

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY  
NEW DELHI - MARCH, 2012

NAVS

NEWSLETTER



#### 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”.

EDITOR

PROF. DR. R. N. KOHLI

NAVS(I) Website: [www.navsindia.org](http://www.navsindia.org)

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

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# NAVS NEWSLETTER

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March, 2012

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#### ADVERTISE IN NAVS WEBSITE

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Professional bodies may place their information such as bio-data of scientists for placement and jobs, ads for newly published books, admissions on our website. Professional associations may also give ad regarding their professional activities like Annual Convention and Conferences on NAVS website.

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**Dr. Praveen Malik**[[malikphisar@hotmail.com](mailto:malikphisar@hotmail.com)] Principal Scientist, NRCE, Hisar.

## 2. EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the third issue of the NAVS Newsletter after it recommenced publication with the issue dated May 2011. The second issue dated October 2011 incorporated some of the suggestions received in response to the first issue. Some more improvements have been attempted and chapters added in the current issue.

While continuing to appreciate receiving your critical comments and suggestions for improvement of the Newsletter, we would also like to request the Members and Fellows of the Academy as well as other professionals and institutions to send us items for inclusion in the future issues of the Newsletter. The matter for next issue should reach the editor by **10<sup>th</sup> June 2012** and may preferably be sent via email. Professionals and institutions interested in receiving the Newsletter may kindly send their requests to the Editor.

**All Correspondence regarding the Newsletter may kindly be addressed to the Editor.**

**Prof. Dr. R.N. Kohli**

## 3. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for the initiative and sending a copy of the Newsletter. Looking forward to future issues of the Newsletter. **G K Sharma**, General Manager, NDDB, Anand [<mailto:gksharma@nddb.coop>]

Thanks a lot for publishing the obituary regarding papa in the NAVS Newsletter. You have covered all the aspects of his life in the obituary. Thanks and warm regards

**Rajeev Mohan** (Son of Late Dr. G.C. Srivastava) [<mailto:rmohan.hrd@gmail.com>]

Thanks for sending me the NAVS Newsletter October 2011. I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the Job well done as the Editor of NAVS.

**Dr. Laxmi Narasimha Rao Ravirala** [<mailto:rlnrao@hotmail.com>] From Newzealand

I am delighted to receive the October 2011 issue of NAVS Newsletter. It is so well-arranged, comprehensive, and all-encompassing that I not only appreciate your mighty efforts and acumen, but hold them in high admiration. NAVS is doing a wonderful job by regularly coming out with such a newsletter. **Dr. Jawaharlal Vegad** [<mailto:vegadjl@yahoo.com>]

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the October 2011 issue of the NAVS Newsletter. It is very much informative and useful for all the Vets. I must congratulate you for taking so many pains in bringing the newsletter to this level. **Dr. R. C. Ghosh**, Ph. D (England), Prof. & Head of Pathology, Durg, [[rcghosh@rediffmail.com](mailto:rcghosh@rediffmail.com)]

Thanks for NAVS Newsletter Oct 11. How can I be a member and donate in NAVS fund account?

**Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh**, Senior Manager AH UPSLRIIP-The WB funded project implementing agency- UPBSN, [<mailto:arvindk1964@gmail.com>] Mobile no. 09415105802

I had the fortune of meeting you when you came to Pondicherry. You are doing a great service to the Academy by publishing the Newsletter. This keeps all the Fellows and the veterinarians informed about happenings in the profession. **Dr. D V REDDY**; [dv.duvvuru@gmail.com](mailto:dv.duvvuru@gmail.com)

Excellent Newsletter. I liked the dog of SEAL team. Kindly send the membership application form of NAVS. **Dr. Indramani Nath**, Professor of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar - 751 003, Orissa. [<mailto:indravet@yahoo.co.in>]

Thank you very much for the NAVS Newsletter. The Newsletter contains very useful information and I congratulate you for giving lot of time to prepare, print and circulate to all of us. It is all the more important to find about future events. I am presently in USA and will miss the symposium to be held this month in Bikaner. I request you to send us recommendations of the meeting. **Dr B.B.Verma** Adjunct Professor, Tufts Univ. School of Vet. Med. North Grafton, MA, USA [[bbverma@email.com](mailto:bbverma@email.com)]

I want to convey my sincere thanks to you for sending the October 2011 issue of the Newsletter of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences which is really an excellent presentation of our noble profession in India. I am sure it will fulfill our commitment to the society immensely. I wish its success. **Dr. Shyamal Kanti Guha**, Reader Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata 700037 [[drskguha2004@yahoo.co.in](mailto:drskguha2004@yahoo.co.in)]

I will take care of the events which can be sent to you for inclusion in the Newsletter.  
**Dr. Simrat Sagar Singh** [[simratgadvasu@rediffmail.com](mailto:simratgadvasu@rediffmail.com)]

Thanks for sending the NAVS Newsletter - October 2011 issue. This is now more compact and professional compilation and also edited nicely. If you require any help from my side kindly allow me to join you. As you are aware, I have little experience on editing The Blue Cross Book 24 issues and The Vets Communication 6 issues. Now I think NAVS (India) should start including technical articles of clinical and case report study. This is my personal opinion. **Dr. Anup Datta**, Ph.D. (NBU), D.M.L.T. (JU); Head, Development Projects-Animal Health, Boehringer Ingelheim India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai [<mailto:dranup2848@gmail.com>]

Thank you for sending me the Newsletter. I congratulate you on the excellent get up and coverage of various activities. **Dr. R.P. Tiwari**, Professor & Head, Veterinary Gynaecology & Obstetrics, College of Veterinary Science & A.H. Anjora, Durg (Chhattisgarh). [rptiwarivca@rediffmail.com](mailto:rptiwarivca@rediffmail.com)

I am very much impressed with the quality of NAVS Newsletter. It gives an impression that this new body under your leadership has brought vibrancy to NAVS. I am confident that this body will continue to work with full vigour and force to make our presence felt at National forum and we shall be able to share the major burden of addressing national frame work policy formulations and scientific advancement including educational reforms. I congratulate Dr. Kohli and his team of editorial board for bringing out this newsletter which provides wide spectrum of information for entire fellowship. **Dr. Jitendra Singh Bhatia** (to Dr. M.P. Yadav) ([bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com](mailto:bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com))

*(Dr. Yadav's Reply):* Thanks a lot for your compliments for NAVS Newsletter contents and quality. This has been possible with overwhelming support and cooperation of entire Fellowship and the excellent efforts put in by Dr R.N. Kohli. **Dr. M.P. Yadav** ([yadav\\_mp@hotmail.com](mailto:yadav_mp@hotmail.com)).

I am delighted to receive the soft copy of NAVS News Letter of Oct 2011. I take this opportunity to congratulate you and your entire team for doing a marvelous job. I wonder if NAVS has his own website, if not we should have our own so that the entire matter is loaded on the website. I only hope and pray that this gigantic effort of yours is sustained and the tempo is maintained. Thanks for updating us on the activities of the Profession. PLEASE KEEP IT UP. **Prof (Dr) P.K.Gupta**; (Former Head of Div Pharmacology & Toxicology, IVRI and Advisor to WHO, Geneva) ([drpkg\\_brly@yahoo.co.in](mailto:drpkg_brly@yahoo.co.in))

I congratulate you for publishing the NAVS News letter which was a long pending demand of NAVS members. The newsletter is very informative and giving details of all type of activities of veterinary profession. Kindly intimate the date and place of next NAVS conference. Please invite all the Fellow of the NAVS to attend the Seminar.

**Dr. N.A.Sudhan**, Ex. Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu; [<mailto:drnasudhan@yahoo.co.uk>]

It is a nice compilation and a good effort in the professional front.

**Prof Suresh S Honnappagol**, Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU, PB No-6, BIDAR-585 401, Karnataka- India.

