of the most important pointers are:

- 1.** India has policy on ban on import as well as export of dairy products. This is negation of the developing dairy trade. The decisions for import as well as export of dairy products are taken on ad hoc basis. The entire dairy industry receives these decisions either as surprises or as shocks. Take for example; the import of milk products is never done for the benefit of the industry. The decisions are taken with regard to the inflationary trends. The past experience has been that whenever the milk powder has been imported it has not been utilized during that year or the purpose for which it was imported. Import of milk powder has not been able to arrest inflation in liquid milk prices – the very purpose of import. Imports have in fact hurt the interest of milk producers. Prices for the milk producers reduced without comparable decline in the prices of liquid milk.
- 2.** There is no doubt that for the Government It is important to keep the market price of liquid under check. The government needs to take leaf out of its policy on the process for controlling the prices of what and other staple foods. Similarly, the government may consider building a buffer stock of milk powders. The buffer can control the fall in farmer prices as well as increase in consumer prices. Through this process the government would have full control over prices and yet not give any subsidy to any individual or the organization. It is estimated that a buffer stock of 60,000 tonnes of milk powders would be adequate. Until the government builds specialized stores like those built for what by the Food Corporation of India, existing dairy plants can be used for stocking buffer. Government would perhaps need a revolving fund of Rs. 1,000 crores to manage this buffer.
- 3.** Once this process of buffer stocking is in place, the government may liberalize the import as well as export of dairy products. There would a consistent and continuous policy both on import



as well as export of dairy products. The policy for ban on export of dairy products in fact is actually a negation of promoting the dairy sector. For exporting any product, the domestic manufacturers have to develop relationships with international clients over a long time and give assurances of continuing to make supplies of products, build confidence in the quality of products. These factors need the dairy product importer to develop additional strength in the infrastructure for milk procurement, product quality, consistency in product development and product manufacturing capacity. In the event the Government continues with a policy of banning the export and lifting the ban at will, no dairy industrialist would develop any new facilities to meet with the international requirements.

4. To further support the dairy exports, granting Duty Credit Scrip should be increased from the existing 5% to 10% of the Free on Board value. The exporter may be subsidised for the actual expenses incurred on inland transport from the factory to the port of dispatch plus the actual expenses incurred on overseas freight to the destination of the importer client.

During a debate on FDI in retail sector, the NCP leader Praful Patel said in Parliament that the dairy farmers got a minimum price of Rs 20 per litre for milk in Maharashtra. If the above policies are adopted the dairy industry would voluntarily pay between Rs. 25-Rs. 30 per liter of milk to the India milk producers. It is a challenge but the time has come to take the bull by the horn and pamper the cows and buffaloes of India. (Dr. Rattan Sagar Khanna, International Consultant, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: dr.rskrsk@gmail.com)

Truth about Education in India

- * Most '**First Class**' students get technical seats, some become **Doctors** and some **Engineers**.
 - * The '**Second Class**' passes, and then gets MBA, become Administrators and control the 'First Class'.
 - * The '**Third Class**' pass, enter politics and **Become Ministers and control both.**
- The 'Failures' join the underworld and control all the above.**
And those who do not attend any school, become Swamis and Gurus and every one goes to them.

7. NAVS NEWS

7.1: Recent Decisions of the NAVS Governing Council

7.1.1: Framing of the guide lines for the NAVS Associate Members

The guide lines proposed by the committee were approved with following modifications:

- a. The minimum experience for the Associate member should be five years.
- b. NAVS member can apply for NAVS Fellowship any time. However, his/her application will be screened as per the guide lines.
- c. The number of Fellows, Members and Associate Members should not exceed one percent, two percent and three percent, respectively, of total number of registered vets in the country.

7.1.2: Organization of Expert consultation on Ethno veterinary medicine:

GC agreed to organize Expert Consultation on Ethno Veterinary Medicine. The tentative date proposed was 2nd April in VCI Committee Room, New Delhi.

7.1.3: Office Bearers' meetings to be held regularly.

7.1.4: Next convocation of NAVS to be organized at Hisar.

7.1.5: Corporate membership and Institutional membership to be separate

NAVS is to have the Corporate memberships and Institutional memberships separately and the institutes/organizations who have already paid Rs. 50, 000 (as annual subscription) may become life members (Corporate/Institutional) by paying an additional Rs. 4, 50, 000/=

7.1.6: Fellows of NAVS may act as independent evaluators of R&D Projects

undertaken by various ministries/Departments/Organizations.

7.1.7: Institution of following NAVS Awards was agreed:

- a) NAVS Life Time Achievement Award
- b) NAVS Young Scientist Award
- c) Recognition Award
- d) Dr. C.M. Singh Memorial Award
- e) Endowment Award (Sponsored only)

7.1.8: Election of the NAVS office bearers and GC members to be held this year:

Dr. R.K. Singh, who was earlier approved as the Returning Officer, was authorized to initiate the process of election of new office bearer's and GC members for 2013-2016.

7.2: List of Corporate Members: A correction

Due to a communicational lapse, the name of M/S PET CARE, Bangalore as a Corporate Member was inadvertently left out in the list published in the January 2013 issue of the Newsletter, although the Certificate of membership had been issued to them after completion of formalities at Mathura Convocation. The revised list of Corporate members is as under:

1. **RAJUVAS** (Rajasthan University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Bijey Bhavan Palace Complex, Bikaner-334006, (Email: vcrajuvas@gmail.com)
2. **SVVU** (Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Dr YSR Bhawan, Tirupati-517502 (Email: prabhakarvr Rao@yahoo.com)
3. **TANUVAS** (Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Madhavaram Milk

Colony Campus, Madhavaram, Chennai-600051 (Email: vc@tanuvas.org.in)

4. **KVAFSU** (Karnatka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, PB No 6, Nandinagar-585401 Bidar (Email: vckvafsu@yahoo.co.in)

5. **SAHARANPUR HERBS RESEARCH & SUPPLY CO. LTD,**
(Email: info@indianherbs.org)

6. **M/S PET CARE, Bangalore:** M/s Pet Care, IS 40, KHB Industrial Area, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore 560 064 (Email: _____)

7.3: Dr. K. Pradhan Felicitated by NDRI & IDA

7.3.1 NDRI Confers D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) upon Dr. K. Pradhan

Prof. Dr. K. Pradhan, former Vice-Chancellor of State Agricultural Universities in Orissa and Rajasthan and currently the Chancellor of Siksha “O” Anusandhan University, Bhubaneswar, as well as the Founder Chairman of Digjyoti (Public and Charitable Educational Trust for Orphan and Poor), was awarded the D.Sc. degree (Honoris Causa) by the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Deemed University, during its 11th convocation held on 16th February, 2013. At this occasion he also received a scroll, citation, etc.

Prof. Dr. Khageswar Pradhan, who is an esteemed Fellow of NAVS (I), was honored for his significant contributions in Animal Sciences. Prof. Pradhan graduated in veterinary sciences from the Utkal University in India and further obtained his Master and Doctoral degrees from the University of Maryland in USA. Dr. K. Pradhan is a distinguished academician with over 40 years of experience working as Professor, Dean, Director, Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor in various universities. During his distinguished career Dr. Pradhan has been held eminent positions in different organizations and won numerous laurels. He has earlier been awarded the **Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)** degree by OUAT, Bhubaneswar also, for his significant achievements in science and education.



7.3.2: Indian Dairy Association awards Patronship to Dr. K.

Pradhan

Prof. Dr. K. Pradhan [mailto:ks_pradhan@yahoo.com] was made a Patron of the Indian Dairy Association at the XLI Dairy Industry Conference held on 14-16 March 2013 at Mumbai. The title was conferred upon Dr. Pradhan for furthering the cause of Dairy Association and Dairy Industry through teaching, research and education. Dr. Pradhan has earlier been honoured for his research and academic excellence with a number of Fellowships and Awards from various organizations in India and abroad. He also received Lifetime Achievement Award of Animal Nutrition Society of India and Lifetime Achievement Award of Indian Dairy Association at national level for his outstanding contribution in research and education.

7.4: Dr. Ramji Lal Sharma Felicitated

Dr. Ramji Lal Sharma, Professor and Head, at the Apollo College of Veterinary Medicine, Jaipur and a Fellow of the Academy, was felicitated with the “Bharat Jyoti Award” by the India International Friendship Society for his meritorious services, outstanding performance and remarkable role (in his professional career in livestock sector). Dr. Bhishma Narain Singh, former Governor of Tamilnadu and Assam gave away the award on 9th Feb, 2013 at a National Seminar on Economic Growth and National integration in New Delhi.

Dr. Sharma, born on 02nd August, 1943, and holds a doctorate in Veterinary Parasitology from IVRI, and has a long of professional experience of 42 years in various positions, e.g. Research Assistant (1971), Scientist S-3 ARS cadre (1981) - re-designated as Principal Scientist (1996) in UGC Professor's scale. He superannuated from the ARS services in August, 2003. Development of "anti parasite Veterinary Vaccine" in India is among his many professional and academic contributions. Apart from being a FNAVS (2002), he is also a FNAS (1995) and FIAAVR (2001) besides holding an IVRI award of Merit (2012).

7.5: Prof. M.P. Yadav, President NAVS attends three Conferences

Prof. M. P. Yadav, President, NAVS, recently attended the 100th Indian Science Congress, National Seminar on Quality and Safety of Food Products, and National Conference on Phytomedicine.

The 100th Indian Science Congress was held in **Kolkata** from **3-7 January, 2013** at the Nano Technology Campus of the University of Calcutta. **Prof. Yadav was Co-Chair** along with Dr N.C. Dutta in the Plenary Session of the Animal, Veterinary and Fishery Section on 4-1-2013. Dr A.P. Sharma, President of Animal, Veterinary and Fishery Section delivered Presidential address on 'Environment and health management for sustainable animal and fish production'. Prof. Yadav also acted as Panellist in the Panel Discussion conducted on 5-01-13 on "Recent Approaches for enhanced Animal Protein Production to feed millions. This Session was chaired by Dr K.M.L. Pathak, DDG (AS), ICAR and esteem Fellow of NAVS. The Panellists were drawn from both Animal Sciences and Fishery Sciences, and included Dr A.K. Srivastava, Director, NDRI, Karnal, Dr A. Sharma, Director PD on Cattle, Meerut and Dr R.N. Chatterjee, Director, Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad, among others. During the discussion both quantitative as well as qualitative aspects including A1 milk were discussed at length and various technological, policy imperatives, innovation and best practices were suggested to increase the animal origin protein availability by producing more milk, eggs, meat and fish. Prof. Yadav delivered a Lead Lecture on "Health Management for sustainable livestock production" on 6th January, 2013.

Prof. Dr. M. P. Yadav attended and chaired a technical session during the two day **National seminar on 'An integrated approach for enhancing the productivity, quality and safety of Indian food products'** organized by the National Productivity Council, New Delhi from **11-12 January, 2013** at India International Centre, **New Delhi**. Various speakers from India and abroad discussed and deliberated at length various issues related to food safety, food hazards, FSS Act, Codex Alimentarius, HACCP, ISO and WTO implications in the export and import of food products, need for food supply value chain safety system, various types of regulatory systems in vogue in different countries, and religious factors influencing trade. Good hygienic practices (GHP) need to be ensured during entire food value chain beginning with personal hygiene, packaging, transportation and storage as food safety is not negotiable at any cost. In India about 35 per cent of the food produced gets wasted. One of the reasons for high wastage is the low extent of processing, being only 40 per cent inclusive of primary and secondary processing. In India, demand for processed food is limited due to obvious reasons. This needs to be enhanced through consumer education and awareness. We need both systemic as well as crisis solutions in food safety. Creation of surplus processed food is the prerequisite which will ultimately benefit the farmer as well as consumer. Food poisoning outbreaks due to E.

coli 0 104:H4, Salmonella, Bacillus cereus, Listeria during 2011 in both developed and developing country are matter of concern requiring workable solution.

On the invitation of Prof. Jai Prakash, Vice Chancellor, G.L.A. University, Mathura, Prof. M.P. Yadav, President, NAVS attended the **National Conference on “Phytomedicine: An Alternate to Modern Medicine & Their Molecular Expression”** jointly organized by the Institutes of Pharmacy and Biotechnology Research of the university from 16-17 February, 2013. Addressing in the Inaugural session as **Chief Guest** to the gathering of Scientists, Researchers, Academicians, Corporate Executives, experts, Faculty and students, Prof. Yadav emphasized the importance of the Conference theme having significance considering the well-known strengths of India in Ayurveda and herbal medicine since pre Vedic era, as well as in the present context of climate change and the interest show globally in recent time in Phytomedicines/Herbs/Botanicals which are eco-friendly, safe, economic and more holistic. The conference will provide a platform for sharing the knowledge and ideas so as to take stock of the present developments in India and abroad in this fascinating area associated with human, animal and plant health and wellbeing as well as protection and sustainability of the environment. Biotechnology, genetic engineering, nanotechnology and bioinformatics being the major sciences of 21st century, can play a pivotal role in promoting wider application of phytomedicines for human, animal, fish health and crops protection, said Prof. Yadav. The issue related to the use of phytomedicines in natural form as holextract, generally practiced under Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine, or in the form of biomolecules is debatable and need research. Application of the modern techniques of biotechnology and genetic engineering will go a long way for identification and characterization of the biomolecules from plants and other fauna and their cost effective production at large scale by gene cloning. These approaches will be benefitted by the existing knowledge regarding the role played by the biomolecules such as cytokines, chemokines, interlukines, bioamines in defense mechanism of the body against infectious & noninfectious diseases and stress. Appropriate regulatory mechanism and quality standards for phytomedicines also needs to be in place at national level to fulfill the IPR, SPS and other requirements. The researches should be designed in such a way that they are need based and location specific, opined Prof. Yadav. Urgency of biodiversity conservation of medicinal plants through Herbal Bio-Parks, awareness and other legal instruments was highlighted by him. Prof. Yadav also informed that the global herbal market, currently to the tune of US dollar 120 Billion, is expected to reach US dollar 7 Trillion by 2050. Present Indian herbal market is Rs. 14,000 Crores, out of which the exports are worth Rs. 9000 Crores. Annual growth rate of herbal sector is about 20%.

8. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY NEWS

8.1: World's First Buffalo Calf born to a Cloned Buffalo at NDRI, Karnal



'Mahima', a female buffalo calf weighing 32 kg was born to 'Garima-II' a cloned buffalo mother at NDRI, Karnal on January 25, 2013 through normal parturition, as a result of the research undertaken on the use of embryonic stem cells (ESCs) for producing normal buffalo without sexual reproduction. This is the first calf in the world to be born to a cloned buffalo. This achievement could be made through a competitive grant received by the institute under the ICAR's ongoing National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) on "Characterization and Differentiation of Embryonic and Spermatogonial Stem Cells

in Cattle and Buffaloes" under basic and strategic research.