Thanks for sending the NAVS-News Letter October-2011 and asking for suggestions. I have gone through it carefully and found it quite interesting and informative as we all desired in several previous GC Meetings. In such publication, there always remains a scope for improvement. However, presently nothing from me but if any idea comes to me, the same will be transmitted to you and the editor. I am sorry to miss the NAVS events at Bikaner. **Dr.D.N.Garg**, Hisar, Haryana: [dng2660@gmail.com](mailto:dng2660@gmail.com)

Thank you, sir. You are doing a commendable job.

**Prof. Dr. Jit Singh**, Officer on Special Duty, University Administrative Office, MPUAT, UDAIPUR-313 001, RAJASTHAN; [jitp48@gmail.com](mailto:jitp48@gmail.com)

### **THINK IT OVER**

One of the most telling difference between developed and developing countries is the way they relate to food they eat. In the U.S., for example, less than 2% of our population grows enough food to feed us all - and then some. More than half of Indians, however, are employed in farming yet millions don't have enough food to eat. In the U.S., the average household spends 6% of its budget on food. In India, the figure is six times larger. --**Bill Gates**

#### 4. FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK



Since independence, India has made significant progress in raising food production, namely food grains, milk, meat, eggs, fish, vegetables, fruits, etc. As a result, the country could transform itself from food deficient to food self-sufficient nation. However, the goal of Food Security still remains to be achieved. The food security is defined as “when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. On the other hand, food self-sufficiency is defined as being able to meet consumption needs (particularly for staple food crops) from own production rather than buying or importing. Three main indicators of food security include per capita real value of food consumption, share of animal products in food consumption, and non-staples as a share of food consumption. Though it is not necessary to have food self-sufficiency to achieve food security, but it is ideal to achieve both for a populous country like India. The share on food expenditure in the country was 55.0% and 42.5% during 2004-05 in rural and urban areas, respectively. The share of non-staple food, cereals; milk, milk products, meat, meat products, eggs & fish was 67.2% & 76.2%; 32.8% & 23.8%; 21.4% & 25.0%, respectively. In a survey conducted in Bhutan in 2007, the share of animal products in food was 39% in rural areas and 40% in urban areas.

Considering the importance of animal products in human diet for food and nutritional security, wide gap in the demand and supply of animal products as well as potential of higher growth in livestock, poultry and fisheries; the planning commission, GOI have envisaged a growth rate of 2 %, 6% and 6% for food grains, livestock and fish, respectively during the 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan so as to achieve 4% overall growth rate for agriculture as a whole. Livestock sector inclusive of fisheries and poultry, has contributed from 4 to 5.5% to the national GDP over the years. Dairy and horticulture produce which contributed Rs 1, 49,000 crores and Rs. 1,45,000 crores, respectively during 2010 as compared to Rs 1,51,000 crores contribution from cereals; are likely to surpass the cereal crops in near future. Among the animal origin food, milk and other dairy products have great significance in India, having a sizeable population as vegetarian.

Milk production increased to about 6 times during 1951 (17 million tons) to 2010 (115 million tons). Till 2007, milk production in the country increased around 3 million metric tons (MMT) per annum. However, in



order to meet the demand of around 170 MMT by 2020, milk production need to grow 5 MMT per year. Decline in the annual growth rate of milk production in last two decades from 5.5% during 1980 to 4.2% in 1990s, and 3.5% during 2000-2008 is matter of concern as well as challenge before the dairy industry and policy makers.

Indian dairy is faced with a mixed scenario of hopes and challenges such as 70% of milk is produced by marginal or landless farmers having 1-4 animals characterized by small scale production system, lack of feed and fodder, micronutrient deficiencies, high incidence of infectious diseases, low genetic makeup for milk production, rising wages and non-availability of labour, lack of trained manpower and knowledge amongst farmers in dairying practices, and average milk production per animal being only about 1000 kg/year as compared to the world average of 2200 kg. Overall growth rate of dairy industry in India is around 4% which is 3 times than the average growth rate of the dairy industry in the world. The marketable surplus of milk is around 50%. Out of this only 30% milk is processed. It needs to be doubled by 2020 to meet the demand.

The target of 183 MMT milk production for India in 2022 can be achieved by pursuing right policies, practices and technology in breeding, feeding, health and management. Optimum feed and fodder resources should receive immediate attention as the country is faced with sizable deficiencies of feed, fodder and micro nutrients. Green fodder is not available either in adequate quantity or throughout the year. While in the developed countries, dairy cows are used for meat after having 3-4 lactation yields of maximum productive period with minimum reproductive and other health problems, in India we have to maintain the low productive animals and males due to cultural and religious reasons which puts additional pressure on our declining grazing lands, and feed and fodder resources. If we can enhance the productivity of our milch animals, strengthen the milk processing industry, adopt clean milk production; ensure adequate and balanced nutrition and judicious use of animal waste; raise the scale of operations; reduce the male bovine population by using sexed semen/ embryos, and cost on cold chain and packaging through technology update, India can soon become the dairy hub of the world.

In order to address the problem of low productivity, poor growth of calves, late puberty and longer inter-calving period as a result of inadequate and unbalanced feed provided to animals, there is need for feed security to livestock by providing adequate feed and fodder, along with mineral mixture (preferably area specific mineral mixture (ASMM), common salt and potable drinking water. Inadequate calcium in the ration will not only lead to low productivity of milk but also reduce the duration of lactation as well as number of lactations in an animals' life time. Deficiency of other minerals in the ration will have similar negative impact in number of ways. Adequate fat in the ration during first 100 days after calving, preferably by using by-pass-fat technology will help in improving milk production as well as reproductive efficiency. Similarly, by-pass-protein technology will ensure higher milk production of about 1 kg per animal/day as well as reduction in methane production. For peri-urban dairies, hydroponic fodder is a good alternative to green fodder due to non-availability of land for fodder production. The technology will ensure enriched green fodder throughout the year having no dependence on land, rains, sunlight etc. Feeding chaffed fodder (1-1.5 inches) should be preferred as it requires less energy by the animal for chewing and rumination, resulting in higher milk production. All options for enhancing fodder production, namely availability of certified quality fodder seeds, fodder warehouses, silage making and feeding, growing short duration fodder crops (hybrid maize) utilizing the fallow lands after harvest of wheat crops and before paddy transplantation/sowing in north Indian plains, pasture grazing, development of degraded waste lands for fodder production need to be pursued with appropriate policy interventions. Green fodder and pasture grazing will also result in value addition of milk in terms of low cost, low fat content with higher CLA and EFA (essential fatty acids) content which are good for human health. Dual purpose wheat, barley and oat varieties will immensely help fodder availability in north Indian states where wheat is the main rabi crop, and barley and oat also find place for fodder and grain for

animal feeding, and as human health food with higher fibre content. In order to address all the constraints in augmenting feed and fodder production, preservation, transportation and storage, a 'National Fodder Policy' is the need of the hour.

For optimum production levels and hygienic milk production, timely prevention/control of mastitis needs priority attention for successful dairy farming. Early detection of subclinical and clinical cases through regular somatic cell count and other modern tests, coupled with hygiene and GMP will be very helpful in reducing mastitis incidence. Prophylactic vaccination against FMD, HS and other similar diseases prevalent in the area will maintain the milk production ensuring healthy clean milk. Low cost alternate veterinary medicine by using homeopathy and Ayurveda systems of treatment need to be adopted, supported and promoted in rural areas lacking in adequate veterinary clinics infrastructure.

Breeding strategies should be aligned with market demand. For example, the modern day life style demands milk having low fat but higher contents of CLA and omega III fatty acids. Milk from those breeds of cows or buffaloes which produce A<sub>2</sub> milk, free from the harmful-Beta casein morphine 7 metabolite will be in more demand in times to come due to more public awareness. As such, our breeding policy should aim to develop A<sub>2</sub>A<sub>2</sub> herds. The A<sub>2</sub> milk from indigenous zebu cows, such as Sahiwal, Sindhi, Gir, Rathi and Tharparkar will sell at higher prices as premium grade A<sub>2</sub> milk. Designer milk with higher CLA, omega III and low cholesterol content if produced through breeding intervention, will add to the value of milk which means better profits to the farmer and better health for the consumers. As such, with suitable technology, India can become a world leader in infant milk food.