'GARIMA-II', a cloned buffalo calf born on August 22, 2010 was produced from an embryonic stem cell as donor cell. Garima-II attained early sexual maturity at 19 months of age compared to ordinary buffaloes which attain similar maturity at around 28 months of age. This research has bearing on conservation of the species as well as its reproduction in eventualities like climate change and global warming. *Cloning of buffaloes by a simplified method will enhance our capabilities for faster multiplication of elite buffaloes of desired gender, thus reducing the number of unproductive animals.*

Scientists responsible for this breakthrough, namely Dr. M. S. Chauhan, Dr. S. K. Singla, Dr. R. S. Manik and Dr. P. Palta, of Animal Biotechnology Centre, under the leadership of Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Director National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal (Haryana).

Communicated by: National Coordinator, Component-4, NAIP; Email: nc4naip@icar.org.in

Also see:

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

8.2: A significant step in controlling clinical and sub-clinical mastitis

Clinical and sub-clinical mastitis is a menace for dairy animal. Under the NAIP-3 project of IVRI a low cost technology for prevention and treatment of sub-clinical and clinical mastitis in bovines has been developed as a formulation for oral feeding which targets continuous milk synthesis (by providing substrate), support tissue re-generation, have strong anti-oxidant and antiseptic activities. It prevents the clinical mastitis incidence in the first fortnight of calving (most frequent). It cures sub-clinical mastitis within 3-4 days and clinical mastitis within 4-6 days. Flakes disappear within 2 days itself. It is able to prevent mastitis occurrence within first fortnight of calving in more than 98% cases and the cost of prevention is around Rs. 70-80/- whereas the treatment cost in diseases animals is around Rs. 150-170/-. The extensive trials conducted over 2200 animals showed very positive results and the technology is under transfer to farms so that it can reach to farmers throughout the country. (For details: Contact the contributor of the item: **Dr R.B. Rai**, Principal Scientist & Consortium PI, IVRI).

8.3: Highly successful technology for anestrous/ infertility

Under the NAIP-3 sub-project of IVRI, a mineral based-technology for estrus induction and synchronization in bovines for increasing the milk production has been developed. This unique mineral based technology is a simple, cheaper and highly effective. This targets the follicular and corpus luteum development, besides toning the uterus for conception. The minimum estrous induction rate in cows is above 85% while in seasonal breeder like buffaloes it is above 72% encompassing all the ecosystem/agro-climates of the country. No comparative technology exists anywhere. The nearest technology is area specific mineral mixture or fortified supplementations which are able to induce estrous only in 25-40% animals and comparatively costly. Using this technology, farmers can even decide the date and month of pregnancy in his animal. It is estimated that if about 10 lakhs bovines in the country per year, keeping in view the AI success rate at 30% and advancement of pregnancy by only 4 months, per year extra milk production will be at the tune more than 2 lakh tones (@ 5 lit./day/animal) which will be equivalent to Rs. 4320 million/yr.) (For details: Contact the contributor of the item: **Dr R.B. Rai**, Principal Scientist & Consortium PI, IVRI).

8.4: Buffalo Mela and Exhibition organized at CIRB, Hisar

Haryana Kisan Ayog participated in the Buffalo mela and exhibition organized at Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hisar on March 9, 2013. It was inaugurated by Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) in the presence of Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), Dr. R.K. Singh, Director NRCE, Hisar, Dr. Indu Sharma, Director DWR, Karnal, Dr. D.K. Sharma, Director CSSRI, Karnal, Dr. M.P. Yadav, Advisor Haryana Kisan Ayog, Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary Haryana Kisan Ayog, eminent scientists and progressive farmers. The Mela attracted large number of traditional buffalo rearers, breeders, buffalo dairy entrepreneurs from different parts of North India. Buffalo cows and bulls were judged into seven different categories. Best male and female animals of the show were also selected by a team of experts.

The chief guest lauded the buffalo breeders for food security and economic prosperity through buffalo, often called as black gold of India. He also launched *Buffalopedia*, an online database on buffalo production systems hosted at the institute's website (www.cirb.res.in) and inaugurated **State of the art modern animal sheds** of the institute. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sethi acknowledged the cooperation from ICAR, scientists, Haryana Kisan Ayog for co-hosting the event, and praised the buffalo breeders attending the Mela along with their elite animals. Dr. M.P. Yadav highlighted the need for greater linkage between the scientists and the buffalo keepers and emphasis on transferring newer technologies for buffalo development and economic gain to the farmers. The stall put up by Haryana Kisan Ayog in the Mela was a great attraction drawing large number of farmers for getting knowledge about the activities of the Ayog.

8.5: 17th Asian Regional Meeting and Conference of Commonwealth Veterinary Association

The 17th Asian Regional Meeting and Conference of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association was held at Bangalore from 28-31 January, 2013. The theme of the Conference was "Strengthening of Rabies Diagnosis and Dog Population Control in the Indian Sub-

continent". This conference was organised jointly by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Veterinary College, Bangalore, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) and supported by Indian Veterinary Association (IVA), Veterinary Council of India (VCI), Karnataka Veterinary Council (KVC), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA), Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI), Cruccell Holland by Netherlands and Dogs Trust International.

8.6: Dr. Davinder Sharma Felicitated in Canada

Dr. Davinder Sharma, a former Faculty Member of P.A.U. / GADVASU, Ludhiana, Punjab (India) from 1982 to 2012 was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on 9th October 2012 in Canada. The award was conferred upon him by the Prime Minister of Canada Honourable Steven Harper and Lt Governor of Alberta & Member of Parliament Hon'ourable Donald S. Ethell. (Editor's Note: This news was posted by Dr. Davinder Sharma on a social networking site, and in response to our request on the same site Dr. Sharma promised to send details but the same was not received till the release of this issue of the Newsletter)

8.7: Amul chief issues demands to trade minister over EU dairy negotiation

The head of India's biggest dairy co-operative has called on the commerce minister to stand up for the country during ongoing discussions with the European Union over a proposed free-trade agreement.

8.8: Biosafety level 3 Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Tirupati

The Biosafety level 3 Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory of Shri Vekateshwara Veterinary University, Tirupati was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy development, Fisheries of Andhra Pradesh, Shri P. Viswarup at the College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati on 10th December, 2012. This facility will be useful to diagnose livestock diseases with more precision and will be a boon for the livestock farming community of the State of Andhra Pradesh. On the same day the Hon'ble Minister also inaugurated the Information Centre for Farmers, the International Students Hostel and the Livestock Products Sales Counter.

8.9: The Society for Biosafety (India)



Dr. J. M. Kataria

Dr. J. M. Kataria, President of the Society for Biosafety (SBS) and also a very well known Fellow of the Academy has provided the following profile information about the Society for Biosafety (SBS) for the benefit of our readers at the occasion of the release of the first Newsletter of the Society in January 2013:

The Society for Biosafety (SBS), India was founded in August, 2010 to provide a professional platform to flag the interests and needs of practitioners of biological safety working in fields of veterinary, medical or life sciences. The first bio-containment facility of India, the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL) at Bhopal working under Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) of Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), witnessed the birth of Society for Biosafety. HSADL has been spreading the message and lessons of biosafety throughout the country across many professionals by enlightening those who visited this marvel

of bio-engineering, or got trained in biosafety and worked inside its containment facility. It was through the discourse of the work carried out at this laboratory and later followed by other biocontainment facilities at National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune and DRDO, Gwalior that the need to establish Society for Biosafety gained momentum. The society intends to provide a forum for the continued and timely exchange of biosafety information and to promote biosafety as a scientific discipline and serve the growing needs of biosafety professionals throughout the country and the region. The society has been registered with the Registrar of Firms and Societies, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh under MP Societies registration Act, 1979 No. 44 on 11th August, 2010. Following are the current Office Bearers of the Society: **President:** Dr. J. M. Kataria; **Vice-Presidents:** Dr. R. K. Singh & Dr. D. D. Kulkarni; **Secretary:** Dr. H. V. Murugkar; **Treasurer:** Dr. S. Bhatia. (For details contact: **Dr. J. M. Kataria:** jmkataria@rediffmail.com); or log in to the website: www.biosafetysociety.in)

8.10: 31st Annual General Body meeting ISVM held at Mhow

The 31st Annual General body meeting (AGM) of the Indian Society of Veterinary Medicine was held on 10-01-2013 in the auditorium of C.V.Sc.&A.H., Mhow. Ninety six life members of the ISVM participated in this AGM. Several important decisions were taken during the meeting. **Dr. S.R. Srinivasan**, President of the Society chaired the meeting. The other office bearers of the Society: Dr. K.M. Jadhav, and Dr. B.K. Bansal Vice-Presidents; and Dr. J.L. Singh General Secretary. (drjlsingh@rediffmail.com)

8.11: AVMA celebrates 150 years

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), founded in 1863, is one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world, with more than 82,500 member veterinarians worldwide engaged in a wide variety of professional activities and dedicated to the art and science of veterinary medicine. "I'm extremely proud that the AVMA is turning 150 this year, but even more than that I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments of our members over the past 150 years," says Dr. Douglas G. Aspros, president of the AVMA. "Among many contributions, our members have been at the forefront of medical research. They've preserved the safety of our food supply and health of our livestock. They've gone to war with our troops to help maintain the health of animals in combat situations, and they work tirelessly to keep our pets at home healthy. In short, they've saved many lives and made the lives of innumerable animals and people far better. Our 150th Anniversary is an opportunity to remember these accomplishments and to thank our members for everything that they do."

The AVMA is undertaking a number of efforts to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Association and the long and impressive history of the profession. **For more information about the AVMA and the 150th anniversary of the association, visit www.avma.org. OR Contact: **Tom McPheron**, Phone: 847-285-6781; Cell: 773-494-5419**

8.12: Release of BOOKS AND JOURNALS

8.12.1: "An Introduction to Animal Farming Systems in India" by Prof. (Dr.) R. Nagarcenkar (Chief Editor), which was released at a gala function at Bangalore by Dr. A. Iyappan, Director General & Secretary DARE (where he was delivering Valedictory address at an International Conference on "Plant- Animal Relationship" attended by delegates from 109 countries) and was well appreciated. Though this exhaustive book contains valuable information

for students, teachers, researchers and others engaged in Animal Production, its comprehensive coverage on all the gamut of Animal Farming including Cattle, Buffaloes, Equines, Yaks, Mithin and Poultry, may prove to be particularly useful for the Civil and Military Farms of different regions where these species are maintained. Shri. R.R. Lokeshwar, Prof. C.R. Nagarcenkar and Dr. K.P. Ramesha are the Associate Editors of the book, which is printed at Navbharath Press Bangalore and published by Dapper Creations, Bangalore.

(E-mail: info@dappercreations.com; Website: www.dappercreations.com).

8.12.2: Bubaline Theriogenology by G.N. Purohit and A. Borghese (Coll. Ed.) is a New Book in IVIS (International Veterinary Information Service). Books on the husbandry and medicine of buffaloes are not many. According to [Wikipedia](#), the water buffalo or domestic Asian water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) is a large bovine animal, frequently used as livestock in the Indian Subcontinent, and also widely in South America, southern Europe, the Middle East, northern Africa, and elsewhere. In 2000, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimated there were approximately 158 million water buffalo in the world, with 97% of them (approximately 153 million animals) in Asia. All the domestic varieties and breeds descend from one common ancestor, the wild water buffalo, which is now an endangered species. The domestic water buffalo, although derived from the wild water buffalo, is the product of thousands of years of selective breeding in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. Buffaloes are used as draft, meat, and dairy animals. Their dung is used as a fertilizer, and as a fuel when dried. In the Chonburi of Thailand, Pakistan, and the southwestern region of Karnataka, India, there are annual water buffalo races known as kambala. A few have also found use as pack animals, carrying loads even for Special Forces.

8.12.3: Books by Dr. R. M. Acharya & Dr. Puneet Kumar

8.12.3.1: “Goat Production in India” published by ibdc Publishers, Lucknow.

8.12.3.2: “Dairy Production and Business Management” published by Satish Serial Publishing House, Delhi.

8.12.4: “Diseases of Sheep & Goat” by S.C. Dubey, N. Mishra and A.K. Shinde, I.C.A.R (Details not available)

8.12.5: “Proceedings of the 16th International Symposium & 8th Conference on Lameness in Ruminants 2011” which was held on Feb. 28 – Mar. 3, in Rotorua, New Zealand. are now available on line in IVIS. Click to [View the Proceedings](#).

8.13: CVMA Encourages Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Animals



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES

A report released this week by the Ontario Medical Association recommends that the federal government and the Government of Ontario should close the legal loopholes that currently allow animal owners to access veterinary pharmaceutical products for their own personal use without surveillance or regulation.

The report says a veterinary prescription-only standard of access to antibiotics for animals must be instituted. The report also suggests a ban on the prophylactic or growth-promoting use of antibiotics in food animal production. (25 Mar 2013)

8.14: OIE opens a new office in Moscow, Russia

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the government of the Russian Federation signed an agreement on March 7th 2013 launching a new OIE representation based in the capital city of Moscow. Representing the Russian Federation, Agriculture Minister Nikolai Fyodorov stressed the country's commitment to support OIE's activities in the region. He stressed the indispensable role of OIE in updating animal disease prevention and control methods, ensuring safe international trade in animals and products of animal origin and good veterinary governance.

8.15: Advice to the Veterinarians regarding Horse Passport Regulations 2009

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) have reminded veterinary surgeons of their legal responsibilities under the Horse Passport Regulations 2009, and requested assistance from us in disseminating this advice to all members. The move follows a small number of horses testing positively for the presence of phenylbutazone, which, if consumed, can be harmful to human health. Defra and the FSA have asked for the assistance of the profession in ensuring that treatment with phenylbutazone is properly recorded in Horse Passports and have said that they are working together to understand the cause of the positive tests, and what longer term measures can be put in place to stop this happening. In the interim, all horses slaughtered for human consumption will be sampled for the presence of phenylbutazone, with immediate effect. The [letter from Defra and the FSA](#) can be downloaded and the full advice can be read in a [Veterinary Medicines Directorate/Defra leaflet](#).

Meanwhile, a [form is available from the British Equine Veterinary Association website](#) for veterinary surgeons to use if the horse passport is not available, but emergency treatment is required. <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-events/news/advice-to-the-veterinary-profession-regarding-horse>

8.16: Bad dogs or bad law? Guidance for vets on dangerous dogs

What should vets do when a pit bull terrier walks into the waiting room?