For successful dairy farming, farmers and extension workers will require knowledge, training and skills in animal nutrition and feeding, breeding, dairy farm management, computing balanced ration by using locally available ingredients, control of mastitis and other diseases, clean milk production, silage making, green fodder production, deworming, first aid, pregnancy diagnosis, AI, and issues related to HACCP, food quality and food safety, biosafety and biosecurity. Establishment of Extension Training Centres/Schools would be necessary for this purpose at block level.

The research and development agenda should address all the components of dairy farming, namely nutrition, breeding, health, management, processing, value addition, market intelligence and marketing. Some of the priority areas include development of technology of sexed semen and sexed embryos for Murrah buffalo and indigenous cattle milch breeds, cloning of elite dairy breeds for production of superior males for selective breeding, breeding for enhanced feed conversion, development of cost effective eco-friendly feed formulation and feeding practices for tolerance to higher humidity and temperature and reduction in methane production, enhancing and value addition of feed and fodders by removing antinutritional factors, utilization of ligno-cellulose, hydroponic fodder and its use for economic milk production using indigenous technology and designs for various eco-agriculture regions. development of ASMM and complete feed blocks free of mycotoxins; conservation of indigenous breeds of cattle and buffaloes, production processes for indigenous milk products, designer foods from milk and milk products, early pregnancy diagnostic kits, oestrus detection kits, packaging technology for longer shelf life of dairy products and milk, development of injectable drugs for sterilization of unproductive bulls; quality testing of feed, semen, drugs and vaccines; development of improved marker vaccines for FMD, IBR and Brucella for lasting immunity, development of DIVA test for Brucellosis and IBR; breeding for A<sub>2</sub> milk with higher CLA and low cholesterol and fat.

Dairying requires right policy support along with adequate warehousing and distribution mechanism. It should be based on indigenous milch cows, buffaloes, cross- bred cows and milch goats in select regions. A National Policy on Dairying under 'National Livestock Mission' is the need of the hour for all-round development of dairy industry in India. Various policies related to dairy development, for example National

milk production and pricing policy, National feed and fodder policy, National bovine breeding policy, National Livestock Insurance Policy, National Animal Health Policy; National Policy on imports and export of dairy cattle, semen, embryos, milk and milk products, cake and oil meals need to be in place. Producer company, cooperative or PPP based dairy model in rural areas through common service centres for bio-gas production, AI, milk chilling and primary processing for value added products, developing value chain for organic milk should be supported through self-help groups with appropriate policy. A national level information centre should be established to collect, collate and provide information on all aspects of dairying. The government should support dairy in all possible ways by providing tax holidays to the industry for setting up cattle feed plants, mineral mixture plants, milk processing plants, dairy parks, cold chain infrastructure, exemption of import duty on dairy equipment and VAT on dairy products; providing subsidy on ASMM, deworming medicines, fodder seeds, vaccines, livestock feed and incentives for keeping high milk producing animals and their progeny. Soft loans and duty free imports of equipment should be provided for long shelf life packaging of milk and milk products.

## 5. OBITUARY

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) is shocked at the sudden and sad demise of two of the very eminent Fellows of the Academy - Prof. Dr. A. L. Chaudhari, and Prof. Dr. K.L. Ahuja.

**Prof. Dr. Amrit Lal Chaudhari**, the former President of Veterinary Council of India and one of the senior most founder Fellows of the Academy breathed his last on the early morning of 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 due to cardiac arrest. He was at Hisar (Haryana) with his daughter and son-in-law (Dr. Veena Dalal and Dr.R.S.Dalal) and had recently undergone surgery for hip replacement at the Jindal Hospital and was discharged after a successful surgery only a day before his demise.



Dr. A.L. Chaudhary was born in Rajasthan on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1933, and was educated at College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Bikaner, Rajasthan, to get his B.V.Sc & A.H. degree in 1958. He did Post graduation in Parasitology in 1960 from Madras Veterinary College, Madras, before studying at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA, from 1964 – 68 for his M.Sc. and Ph.D. (1968) in Animal Breeding.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Chaudhary held following prestigious positions: President, Veterinary Council of India 2003- 2010; Chairman, Haryana Livestock Development Board, 2001-2004; Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, June 1993 – June 1998; Vice Chancellor, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, January 1990 – June 1993; Director, Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan, 1986 - 1990; Director Research (Veterinary and Animal Sciences), Sukhadia University, Bikaner, Rajasthan, 1983 - 1986; Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Sheep Breeding (ICAR), CSWRI, Avikanagar, 1972 -1973; Professor & Head, Department of Animal Breeding & Genetic, R.A.U., Udaipur, 1973 - 1983.

**Following awards and honours were conferred upon Dr. Chaudhary during his career:** Member, International Honour Society in Agriculture (Gama sigma Delta, Ohio Chapter for outstanding contribution); International Alumni Award, 1993, Ohio State University, U.S.A.; D.Sc (Honoris Causa), Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur, U.P.; D.Sc (Honoris Causa), Banaras Hindu University, Banaras (U.P.); D.Sc (Honoris Causa), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture and Technology, Jammu.

**He was a Founder Fellow of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences and was an Ex-Officio Member of its Governing Council, from 2003 - 2010. He was also a Fellow** of Indian Society of Desert Technology; Indian Society for the Study of Animal Reproduction (ISSAR); BIOVED Research Society, Allahabad; Indian Society for Sheep & Goat Production and Utilization. **Dr. Chaudhary's Research areas included:** Sheep breeding for fine wool; Cattle, buffalo and poultry breeding; Veterinary education, research management; policy planning, implementation, and monitoring in the field of livestock development; Specialist, Human Resource Development and management. **Publications:** Author / co-author of 120 research and policy papers published in national and international journals and research guide for 35 M.V.Sc and Ph.D. scholars.

Being born in the same year as Dr. Amrit Lal Chaudhary and also being his B.V.Sc. class fellow at Bikaner Veterinary College from 1954 to 1958, the Editor NAVS has lost an eminent colleague, and shall deeply mourn his death like all his other contemporaries in India and abroad. May Almighty grant peace to the departed Soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this great loss.

### **Prof. Dr. K.L. Ahuja**

Prof. Dr. K. L. Ahuja passed away to his heavenly abode on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011 at PGI, Chandigarh after a brief illness. He was cremated at Hisar the next day.

Dr. K. L. Ahuja was Senior Epidemiologist and retired as Head of the Department of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, CCS HAU, Hisar. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1942 in Behal village in Mianwali district of joint Punjab in undivided India. He did his B.V.Sc. & A.H. degree from COVS, Jabalpur, M.P. in 1965. He stood first and was awarded Gold Medal. He completed his M.V.Sc. degree in Bacteriology in 1968 from IVRI, Mukteswar, Kumaon. He joined Ph.D. programme at HAU Hisar in 1969 and was awarded Senior Research Fellowships by three premier research organizations (ICAR, CSIR and DAE) and completed his Ph.D. in 1973. He was selected as Epidemiologist in AICRP on FMD at COVS, AAU, Khanapara, Guwahati. Dr. Ahuja joined HAU Hisar in 1977 as Epidemiologist in the same project. Almost through out his career at COVSc, LLRUVAS, Hisar, he worked in AICRP of ICAR on FMD and had the distinction of working for nearly 26 years at a stretch on FMD. Later he also worked briefly as Prof & Head VEPM and contributed immensely to the cause of Animal Health.

Dr. Ahuja attended a number of national and international conferences and presented his research findings on FMD epidemiology. He was also invited to present papers at Nairobi in 1994 and Berlin in 1995. His research and other academic activities yielded more than 76 publications and 3 books. Dr. Ahuja guided

3 MVSc and 2 Ph.D. students. He also served as General Secretary of the Indian Virology Society (IVS). During his tenure, IVS became economically robust and vibrant association involving animal, human and plant virologists of India and abroad. The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) awarded him its fellowship in 2000. After his retirement in January 2002 from CCS HAU Hisar, Dr. Ahuja joined Indovax Private Limited, Hisar and worked till September 2008. Dr Ahuja was a simple, honest and dedicated scientist with friendly attributes. His close colleagues have sweet memories of his benign joyful company. May Almighty grant peace to the departed Soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this great loss.

## 6. NAVS NEWS

### **6.1 Annual NAVS Convocation -cum- Convention held at Bikaner on 12-13 November, 2011**

**6.1.1 The Rajasthan University of Veterinary And Animal Sciences, Bikaner hosted the Annual Convocation -cum- Convention of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences for the year 2011** along with the organization of an excellent Seminar on the theme **“Veterinary Profession: Challenges and Opportunities under WTO Regime” on 12-13 November, 2011.** The Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS), Bikaner and National Academy of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (India) have set an excellent example of professional co-operation in joining hands to organize these events very successfully. More than 100 delegates comprising of the Fellows and Members of the Academy and scientists from several Veterinary and Animal Sciences Institutions of the country participated in the two-day events. Many scientists from ICAR and its institutes, Veterinary and Animal Science Universities and SAUs, including the ADGs of ICAR and Directors of ICAR Institutes, Vice Chancellors of Veterinary and Animal Science Universities and SAUs and Officials of the Universities attended the scientific seminar and the NAVS convocation.

**Dr. R.M. Acharya, the former DDG, Animal Science, ICAR, New Delhi was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function** attended by many dignitaries. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. S.B.S Yadav, Dean and Faculty Chairman, CVAS, RAJUVAS, Bikaner. **The annual report of the NAVS was presented by the Secretary General, Dr. Gaya Prasad.**

This was followed by the NAVS convocation during which an **Honorary Fellowship of NAVS was awarded to Dr. N.R. Bhasin**, an eminent veterinary scientist (animal geneticist), renowned technocrat/administrator and President of the Indian Dairy Association. Fellowships and Memberships were awarded to the following eminent veterinarians:

#### **NAVS Fellowship**

1. Dr. Devender Kumar
2. Col. Dr. Tej Ram
3. Brigadier Dr. Narpal Singh Kanwar
4. Prof. Dr. Nishith Ranjan Pradhan
5. Dr. Deepak Sharma

#### **NAVS Membership**

1. Dr. Rajiv Singh
2. Dr. Appannavar Mruthyunjaya

Addresses were then delivered by the Guest of Honour Dr. V. Prabhakar Rao, Vice Chancellor Sri Venkateshwara Veterinary University Tirupati, Prof. Dr. A.K. Gahlot, Vice Chancellor, RAJUVAS, Bikaner, Prof. Dr. M. P. Yadav, President NAVS, Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Vice Chancellor and Director, NDRI, Karnal. The Convocation address was delivered by the Chief Guest Dr. R.M. Acharya, former DDG Animal Science, ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. R.K. Tanwar, Director Clinics, RAJUVAS and Organising Secretary of NAVS Convocation and National Seminar proposed a Vote of thanks. The function concluded with the National Anthem.

The Technical Sessions of the Seminar were spread over five sessions. The participating scientists presented their papers, took active part in discussions on the theme of seminar so as to come out with a package of recommendations to combat the challenges being faced by Veterinary profession under the WTO regime. The Plenary- cum-Valedictory Session was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) A.K. Gahlot, Vice Chancellor, RAJUVAS, Bikaner.

The Meetings of the Governing Council and the General Body of the Academy were also held during the Convocation-cum-Convention of NAVS held at Bikaner.

### **6.1.2 Proceedings and Recommendations of the Technical Sessions of the Scientific Seminar on “Veterinary Profession: Challenges and Opportunities under WTO Regime” held at Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner on 12-13 November, 2011:**

#### **Scientific Session-I**

Chairman : Dr. P.K. Uppal

Co-Chairman : Dr. N.V. Patil

Rapporteur : Dr. Tribhuwan Sharma

In this session two papers were presented.

The first paper was presented by Dr. R.M. Acharya. Former DDG, ICAR, New Delhi on the topic “**Remodeling of Veterinary and Animal Science education to meet future requirements**”. Dr. Acharya very well discussed the present scenario of veterinary and Animal Science education pattern in India and abroad. He emphasized the need of such education system in Veterinary and Animal Science so as to meet the future requirements of the qualified veterinarians who can meet the professional requirement in different areas viz production, health and technology for private sector, public sector and livestock keepers including landless and small holder farmers.

The second paper was presented by Dr. J.S. Bhatia, Prof. Apollo College of Veterinary Medicine, Jaipur and Former ADG (Education), ICAR, New Delhi, on the topic “**Challenges and Prospects of Veterinary Education in PPP mode in India**”. Dr. Bhatia reckoned the history of veterinary education in India and abroad. He explained the introduction of VCI as regulatory body of veterinary education in India. He discussed at length about present status of higher education in India, concept of public private partnership mode with respect to education, need for revamping of veterinary education system and new dimensions to veterinary education in Rajasthan. He also highlighted the critical gaps and suggested reforms for improvement of veterinary education in India. The paper was thus a comprehensive narrator of status of veterinary education in India.

#### **Recommendations**

- There should be single under graduate degree course covering animal production, health and animal product technology with introduction of specialization in each of them.

- There must be active public-private partnership in veterinary education and research which will improve the status of quality man power availability and will help to promote a culture of innovations and problems solving.
- For attracting the best potential entrants out of a decreasing pool of young talents in agriculture, increased funding should be ensured for veterinary and animal science education by the State and Central governments.

### **Scientific Session – II**

Chairman : Dr. R.M. Acharya  
 Co-Chairman : Dr. P. Goel  
 Rapporteur : Dr. T.K. Gahlot

In this session two papers were presented

The first paper was presented by Dr. Kusumakar Sharma, ADG (HRD), ICAR, New Delhi on the topic "**Road Map for Higher Veterinary and Animal Science Education in India**". Dr. Sharma in his lucid presentation gave the history and present status of Manpower development in ICAR system, highlighting alarming demand and supply gap in human resource, the challenges and issues confronting Veterinary Education, HRD Initiatives in Veterinary and Animal Science Education in ICAR-Agricultural University system and Public-Private Partnership for Innovations in Agricultural Education and Research.

The second paper was presented by Prof. A.K. Gahlot, Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner on the topic "**Human resource requirement in veterinary and animal science-needs and constraints**". This paper had the most pertinent information regarding human resource vis-à-vis student's strength required to produce future vets in coming decades. Prof. Gahlot also emphasized about the need to start diversified courses in veterinary education for rural and poultry services. A basis of future skill set based forecast of requirement of manpower was also highlighted. He also pointed out for the need for introspection of shortcomings of manpower in current veterinary institutions.

### **Recommendation**

- Need for multidimensional education on the Science, Business and Technology of Veterinary and allied sciences.
- Quality infrastructure and resource for imparting desired knowledge and skills for high demand careers in agriculture including veterinary and animal sciences;
- Promoting excellence and institutional building by action education, learning material and fellowship. Increased career opportunities in livestock sector for the youth and Enhanced livelihoods and sustainability of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- Developing diversified courses of veterinary education for rural and poultry services; Future skill test based forecast of manpower requirement.

### **Scientific Session – III**

Chairman : Prof. A.K. Gahlot,  
 Co-chairman : Dr. R.K. Singh  
 Rapporteur : Dr.C.K. Murdia,

In this session Professor P.K. Uppal delivered a lecture on "**National status of veterinary services & roadmap to 2030**". In his forceful and brief presentation, Prof. Uppal emphasized upon least cost and most efficient delivery system of veterinary services at farmer's door. He was of the view that delivery system must provide: free and promotional services, no profit no gain remuneration, food safety, proper animal health viz. regular deworming, vaccination schedule, low cost feed input, treatment at farmer's doorstep,

methodology of distance education for women and children learning, strengthening the capacity of poor farmers and surgical/gynecological intervention in time right in the field. Prof. Uppal further stressed that one of the major issues in veterinary science delivery system should focus on poverty alleviation through sustainable livestock growth and policy reforms. Services must be responsive, innovative and manageable for farmers. Many more fields may be looked into such as: pasture and shelter management, disease free and sanitary meat processing units, breeding services, vulnerability of farmer, WTO and SPS measures and overall revamping of veterinary services.