This question, and many others, were addressed this week when the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and The Webinar Vet joined forces to deliver an informative and thought-provoking webinar on dangerous dogs to over 350 live attendees. The webinar, available to view at www.bva.co.uk/dangerousdogs, was presented by BVA President Robin Hargreaves under the banner "Bad dogs or bad law? Problems with the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991". In the webinar small animal practitioner Robin outlined the legislation as it stands across the UK and explained what action the BVA and others have taken in campaigning to move away from breed-specific legislation towards a more preventive approach. Robin also explained what the current legislation means for vets in practice by drawing on the new BVA guidance on dangerous dogs, which is now available for members to download at www.bva.co.uk/guides. The guidance covers what vets should know when presented with a dog suspected of being of a banned type, what advice they should give to clients, and where to find further information to help encourage responsible ownership and promote safe interaction between people and dogs. (British Veterinary Association 31 January 2013)

8.17: Volunteer with Giant Pandas in China - An opportunity

Projects Abroad's Animal Care project in China offers volunteers the opportunity to work at China's most established giant panda conservation and research center. The giant panda is one of the world's most iconic endangered species. As a volunteer you can get involved in protecting this lovable but threatened animal, whether you are on a gap year, volunteer vacation, or career break. The giant panda population has declined rapidly over the last few decades as a result of extreme habitat loss and low birth rates. Poaching has also historically impacted the numbers. It is generally agreed that only 1000-1500 pandas still exist in the wild. However, some conservationists are now estimating numbers are actually as high as 3000 and are convinced that recent conservation measures are working. Now you have the opportunity to be a part of this valuable conservation effort by volunteering at the panda research center. ***For Details Contact: Projects Abroad [info@projects-abroad.org]***

8.18: News about One Health initiative:

8.18.1: About "One Health"

Sixty percent of the pathogens that cause diseases in humans are of animal origin. These diseases, known as zoonoses, can be transmitted by domestic or wild animals. Animal diseases that are transmissible to humans, such as avian influenza, rabies, brucellosis and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, present a public health risk worldwide and must imperatively be prevented or combated at every level, including the global one. The most effective and economical solution to protect humans is to combat all zoonotic pathogens through their control at the animal source. This requires new political approach leading to specific investments in terms of governance, particularly with regard to the allocation of public and private resources.

Pathogens that are not zoonotic but have a negative impact on the production of animal-derived protein should not be overlooked. This is especially important in developing countries as problems affecting the quantity and quality of food production and its availability can also have serious public health consequences.

The "One Health" concept is founded on an awareness of the major opportunities that exist to protect public health through policies aimed at preventing and controlling pathogens at the level of animal populations, at the interface between humans, animals and the environment. Implementation of these policies places not only veterinarians and animal owners in the front line but also people who regularly come into contact with wildlife and the environment, in particular those involved in fishing and hunting and managers of protected areas. They involve new mechanisms requiring all these stakeholders to inform one other and act in a concerted manner, in liaison with public health managers, usually working under the auspices of the Minister of Health in our Member Countries, whether they are State officials, local government staff or physicians in private practice.

Putting the "One Health" vision into practice has been facilitated by a formal alliance on this topic between the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The three Organisations have published a joint Concept Note clarifying their reciprocal responsibilities and their objectives in this field (see note). They have also decided to choose the following as priority topics for their joint actions: rabies, which still kills nearly 70,000 people every year, zoonotic influenza viruses (those causing certain types of avian influenza, for instance) and antimicrobial resistance.

For its part, the OIE is continuing its normative work on animal disease prevention and control methods and on health standards relating to the safety of international trade in animals and animal products, with priority being given to the prevention of diseases transmissible to humans. The OIE also publishes international standards on good governance of the public and private sector components of the Veterinary Services, including the initial training and continuing education of the various actors involved. Furthermore, it offers Member Countries an independent evaluation of their Veterinary Services' compliance with the OIE's quality standards, along with special tools to calculate the investments and legislative and technical reforms needed to bring their Services into line with these quality standards.

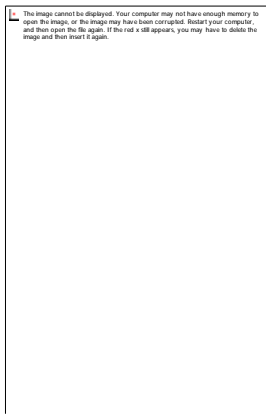
This service provided by the OIE, known as the 'PVS Pathway', has already benefited nearly 120 Member Countries. It also includes an optional "One Health" pilot evaluation tool, already successfully tested in three countries, designed to help all countries, at their own request, to establish closer collaboration between Veterinary Services and Public Health Services, in compliance both with the quality standards published by the OIE and with the obligations on WHO Member Countries stemming from the International Health Regulations they have adopted.

All these synergies between animal health, public health and environmental specialists, applied at a local, national and global level, will undoubtedly contribute to the constant and simultaneous improvement of public health and animal health worldwide.

(Source: OIE - World Organization for Animal Health; One Health Initiative; WVA)

8.18.2: Pioneers of One Health Concept:

Dr. James Law, America's first university-based veterinary professor and an early advocate of the one-health concept, envisaged a "new style of practitioner" who was "more comprehensively educated [and] more thoroughly acquainted with the diagnosis and treatment of maladies of man and beast" (*see JAVMA "Legends" profile, Feb. 1, 2013, page 286*).



Dr. James Harlan Steele

By promoting the one-health concept, **Dr. James Harlan Steele** has enhanced the lives of animals and humans. **Dr. Steele**, who became known as **the father of veterinary public health**, certainly embodied Dr. Law's vision. Surprisingly, Dr. Steele arrived at veterinary medicine almost by accident. As a young man considering his career path, he was cautioned by friends that he would be better off painting houses. With the encouragement of his first wife, Aina, Dr. Steele persisted and earned his DVM degree from Michigan State University in 1941. Dr. James H. Steele, DVM, MPH, a leading veterinary medical public health figure in the 20th and early 21st

centuries, is celebrating his 100th birthday on April 3, 2013. Indeed, many of the world's notable public health figures will be celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of Dr. James H. Steele. (For More: <https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/130401q.aspx>)

8.18.3: One Health collaborative cancer research ...

"Treating dogs with cancer provides us with a great comparative oncology model for humans," said Colleen O'Connor, Ph.D., post-doctoral fellow at **Texas A & M College of Veterinary Medicine and University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**, and one of the primary investigators on the study. "We learned important details about the interaction between chemotherapy and tumor cells that can be harnessed to improve the body's immune response. This is something we hadn't appreciated thus far from our clinical research in humans."...

Details: <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/news/press-releases/texas-am-,-ut-md-anderson-tea...>

8.19: USDA awards \$5 million for veterinarians in shortage areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced, it will offer awards totaling \$5 million to nearly 50 veterinarians that will go toward repayment of veterinary student loans in return for service in shortage areas. The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture offered the awards through the federal Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. Recipients must commit to three years of service in a designated shortage area.