### **Recommendations**

Least cost and most efficient delivery system of veterinary services at farmer's door.

Focus on poverty alleviation through sustainable livestock growth and policy reforms.

Services must be responsive, innovative and manageable for farmers.

- Emphasis on Pasture and shelter management, Disease free and sanitary meat processing units, Breeding services, Vulnerability of farmer, WTO and SPS issues and overall revamping of veterinary services.

### **Scientific Session – IV**

Chairman : Dr. M.P. Yadav

Co-chairman : Dr. Nem Singh

Rapporteur : Dr. Nalini Kataria

In this session Dr. Parveen Goel, Director, National Institute of Animal Welfare, Faridabad, Haryana presented paper on “Animal welfare: Concepts and Principles”. Dr. Goel in his informative presentation very well explained the concepts and principles behind welfare of animals. Many issues related with animal welfare were taken up; like global issues, culture, religion, moral and philosophical values, ethics etc. He underlined that growth rate in production is neutralized in the wake of growing human population. He further expressed his strong feeling to combine various moral values to improve animal health. He tried to provide certain measures prevalent in India for animal welfare with historical evidence. His sentimental approach rounded with implementing various approaches for welfare like “The nation of tells.” Dr. Goel emphasized upon “live freedom” for animal welfare and stressed upon ethics and decision making in animal welfare along with attitudes to animal welfare globally. In his lecture Dr. Goel tried to sensitize the audience about the importance of animal welfare.

### **Recommendation**

- The principle of “live freedom” for animal welfare should be followed strictly with emphasis upon ethics and decision making along with attitudes to animal welfare globally.

### **Scientific Session – V**

Chairman : Dr. S.B.S. Yadav

Co-Chairman : Dr. Ravindra Sharma

Rapporteur : Dr. F.C. Tuteja

In this session three papers were presented

Dr. Gaya Prasad, ADG (AH), ICAR, New Delhi presented his paper on “**Research agenda in veterinary and animal sciences till 2030**”. The speaker in his impressive presentation stressed for the need for having a vision for food security by 2030 to and adequate per capita increase in animal product consumption as well as to cope up with ever growing human population. He also showed his concern for losing plant and animal biodiversity and adverse effect on human health and eco-system. He discussed the challenges of feeding alternate feed to the animals without competition with man utilizing modern technologies, such as biotechnology, nanotechnology manipulation of rumen microbes etc for increasing



animal production. He also emphasized the need for reduction in livestock population and increase in per animal production through the application of animal cloning, marker assisted selection, transgenic technology, use of sexed semen/embryos, animal pharming etc. In the Indian context, Dr. Prasad emphasized on the need to upgrade health status of the animals by improvement in diagnostic technology, vaccine up gradation, zoonotic and trans boundary disease management, disease surveillance, etc. Further he emphasized that government of India has taken initiative for containment/ eradication of FMD, PPR and Brucellosis in dairy animals. Preparedness against exotic diseases, biosafety, biosecurity and bio-terrorism were among the other issues flagged by Dr. Prasad in his presentation.

Dr. Ravindra Sharma, Prof. FMD Project, College of Veterinary Science, Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hissar presented his paper on **“Foot and Mouth Disease control programme in Haryana and Delhi: Opportunities under WTO regime**. Dr. Sharma covered different aspects of FMD control programme in Haryana and Delhi along with the success achieved after ten rounds of six monthly vaccinations. He stressed that FMD is of great concern for countries endemic to this disease. It is highly contagious OIE list “A” disease and is of great economic impact worldwide. With regard to Indian context, he pointed out that large geographical area with different agro-climatic and socio-economic zones with many species affected, short duration of immunity, unrestricted movement of the animals across inter state and international borders are major hurdles in the control of FMD. But there are lot of opportunities in India in terms of large laboratory network and peninsular region, epidemiological database, uniform diagnostic test facility, and one country one vaccine strain. He further stressed that our approach should be to create disease free zones. India launched FMD control program in 3 zones consisting 54 districts. Zone 2 consists of Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and western UP covering 8,8,1, and 16 districts, respectively. Impact of the vaccination is being assessed by epidemiology, sero-monitoring and differentiation of vaccinated and FMD infected animals.

Dr. Kirti Dua, Professor & Head, Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine Ethics & Jurisprudence, College of Veterinary Science, GADVASU, Ludhiana presented his paper on **“ One world, One Health: Role of veterinarian building interdisciplinary bridge to health and globalized world”**. He emphasized on new and emerging diseases of livestock & zoonotic impact of many animal pathogens along with the status of large number of deaths caused by many zoonotic diseases in India, mainly due to TB and Rabies and huge economic significance of Brucellosis, Avian Influenza and Swine Flu etc. Dr. Dua stressed that role of veterinarians in the control of animal and human diseases is distinguishable. Hence, effective collaboration and integration of professionals across medical and veterinary specialists is required. Avian influenza outbreak in the recent past initiated such collaboration.

### **Recommendations**

- The health status of the animals be improved through strategic management, improvement in diagnostic technology, vaccine upgradation, zoonotic diseases control, disease surveillance and management of trans boundary disease.

Strategic planning should be done to eradicate FMD, PPR and Brucellosis in animals.

Strategic planning to create animal disease free zones.

Effective collaboration of concerned departments and professionals for the control of zoonotic as well as emerging livestock diseases.

### **Plenary cum Valedictory Session**

Chairman: Dr. A.K. Gahlot

Co- Chairmen: Dr. N.N. Pathak

Rapporteur: Dr T. K. Gahlot

Panelists: Dr. S.B.S. Yadav, Dr. Gaya Prasad, Dr. Parveen Goel, Dr. Kirti Dua and Dr. N. V. Patil

## **Recommendations**

Strategic planning should be done to improve the following:

Veterinary delivery services.

Animal Health protection and promotion for increasing livestock production to fulfill the growing demands of animal origin food.

Diversification of Veterinary education system at UG/PG level.

Livestock feed and fodder resource augmentation.

Continuing education programme for veterinary professionals.

Livestock disease diagnostic facilities and services.

Introduction of super specialization in clinical services.

## **6.2 Lt. Gen. S.S. Thakral Takes Over as DG Remount Veterinary Services**



Lt Gen SS Thakral, an eminent Fellow of the Academy, assumed the prestigious appointment of Director General Remount Veterinary Services on 28 September 2011 as the third Director General of Remount Veterinary Services ever since the post was created in June 2007. It was his proud moment when the coveted honour was bestowed upon him. He has a distinguished career in Army and has been credited with shaping the Corps' present profile and status. Being a microbiologist, he has always endeavoured to address the real problem areas facing the Army. Even his research dissertation for Masters in Veterinary Microbiology was on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease of Equines, a major morbid respiratory condition affecting working Army equines. He established the

etiology and developed rapid and early diagnostic tests for the disease.

Lt Gen SS Thakral is also an established and successful equine breeder and veterinary clinician. During his 37 years span in olive greens, he has tenanted notable appointments in field and peace with varied mandates. He has worked on challenging result oriented appointments in most of the major establishments of the Corps including Equine Breeding Stud, Hisar, Remount Training School & Depot, Saharanpur and Remount Training School & Depot, Hempur which are the pillar bastions of the Organization. Under his stewardship as Breeding Operations Incharge, Equine Breeding Stud, Hisar achieved the highest fertility results for three consecutive years and animal growth exceeding the international standard norms. He was instrumental in establishing breeding infrastructure at Remount Training School & Depot, Hempur and stringent health management and disease free status of largest congregation of equine population at Saharanpur and Hempur. He has also served at the Central Military Veterinary Laboratory, Advance and Mobile Field Veterinary Hospitals in addition to being Brig RVS, HQ Northern Command, DDG RVS and ADGRVS at Army HQ before assuming present appointment.

As Commandant, Central Military Veterinary Laboratory, he accomplished applied research on variety of infectious agents, Anti Fertility Vaccines, Rabies, Tuberculosis and Canine Nutrition. He has been instrumental in achieving collaboration for research with prestigious institutes viz. AIIMS, Indian Institute of Immunology and JALMA. In recognition of his visionary professional prowess and significant contribution, Lt Gen SS Thakral was twice honoured with RVC's Techno Warrior Trophy for scientific advancements in the Corps. He was also awarded Northern Command Certificate of Technical Excellence for innovation of equipment. He has twice

been conferred Chief of the Army Staff Commendation.

He was also active instrument in award of significant Embryo Transfer Technology Research Project at Equine Breeding Stud, Babugarh which culminated in birth of Asia's first foal 'Army Pride Gaurav' by this Technique. He was twice honoured with RVC's Techno Warrior Trophy for scientific advancements in the Corps. He has won several other distinctions for his contributions and achievements during his professional work. He is an avid artist, fiction writer and photographer apart from being a nature lover and ecology conservator.

### **6.3: Fellows on assignments in Ethiopia**

Following NAVS Fellows have recently taken up assignments in Ethiopia:

**Prof. (Dr.) A.K, Srivastava**, Secretary General, Indian Society for Advancement of Canine Practice, and former Dean of Veterinary College, Chomu, Near Jaipur, Rajasthan, has taken over as University Professor and Chairman, Surgery & Radiology, Jigjiga University, Ministry of Education, Government of Ethiopia w.e.f. 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

**Dr. Gajraj Singh**, Former Dean, Veterinary College, Aizwal (Mizoram) and Former Head, Surgery Division, I.V.R.I. Izatnagar (Bareilly) has taken over as Professor of Veterinary Surgery, Mekkle University, Government of Ethiopia, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2011.

**Prof. Harpal Singh**, Former Dean, Veterinary College, GBPUAT, Pantnagar (Uttanchal) joined as Professor of Veterinary Surgery, Hawasa University, Government of Ethiopia, in, November 2010. We wish them all the best in their future life.

Readers may be aware of another Fellow of the Academy was already in Ethiopia on an assignment. He is **Prof. Dr. Mahendra Pal**, the former Professor and Head of Veterinary Public Health and Livestock Products Technology, College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat, who had joined the Addis Ababa University, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, as Professor of Veterinary Public Health, in the Department of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2008. Prof. Pal has published over 325 papers in National and International Journals and is the recipient of "Jawaharlal Nehru Award" and "Distinguished Teacher Award". Prof. Pal has earlier guided MVSc and Ph.D students and was instrumental in starting for the first time a Ph.D. programme in Veterinary Public Health at the Addis Ababa University. He has also worked as Visiting Scientist at Massey University, New Zealand, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium and University of Tokyo, Japan, and is credited to have reported the prevalence of *Cryptococcus neoformans* in the environment of New Zealand and Nepal, *Cryptococcus neoformans* in caprine mastitis, *Fusarium solani* in keratitis of a buffalo, *Trichophyton verrucosum* in dermatitis of deer, *Candida tropicalis* in lung empyema of an immunocompromised patient etc. Prof. Pal is a Fellow of the Korean Society

of Veterinary Clinical Medicine (FKSVCM) and has developed Narayan stain and sunflower seed agar for the studies on fungi incriminated in various clinical disorders of animals and humans.

#### **6.4 Prof. P.K. Uppal Felicitated**



The prestigious Dr K.S. Bhargava Oration Award was recently conferred upon Prof. P.K. Uppal, an eminent Fellow of the Academy and Former Managing Director BIBCOL, Dept. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology and Former Director National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar, by the Indian Virological Society for his contribution in the field of virology at the three-day national conference VIROCON-2011 held at Hisar in the last week of December 2011. The theme of the conference was ‘One Health’ and was attended by Agriculture, Medical and Veterinary scientists. Prof. Uppal spoke on ‘The “odyssey” of Rinderpest eradication in India’. Prof. Uppal was also responsible to conduct the national ceremony on Global Rinderpest Eradication programme at New Delhi on 23rd August 2011 under the aegis of FAO.

**Prof. P.K. Uppal** was also invited to deliver a lecture on “Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases” at the Arab Health Congress sponsored by Cleveland Group USA held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. There were six tracks for the conference, namely Laboratory Management, Microbiology, Histopathology, Molecular Diagnosis, Clinical Chemistry and Haematology. More than 500 delegates including Directors, Presidents, Consultants, Chairman, mainly from Medical Sciences, attended the conference. Prof. Uppal was the only Veterinarian invited to speak at the Conference. His contribution was highly appreciated and he was requested to present second speech on “Application of molecular techniques for identification of newly emerging bacterial pathogens. He was requested to be further associated in another conference to be held in South Africa.

#### **6.5 Dr. D.V. Reddy’s Books on Animal Nutrition**

**Professor D.V. REDDY**, Professor & Head, Department of Animal Nutrition, Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Puducherry-605009, INDIA, and a Fellow of the Academy writes to inform us about his following new books on ANIMAL NUTRITION and requests us to bring it to the notice of our friends and colleagues:

- 1. Principles of Animal Nutrition and Feed Technology 2nd edition 2010** (ISBN 978-81-204-1752-6, xx plus 431 pages) by D.V.Reddy
- 2. Applied Nutrition 2nd edition 2009** (horse nutrition added and updated) (ISBN 978-81-204-1492-1, xxi plus 338 pages) by D.V.Reddy
- 3. Fodder Production and Grassland Management for Veterinarians 2006** (ISBN 81-204-1690-2, xv plus 453) by D.V.Reddy
- 4. Advanced Animal Nutrition 2011** (ISBN 978-81-204-1756-4, x plus 507 pages) by D.V.Reddy; for UG and PG students of Animal Production subjects to meet the

curricular requirements as per the ICAR

The books are published by M/s Oxford & IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi 110 049  
Email: [oxford@oxford-ibh.in](mailto:oxford@oxford-ibh.in); Tel: 011 41745356/ 58; Fax: 011 41517559. Dr. D V Reddy's contact: [dv.duvvuru@gmail.com](mailto:dv.duvvuru@gmail.com); 0413-2277779; Mobile: 094865 35293

## 6.6 Rajasthan Veterinary profession

Dr. J.S. Bhatia of Apollo Veterinary College, Jaipur, and a Senior Fellow of the Academy, in an email note addressed to many veterinarians (received on 8-12-2011), writes to inform that the 'Veterinary profession in Rajasthan was in turmoil'. He states that the State of Rajasthan, which had the distinction of creating Public Private Partnership in Veterinary and Animal Husbandry sector, was in the grip of a clear divide between Public and Private Relationship. Without giving any details of the problem, he further states that the State Government should immediately initiate a dialogue with the Central regulatory authorities and seek their intervention to ensure that a viable solution is arrived at (so as) to 'Save the professional wealth and provide them equal opportunity to participate in national growth and developments'.

Subsequently Dr. J.S. Bhatia has sent mails with articles on several thought provoking issues on Veterinary Education under the following titles. Since publication of articles is beyond the scope of NAVS Newsletter, interested readers may contact Dr. Bhatia for details. Dr. Bhatia's Email ID is: [[bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com](mailto:bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com)]

1. Change is difficult but not impossible;
2. Veterinary education needs policy retuning;
3. Redefining needs for veterinary colleges under changing scenario;
4. Major issues concerning veterinary education in India.

## 6.7 Lt. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Narayan Mohanti awarded Doctor of Science

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Narayan Mohanti, PVMS, AVSM, VSM, President of the Veterinary Council of India, has been conferred Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology - a rare distinction awarded to a retired Army Officer.



Lt. Gen. Mohanti receiving the degree of Doctor of Science from the Governor and Chancellor of Orissa Mr. Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare (left). NAAS president Dr. R.B. Singh (right), was the Chief Guest.