8.20: XLI Dairy Industry Conference Held in Mumbai

The XLI Dairy Industry Conference was successfully organized by the west zone of IDA in Mumbai 14-16 March 2013 on the theme "Global Dairy Industry and Food Security" and was attended by over 1200 delegates from different parts of the country including representatives from Nepal & Bangladesh. The inaugural session was chaired by Shri Madhukar Deorao Chavan, the minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Maharashtra. Dr. Ms. Amrita Patel, the Chairperson of National Dairy

Dr. N.R. Bhasin

Development Board, Anand, presented the Keynote address. Mr. Arun Patil is the Chairman of the west zone of IDA. Our readers would recall that **Dr. N.R. Bhasin**, Ph.D., D.Sc., I.A.S. (Retd.), the current President of the Indian Dairy Association, an eminent veterinary scientist (animal geneticist), and a renowned technocrat/administrator is also an Honorary Fellow of the Academy. The NAVS (India) is proud to associate itself with Dr. Bhasin and his wide and vast professional experience in different aspects of livestock production, dairy science and Rural Development.

8._: Relocating elephants backfires

You can move an elephant, but you can't make him stay.

After monitoring a dozen bull Asian elephants in Sri Lanka that were transferred—three of them multiple times—to national parks, researchers have concluded that relocation neither reduces human-elephant conflicts nor helps conservation efforts. ([Science Now](#) January 8, 2013)

9. SCIENCE, HEALTH & SOCIAL INFOTAINMENT

9.1: 100th Indian Science Congress held in Kolkata

The 100th session of the Indian Science Congress was held at Calcutta University, Kolkata new campus in Salt Lake from 3-7 January, 2013 to mark the Centenary Year at the same place where Indian Science Congress had its first session in 1913. Prime Minister of India **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, who is the General President of the Congress, unveiled the country's science, technology and innovation policy in the inaugural session. Speaking at this occasion, Dr Singh said that the policy aims to put India among the top five science power houses in the world by 2020. "We need new breakthrough in water saving technology in agriculture. Science must help in establishing an inclusive society that seeks to solve problems through its application" he said. Referring to the need to transform India's agriculture, Dr. Singh said that the quest for energy, security, sanitation, provision of safe drinking water, labour intensive manufactures and universal healthcare at affordable cost must be addressed to. The Prime Minister also emphasized that science must help in establishing an inclusive society that seeks to solve social problems through its application. "We need new breakthrough in water saving technology in agriculture", observed Dr Singh. **Shri Pranab Mukherjee**, Honorable President of India, while speaking as Chief Guest said that there is an economic value to technology. The President in his address underlined that India had no Nobel Laureate since Dr. C.V. Raman got his Nobel 83 years ago. It was long overdue, he said. According to **Shri M.K. Narayanan**, Governor of West Bengal, it is hardly a coincidence that this grand occasion is taking place in the same year as that of the discovery of the Higgs-Boson, which has a profound link with the City of Joy. **Miss Mamta Banerjee**, Chief Minister of West Bengal, while speaking on this occasion informed that Kolkata has produced many Nobel laureates including Ronald Ross, Rabindranath Tagore, C.V. Raman, Mother Teresa and Amartya Sen, and other renowned scientists, such as Jyoti Basu, Jagadish Chandra Bose and Satyendra Nath Bose. **Prof. M.S. Swaminathan** pointed out that keeping in mind the scarcity of land in India, the ample land area present in the delta region in Sunderban should be taken under cultivation. The obstacle of high salt concentration in this land can be overcome by cultivating plants with special gene manipulation, which will withstand high salinity. He suggested a new dimension to think about Science of Science Communications. We should be very communicable about the knowledge in order to make people understand the need for advanced technologies, observed Prof. Swaminathan.

It was rightly said that hundred years back the theme of the first science congress was "Shaping of the Indian science" while in the centenary-session the theme is "Science for shaping the future of India". On one hand our achievements in science are sky-high; but on the other hand there are glaring failures. Such a contrast does not augur well with the successful journey of Indian Science, opined one of the participants. It was pointed out that there are some other aspects where introspection is necessary. For example, Indian industry as an entity is yet to come forward with financial assistance for overall promotion of science and technology in the country. Teaching science in schools is another area that needs continuous innovation. The focus should be on assimilation and creation rather than getting high marks in science subjects and ending up with a career without any creation. **Prof. Negishi**, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2010, while speaking at the side lines of the Congress emphasized "It is a world of science. I like to break the boundaries and make bonds." Over 10,000 delegates from India and abroad attended the Science Congress.

9.2: Vedic Wisdom behind eating with your hands

Eating food with the hands in today's Western society can sometimes be perceived as being unhygienic, bad mannered and primitive. However within Indian culture there is an old saying that, "Eating food with your hands feeds not only the body but also the mind and the spirit". In the Big Brother series some years back, an English participant complained about an Indian participant use of her hands during food preparations and her eating habits, "They eat with their hands in India, don't they? Or is that China? You don't know where those hands have been." Within many Indian households nowadays, the practice of eating food with the hands has been replaced with the use of cutlery.

Have you ever thought of why previous generations in India ate with the hands? There is a reason for this. The practice of eating with the hands originated within Ayurvedic teachings. The Vedic people knew the power held in the hand. The ancient native tradition of eating food with the hands is derived from the mudra practice, which is prevalent in many aspects within Hinduism. Mudras are used during meditation and are very prominent within the many classical forms of dance, such as Bharatnatyam

\. The hands are considered the most precious organ of action. This is linked to the Vedic prayer of "*Karagre vasate Lakshmi Karamadhye Sarasvati karamule tu Govindah prabhate karadarsanam*" (On the tip of your fingers is Goddess Lakshmi, on the base of your fingers is Goddess Saraswati; in the middle of your fingers is Lord Govinda), which we recite whilst looking at our palms. Thus, this shloka suggests that all the divinity lies in human effort.

Our hands and feet are said to be the conduits of the five elements. The Ayurvedic texts teach that each finger is an extension of one of the five elements. The thumb is agni (fire) (you might have seen children sucking their thumb, this is nature's way of aiding the digestion in children at an age when they are unable to do an physical activity to aid the digestion), the forefinger is vayu (air), the middle finger is akash (ether - the tiny intercellular spaces in the human body), the ring finger is prithvi (earth) and the little finger is jal (water).

Each finger aids in the transformation of food, before it passes on to internal digestion. Gathering the fingertips as they touch the food stimulates the five elements and invites Agni to bring forth the digestive juices. As well as improving digestion the person becomes more conscious of the tastes, textures and smells of the foods they are eating, which all adds to the pleasure of eating.

You may have noticed that elders in the family hardly ever use utensils to measure all the different type of masala, and would instead prefer to use their hands to measure the quantity instead. As each handful is tailored to provide a suitable amount for the own body. Overall there are 6 main documented forms that the hands take when obtaining a measurement a certain type of food ranging from solid food to seeds, and flour. This is a prime example of how many things within Hindu culture may seem weird and unusual at first glance, but once a closer look is taken it is surprising, but a vast amount of knowledge is revealed. (Contributed: Dr. R. S. Khanna)

9.3: Genetic engineering: It's a technology, not an ideology

Whether you are 'pro' or 'anti' genetic engineering has become a divisive political issue, but remember that we are talking about technology; it shouldn't be an ideology. Details:

<http://www.foodnavigator.com/Science-Nutrition/Genetic-engineering-It-s-a-technology-not-an-ideology>

9.4: Does post-meal exercise cut heart attack risk after high fat meal?

Researchers in Japan found that people who are sedentary after having a high-fat meal will have triglyceride and cholesterol spikes that are much higher than people who went for a short walk or lifted light weights following their meals. They also found that the control over the boost in the triglycerides was better when participants exercised after a meal as opposed to before it. Some doctors think that it was worth conducting further study to consider the effects of post-meal exercise on blood triglyceride and cholesterol levels.

9.5: Diabetes Linked To Vitamin D Deficiency

Vitamin and mineral deficiencies that cause serious disease are largely considered to be third world problems, but scientists are finding with ever-increasing frequency that even in developed countries, diseases caused by vitamin deficiency occur all the time. One vitamin in particular is not only found to be critical in most of the systems in the body; namely, digestive, musculo-skeletal, and endocrine, but is also the number 1 deficiency in the US. Innumerable problems occur with a vitamin D deficiency, but researchers in the Clinical Biology Department at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark recently released a study showing how a deficiency can cause type 2 diabetes. Vitamin D is critical to beta cells in the pancreas; low plasma levels of vitamin D are responsible for insulin resistance, decreased insulin sensitivity, and failure to produce insulin. The best way to boost vitamin D levels in the blood is to produce it yourself with exposure to the sun's rays. However, in the winter it can be difficult to do. The next best step is to take a D3 capsule with meals. However, taking it on an empty stomach limits the absorption in the blood. As a fat-soluble vitamin, it can accumulate in the liver if taken in mega-doses, particularly if it's taken without food, so follow the recommendations on the label if you supplement with capsules as to how much to take.

9.6: Life Span of Plants and Animals

There are many varieties of trees that have incredible lifespans, but among them the palm has one of the longest. For this reason, researchers at the University of Leeds studied the genetic makeup of this tree to see what longevity secrets it might be holding.

One of the key differences between plants, which can have amazingly long lifespans, and animals, which typically do not, is the makeup of the cellular structure.

Animals have a relatively fixed cell organization compared to plants, such that organs and certain tissues that die can't regenerate. Plants differ in that aspect, as many species have regenerative characteristics.

The difference between palm trees and other, denser hard-wood trees is that palm tree cells can remain alive throughout its entire lifespan, as opposed to the hard-wood trees. Their cells eventually die and comprise the dead, outer material of the trunk. While a tree can live to be more than 2 or even 3 thousand years, most of its cells are only at most a hundred years old.

That is why there is such a focus on the longevity of the palm cells, which the authors maintain is lacking in the curricula of most modern plant biology fields of study.

Finding the similarities and differences in palm and animal metabolism may unlock future opportunities to extend human life and eliminate disease.

9.7: WHO heralds “new phase” in the fight against neglected tropical diseases Sustained commitment key to reaching eradication and elimination targets by 2020

News release GENEVA 16 January 2013: WHO reports unprecedented progress against 17 neglected tropical diseases*, thanks to a new global strategy, a regular supply of quality assured, cost-effective medicines and support from global partners. The report sustaining the drive to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases reveals new momentum has shifted the world closer to the elimination of many of these conditions that take their greatest toll amongst the poor. The diseases are: *Dengue, Rabies, Trachoma, Buruli ulcer, Endemic treponematoses (includes yaws), Leprosy, Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniases, taeniasis/cysticercosis, dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), echinococcosis/hydatidosis, foodborne trematodiases, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis (river blindness), schistosomiasis (bilharzia), soil-transmitted helminthiases.

9.8: Green tea supplements may benefit skin from within

Oral supplements containing extracts from green tea may help protect against sunburn and the longer-term effects of UV damage, says a new study from the UK.

<http://www.nutraingredients-usa.com/Research/Green-tea-supplements-may-benefit-skin-from-within>

9.9: Why People are Living Longer but Sicker

Can a nation actually have the highest concentrations of deadly diseases like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and high blood pressure and still live longer than other nations? Yes, but a longer life doesn't mean a healthier one...at all. In a report from the United Health Foundation sponsored by the American Public Health Foundation, Americans have been shown to have the most troubling and stubborn rates of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and a handful of other preventable killers.

But they are actually living longer in spite of these diseases. Why? Advances in disease management and technology are making it possible for people to live longer with these diseases, even though they are living sicker.

The proliferation of pharmaceutical use in the US has had a mixed effect on the lives of its constituents. While many diseases are improved or at least subdued, the medications carry direct and indirect side effects that cause more illness overall. This is in spite of the fact that they can lengthen life span. The bottom line is that traditional medications are not designed to improve the quality of your life. Their purpose is to keep you alive so that you'll have to buy more medications.

9.10: Sleeping Pills Kill even in Small Amounts

In a study published in the journal *BMJ Open*, scientists reviewed the medical records of over 10,000 people with an average age of 54 years old who took prescription hypnotics, or sleep aids. They compared this group to more than 25,000 people who were on no sleep aid prescriptions for 2.5 years.

They found that after adjusting for issues such as age, gender, ethnicity, co-morbidities (other diseases present), and various other variables, the scientists found that even in the very smallest of doses taken, risk of dying was sharply increased for those taking the sleep aids. They also found that the risk of dying was directly affected by dosage size and frequency of use. (<http://blueheronhealthnews.com/site/?p=6903>)

10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Calendar of Conferences, Conventions and Symposia in India and abroad

Get your event listed in this section by mailing complete details to the Editor: rnkohli@gmail.com

10.1: XX Annual Convention of IAAVR & International Conference: April 16th and 17th 2013- Bangalore, India.

Indian Association for Advancement of Veterinary Research (IAAVR) and Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals and Veterinary College, Hebbal, KVAFSU are jointly Conducting the XX Annual Convention of IAAVR & International Conference on “Thrust areas in Veterinary Research, Education, Regulatory Reforms and Governance for quality services to farmers”. For further information contact the Organizing Secretary: Dr. S.M. Byregowda, Mobile No. 09448209098

10.2: 1st International Conference on Avian, Herpetological and Exotic Mammal Medicine April 20-26, 2013, Wiesbaden, Germany

The “1st International Conference on Avian, Herpetological and Exotic Mammal Medicine” (ICARE 2013), the largest multifaceted conference on the latest developments in veterinary care, husbandry and reproduction of exotic pets in Europe will take place from April 20-26, 2013 in Wiesbaden, Germany. The international associations in avian (EAAV = European Committee of the Association of Avian Veterinarians), herpetological (ARAV = Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians) and exotic mammal medicine (AEMV = Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians) and the European College of Zoological Medicine (ECZM) are joining together for the first time for a conference on all aspects of exotic animal medicine. The latest techniques and methods will be presented and discussed in lectures, seminars, master classes, excursions/field trips and practical labs. Interest in the conference has been overwhelming and the conference program has been extended to accommodate more of the over 350 proposals for presentations and posters received. A large industrial exhibition will offer a variety of interesting and important products and devices for this specialized field. The extensive social program will ensure plenty of fun and entertainment for all participants and their families. This is the largest conference on exotic animals – birds, reptiles, small mammals. For further information please visit: www.icare2013.eu

10.3: 5th International Climate Change Conference: London, 26-30 April 2013.

The Climate Change Conference is for any one with an interest in, and concern for, scientific, policy and strategic perspectives in climate change. Plenary speakers will include some of the world’s leading thinkers in the fields of climatology and environmental science, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by researchers and practitioners. A limited number of Access Grant Scholar Award will be granted to Participating Paid Delegates attending the conference to cover per diem, flight ticket and travel insurance. For more information about the online registration, accommodation, access grant scholar award and venue, please email Dr. Alex Cross on: dr.alexcross@aol.co.uk.