The award was presented by Governor of Orissa and Chancellor, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, in a Grand Convocation Function

held at OUAT, Bhubaneswar on December 17, 2011. Prof. Dr. R.B. Singh, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

Lt. Gen. Narayan Mohanty, PVSM, AVSM, VSM was the first Lt. Gen. rank officer in the Indian Army to occupy the position of Director General Remount Veterinary Services (DG RVS) in 2007 when the Government of India took a historic decision to create the post, and retired in July, 2008 after a very successful stint. Lt. Gen. Mohanty was selected as Commissioned Officer in the Army on 21st September, 1970 and the highlights of his achievements during his 38 year career in the army were published in the NAVS Newsletter's May 2011 issue.

The NAVS (I) heartily congratulates Lt. Gen. Mohanti, an esteemed Fellow and Member of the Governing Council of the Academy, on getting the rare distinction of Doctor of Science.

### **6.8 Maj Gen Shri Kant Sharma gets the Vishisht Seva Medal**



NAVS is proud and pleased to learn that **Maj Gen Shri Kant Sharma - an esteemed Fellow of the Academy and a member of its Governing Council** - was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) on the eve of Republic Day this year. He was the only RVC officer awarded Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) this year. He was also honoured with

Sena Medal earlier on the Republic Day in the year 2004. These two awards make him the only non-head of service officer in the history of RVC who has been honoured with two awards. We heartily congratulate our honourable colleague at his achievement and wish him more laurels in future.

Maj Gen SK Sharma, born on 28 March 1952 in Narwana town of Distt Jind (Haryana), is a product of College of Veterinary Science, CCSHAU, Hisar. He completed his BVSc & AH in 1974 and MVSc degree (Bacteriology & Hygiene) with prestigious Junior Research Fellowship of ICAR and joined RVC in 1976. During his illustrious career of 36 years in the Army, he displayed exceptional leadership qualities with effective administration of Officers, JCOs/ OR and civilian staff with impeccable professionalism. He also has several other accomplishments to his credit.

### **6.9 Dr. N.R. Bhasin Honoured**

**Dr. N.R. Bhasin, PhD., D.Sc., I.A.S. (Retd.)**, an eminent veterinary scientist (animal geneticist) and a renowned technocrat/administrator of the country who retired as Principal Secretary of Rajasthan Govt. and is the current President of the Indian Dairy Association, was awarded the **Honorary Fellowship of the Academy** at its Annual Convocation for the year 2011 held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 at the Rajasthan University of Veterinary And Animal Sciences, Bikaner. Due to his inability to



receive the award at the convocation, the fellowship certificate was presented to him at a special get together at his office in New Delhi. NAVS (India) is proud to associate itself with Dr. Bhasin and is bound to gain from his wide and vast professional experience in different aspects of livestock production, dairy science and Rural Development. The Academy also congratulates **Dr. N.R. Bhasin**, on the conferment upon him the Honorary degree of **Doctor of Science** by The National Dairy Research Institute (Deemed University), Karnal, at its tenth Convocation held on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2012 (See Ch. 7).

## 7. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY NEWS

**7.1 World Veterinary Year:** *The world celebrated 2011 as the World Veterinary Year.*

### 7.1.1 Legends in Veterinary Medicine

The *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association* published a series entitled "Legends in Veterinary Medicine" in honor of World Veterinary Year and covered the news profiles of some very eminent international personalities. This series of articles profiled the following individuals during the year:

Jan. 1: Claude Bourgelat

Feb. 1: Dr. Edmond Isidore Entinne Nocard

March 1: Dr. William Tyson Kendall

April 1: Dr. Andrew Smith

May 1: Dr. John McFadyean

June 1: Dr. Aleen Cust

July 1: Dr. James Alfred Wight (James Herriot)

Aug. 1: Dr. Douglas C. Blood

Sept. 1: Dr. Dawda Kairaba Jawara

Oct. 1: Dr. Bernhard Lauritz Frederik Bang

Nov. 1: Dr. Aline Schunemann de Aluja

Dec. 1: Dr. Peter C. Doherty

The last article in the series provides an insight into the life, work and thinking of **the only veterinarian to have won a Nobel Prize - Dr. Peter C. Doherty.**

Born in 1940, Dr. Doherty grew up in the Australian state of Queensland and at age 16 a visit to the University of Queensland School Of Veterinary Science piqued his interest in veterinary medicine. "I

made the decision to go to the vet school and, influenced by an older cousin who was a medical researcher, decided that I wanted to do research on the diseases of food-producing animals," Dr. Doherty said. Dr. Doherty hoped to conduct research that would help feed the world.

On earning his BVSc degree in 1966, Dr. Doherty worked for the state for five years to repay support for his studies. After a few months in the field, he moved to the state veterinary laboratory, where he did diagnostic pathology and studied bovine leptospirosis and avian viruses. In 1967, Dr. Doherty took a position in experimental pathology at Scotland's Moredun Research Institute, where he did diagnostic neuropathology and studied louping ill virus in sheep. He earned his doctoral degree in pathology in 1970. In 1972, to improve his knowledge of immunology, he became a research fellow at the John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) back in Australia. "My personality is such that I like to go after things in depth, I like to understand what's happening," Dr. Doherty said. In particular, Dr. Doherty wanted to learn about T cells to better his understanding of the immune response to viruses. At the JCSMR, Dr. Doherty met Dr. Zinkernagel, another research fellow, and the two decided to partner on studies of the mouse's immune response to viruses. Their key experiment involved infecting multiple strains of mice with a virus. They then studied, *in vitro*, the T cells developed by the mice to kill cells infected with the virus. To their surprise, Drs. Doherty and Zinkernagel found that T cells developed in any one strain of mice to kill infected cells would not kill infected cells from other strains of mice. Drs. Doherty and Zinkernagel published their findings in the journal *Nature* in 1974. For their discovery of how T cells recognize virus-infected cells by looking for variants in certain molecules—histocompatibility antigens—on the surface of infected cells, the Nobel Foundation awarded the 1996 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine to Dr. Doherty and Rolf M. Zinkernagel, MD.

Since 1988, Dr. Doherty had been a member of the Department of Immunology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. He now spends most of the year at home in Australia as a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Melbourne Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Sciences, and he devotes much of his time to writing books about science for a lay audience. In his book "The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize" and in a recent interview with *JAVMA News*, Dr. Doherty described his experience with, and the global importance of, scientific discovery. "Life at its best is an adventure, a voyage of discovery," Dr. Doherty wrote in "The Beginner's Guide." "What could be more gratifying than to discover, describe, and explain some basic principle that no human being has ever understood before? This is the stuff of true science. Those societies that foster and harness that passion will be the prosperous, knowledge-based economies of the future."

Dr. Peter C. Doherty continues studies, writes books for lay audience. "The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize," which came out in 2005, drew on Dr. Doherty's own story to explore the why and how of the scientific discovery process. His concerns about climate change and thoughts on various other issues were the subject of "A Light History of Hot Air," which came out in 2007. Two other books are due out next year on themes involving infectious disease. "Sentinel Chicken" is the tentative title of a book partly concerning birds as sentinels of disease. The other book is a guide to pandemics in a question-and-answer format. (Source: <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/dec11/1112010.asp>)

### **7.1.2 National IVA - DVA Seminar in Delhi**

The Indian Veterinary Association and the Delhi Veterinary Association jointly organized a national seminar to celebrate the world veterinary year 2011 at A.P. Shinde Auditorium, NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011, on the theme: **“Vet for Health, Vet for Food, Vet for Planet”**.

An excellent Souvenir released on the occasion covered the session-wise details of the articles of the seminar as well as the articles that were specially invited for this publication. Not



only was the theme of Seminar well thought out and contemporary, but the selection of titles of the technical sessions (sub-themes) was also quite imaginative.