10.4: International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals: 8th – 11th May 2013 - Vienna, Austria

The Conference is being organized by: Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Tiergarten Schönbrunn (Vienna, Austria) and European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV).

Register at <http://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/zoovet2013/> or follow the links at the conference website <http://www.zoovet-conference.org/>.

10.5: Minnesota Dairy Health Conference May 21-23, 2013 Minneapolis

There's still time to register for the Minnesota Dairy Health Conference May 21-23, at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott. Limited space [pre-conference sessions](#) are filling fast, so register soon!

Early registration ends Monday, April 22 so [act now](#) to discover the latest developments in dairy health, mortality, mastitis and food safety. <http://www.bovinevetonline.com/newsletter/bovinevet-wir/2013-Minnesota-Dairy-Health-Conference> - Updated: 03/12/2013

10.6: Seminar on Animal Concepts: 24th-28th of May 2013 in Vienna, Austria

The seminar will be held from the 24th - 28th of May 2013 at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna in collaboration with the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna and the Messerli - Research Institute.

It will cover many different topics related to animal welfare, behaviour, cognition and learning. Special focus is on carnivores, including dogs and cats, but also some time will be spend on exotic animals like wolves, big cats and bears. For more information and to register please follow this link <http://animalconcepts.eu/styled-4/styled-21/styled-3/index.html>

10.7: World Research and Innovation Congress - Pioneers in Healthcare:

5-6 June 2013 in Brussels

“World Research and Innovation Congress - Pioneers in Healthcare promises to provide a unique opportunity for those facilitating and effecting change within their field to interact and collaborate on the critical issues facing healthcare research today. Bringing together researchers from across the world, this is more than just an event: it is the sharing of over 500 research stories and experiences, and will offer the opportunity to build partnerships, promote collaboration and drive innovation.” Venue: The Steigenberger Grand Hotel, Brussels, Belgium. Details: <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com>.

10.8: 65th Convention of Canadian Veterinary Medical Association: July 10-13, 2013 - Victoria, BC; “Ocean of Knowledge, Mountains of Progress!”

The 2013 convention theme “Ocean of Knowledge, Mountains of Progress” links the scenic beauty of western Canada -- the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains -- to the current and progressive knowledge that will be shared at the meeting. A strong scientific program, with 28 speakers from Canada and the United States, has been developed and offers up to 24 hours of CE. Four days’ worth of labs, concurrent streams exploring companion animal, equine, bovine and animal welfare topics. The program guide is now available [online](#) (Source: CVMA)

10.9: African Livestock Conference & Exhibition: 26-28 June 2013, Nairobi, Kenya

The theme of this event, which is being jointly organized by several African organizations, is “Towards a competitive and sustainable world-class livestock sector”. Contact Person: Mr. Peter M. Ngaruiya, www.livestockafrica.com.

10.10: 17th International Symposium and 9th International Conference on Lameness in Ruminants: 11th - 14th August 2013 in Bristol

The **17th International Symposium and 9th International Conference on Lameness in Ruminants: Past, Present and Future**, hosted by the University of Bristol, School of Veterinary Sciences, will be held from the 11th to the 14th of August 2013 at the Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel and follows on from the enormously successful meeting held in New Zealand in 2011. The Conference/Symposium is dedicated to sharing knowledge and discussing ideas about lameness in ruminants. The programme will feature nationally and internationally renowned keynote speakers, free papers, posters, a half-day on-farm workshop and an excellent social experience. The symposium will include researchers, veterinary surgeons, claw trimmers, farmers, industry representatives and just about anyone with an interest in ruminant lameness. The closing date for abstract submission is 31st May, 2013. For details contact: School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol.

10.11: 31st World Veterinary Congress this year is Special

The **31st World Veterinary Congress, which will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, 17-20 September 2013, is special because it will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the World Veterinary Association**. In a welcome message **Dr. Tjeerd Jorna**, Former President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) states: Each year is very important for the **World Veterinary Association (WVA)**, but the year 2013 is a special year, for WVA will have existed for **150 years**. WVA was founded in 1863 by John Gamgee in Hamburg, Germany as a veterinary congress organizing body. In 1959 the name WVA was given to the organisation for the Association became more professionally oriented.

The main issues for WVA are Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Public Health, Veterinary Education and Life Long Learning, Development and Environment/Climate.

The **Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons of the Czech Republic** has got the mandate to organise the World Veterinary Congress in 2013. They will organise the WVC in a beautiful congress centre in Prague, the capital city of the country. They are sufficiently experienced to organise a world congress as they have organised congresses previously on a global level. This gives the board of WVA much confidence that it will be a congress to which the global veterinary family will look forward to.

The World Veterinary Congresses always give the veterinarians from all disciplines an opportunity not only to meet with scientists to review their new scientific work and opinions, but also to meet global organisations involved in veterinary issues like OIE, FAO, WHO and other important stakeholders. *The WVC 2015 - will be held in Turkey; and WVC 2017 - will be held in Incheon, Republic of South Korea.*
(For details log on to: www.wvc2013.com/en/)

10.12: U3A Victoria and U3A Asia Pacific Alliance International Conference 2013 - "Ageless Learning Begins with U3A- "14th and 15th October 2013 - Melbourne, Australia

According to a news email from Dr T.M. Dak, Secretary General of the **Indian Society of Universities of the Third Age (ISU3A)**, the next U3A International Conference 2013 will be held at Melbourne, Australia on 14th and 15th October 2013. It may be recalled that the Third U3A International Conference was held at Chinmaya Vibhooti, Pune from October 12-14, 2010. At that occasion, an announcement was made to hold U3A International Conference 2013 at Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Dak has informed us that some details about the forthcoming event such as venue, dates themes and subthemes registration fee, registration form, mode of payment, hospitality, contact address etc have now appeared in world u3a newsletter SIGNPOST (Feb 1, 2013). For details please email: conference2013@u3avictoria.com.au or for wider issues to elsiem@bigpond.net.au (Chair of Conference Committee). Participants from India can organize themselves on regional level Zonal Vice-Chairpersons as under: **North-Zone** Sh J.R.Gupta guptajr2005@gmail.com; **West-Zone** Sh Bhanwar Seth bhanwarseth@yahoo.com; **South-Zone** Sh M.R. Rangaswamy rangaswamymr36@gmail.com; **Central-Zone** Sh A.K.Malhotra akmalhotra123@rediffmail.com. Conference website: <http://u3a-melbourneinternationalconference2013.org>; Conference Registration form - link is <http://u3a-melbourneinternationalconference2013.org/internationalregistration.pdf>

10.13: IDF World Dairy Summit: 28 Oct. - 1 Nov. 2013 - Yakohama, Japan

Considered to be the most important global event for all dairy subject matter specialists and others who matter in the dairy related fields. For information contact: nvanbelzen@fil.idf.org; www.wdf2013.com.

2014 Conference

10.9: 39th World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress 2014: 16-19 September 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The WSAVA 2014 Congress is the world's largest congress for small animal veterinary professionals. Experience the majestic splendor of South Africa's wildlife, culture and tradition whilst enhancing your professional veterinary network and knowledge. Advance Plan your Great African Vet Adventure. At the 39th World Small Animal Association Congress, WSAVA 2014 congress, in Cape Town you will enjoy three days of educational opportunities presented by the most renowned speakers and names in the companion animal veterinary field.

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