## **7.2 Additional export duty likely on de-oiled rice bran**

The ministry of agriculture has proposed imposition of additional export duty on deoiled rice bran, to ease the supply of animal feed and bakery ingredient, in the domestic market. Production of deoiled rice bran in 2011-12 was estimated at 8-8.5 million tonnes of which around 170,000 tonnes or two per cent would be exported. "The export currently carries a duty of 10 per cent but the domestic price of animal feed is increasing, a significant input in composition of prices of milk and poultry. On the other hand, domestic prices of milk and poultry are consistently increasing. Therefore, there is no reason why India should export deoiled rice bran when the demand in the domestic market is high, going by the prices of animal feed," explained an official source. This is based on the recommendation of the department of animal husbandry under the ministry of agriculture. Besides rice milling, animal feed is also extracted from oil cakes after oil extraction. India imports crude oil and the refining edible oil. Thus, when this is domestically marketed, it will be at a premium compared to in-house supply of animal feed. So, exports should be discouraged. De-fatted or deoiled rice bran is obtained after extraction of oil from either raw or parboiled bran and contains a higher percentage of protein (17-20 per cent), vitamins (A and E) and minerals than full-fatted bran obtained from raw and parboiled paddy. Meanwhile, to increase milk production and strengthen dairy co-operatives, the National Dairy Plan (NDP) proposes to set up producer firms under the Companies Act. The objective is to facilitate co-operatives to retain their 50 per cent share in milk production, amidst stiff competition from the private sector. Officials explained that a producer company would be registered under part XI of the Companies Act and set up to cover the entire value chain in the milk production process. (Source: **Business Standard**, New Delhi, 1 February 2012)

## **7.3 New animal virus takes northern Europe by surprise**

Scientists in northern Europe are scrambling to learn more about a new virus that causes fetal malformations and stillbirths in cattle, sheep, and goats. For now, they don't have a clue about the virus's origins or why it's suddenly causing an outbreak; in order to speed up the process, they want to share the virus and protocols for detecting it with anyone interested in studying the disease or developing diagnostic tools and vaccines.

The virus, provisionally named "**Schmallenberg virus**" after the German town from which the first positive samples came, was detected in November in dairy cows that had shown signs of infection with fever and a drastic reduction in milk production. Now it has also been detected in sheep and goats, and it has shown up at dozens of farms in neighboring Netherlands and in Belgium as well.

According to the European Commission's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, cases have been detected on 20 farms in Germany, 52 in the Netherlands, and 14 in Belgium. Many more suspected cases are being investigated. "A lot of lambs are stillborn or have serious malformations," Wim van der Poel of the Dutch Central Veterinary Institute in Lelystad says. "This is a serious threat to animal health in Europe."

(Source: World Veterinary Association)

#### **7.4 Rabies alert level lowered after vaccination success in Bali**

The Bali Health Agency has lowered the rabies alert level on the island following a successful dog vaccination programme, pioneered by WSPA.

The Jakarta Globe recently reported a significant drop in human rabies deaths on the island, down from 83 in 2010 to 26 in 2011. Authorities have attributed this decline to the mass vaccination of dogs.

#### **Proof that an island without rabies is not an island without dogs**

When rabies broke out on the tourist-friendly island of Bali, authorities acted swiftly to try and stamp it out: sentencing the roaming dog population to a cruel and unnecessary death by strychnine poisoning.

WSPA quickly stepped in, promoting mass vaccination as the only effective way to control rabies and encouraging officials to carry it out. Source:

#### **7.5 Animal History Museum Announced**

Plans have been announced for the first animal history museum, to open later this year in Los Angeles, California. Executive Director Amy Breyer states, "It will be the first brick-and-mortar museum to focus on the always complex, but historically marginalized, relationship between humans, (non-human) animals and society in general." Unlike a natural history museum, where the focus is on biological or zoological information, the Animal History Museum focuses on "understanding and celebrating the human-animal bond." The project is still in its beginning stages - the museum doesn't have a permanent location yet - and the museum is seeking donations of photographs, objects, labor, and money. And if you purchase a membership now, you'll be a founding member. Even if you can't donate anything right now, you can help them get the word out by liking the Animal History Museum on Facebook, and following them on Twitter. (Source: By Doris Lin, About.com Guide January 25, 2012)

#### **7.6 Scientific Consortium for Health without Borders**

Dr. Sudhi Ranjan Garg, Professor, Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology, College of Veterinary Sciences, HISAR-125004, India, has written to inform us that the 'Scientific Consortium for Health without Borders' launched by him was steadily gaining strength and the website was drawing interest of the scientists from all over the world. During the first one year of its existence from November 2010 to November 1, 2011 it has registered more than 3500 page views by the scientific community worldwide including those from India, United States, Singapore, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, Netherlands, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sweden, France, Germany, Bulgaria, South Korea, Iran, UAE, Ukraine, Zambia, Latvia, Iraq, Ethiopia, Uganda and many others. The aim is to rapidly disseminate the findings and views of the scientists across all disciplines on scientific issues concerning health of man and animals including environmental health issues.

(For Details contact: [schw2010@gmail.com](mailto:schw2010@gmail.com); <http://health-without-borders.blogspot.com>)

#### **7.7 World Health Organization to Maintain Official Relations with the World Veterinary Association**

The President of the WVA, Dr Faouzi Kechrid, received a letter on the 7th of February to advise that the WHO Executive Board has reviewed the collaboration between the WHO and the WVA and decided to maintain the WVA in official relations with the WHO. In making its decision, the Board commended the continuing dedication of the WVA in support of the work of the WHO.

The WHO has conveyed its thanks to the members of the WVA for their work with the WHO. The WVA has made a very strong commitment to One Health and the management of Antimicrobial Resistance. This was demonstrated at the First WVA Summit held during the 30th World Veterinary Congress in Cape Town, October 2011. The theme for World Veterinary Day on the 28th of April, 2012 is Antimicrobial Resistance.

## **7.8 Beware of scams implying association with WHO**

**WHO never asks for money for recruitment. It is not WHO's policy to charge registration fees for conferences or meetings. WHO does not conduct lotteries, or offer prizes or awards through e-mail. Please note:**

Various fraudulent schemes purporting to be from or associated with the World Health Organization (WHO) have been circulating. Most of them circulate as e-mails, but there are also rogue web sites and in some instances faxes and telephones are used. Many of these scams request detailed information and/or money from individuals, businesses or non-profit organizations with the promise that they will receive funds or other benefits in return. Others ask for registration fees for conferences allegedly sponsored by WHO and for hotel reservations, again with the promise of certain benefits. Another type of scam proposes employment opportunities with WHO. These scams sometimes carry the WHO logo, and originate from or refer to e-mail addresses made to look like WHO or United Nations address.

WHO wishes to warn the public of these misleading practices that do not originate from WHO, and are not in any way associated with WHO projects or events. WHO strongly recommends that recipients of solicitations such as those described above (whether sent by e-mail or communicated in any other way) verify very carefully their authenticity before sending any response? In particular, WHO suggests that recipients do not send money or personal information in response to invitations from anyone who claims to be awarding jobs, funds, grants, scholarships, certificates, lottery winnings, or prizes, and/or who requests payment for registration fees and hotel room's reservations in the name of WHO. It is not a WHO policy to charge for attendance at meetings.

WHO is trying to warn the community at large about these deceptive practices, and we will therefore appreciate your help in bringing suspect communications to our attention.

## **7.9 World Veterinary Day Award 2012**

World Veterinary Day was instigated by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. In 2008 the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body. The winner will receive 1,000US\$ at the 80th OIE General Session to be held in Paris (France) on 20-25 May 2012.

Selected theme for 2012: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Antimicrobials have revolutionised medical and veterinary practice since their introduction more than 60 years ago. Today they are essential tools for ensuring health and welfare of animals. Loss of efficacy in antimicrobial treatment through resistance development is an ever-present risk both towards animal as well as public health. Especially in the context of the growing global demand for noble proteins along with the crucial need for sufficient and safe production of animal products such as milk, eggs and meat, the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals must be promoted.

That is why delivery of antimicrobials and treatment of animals should be done directly through well-trained veterinarians: WVA and OIE strongly advocate for the reinforcement of the good governance of Veterinary Services - both in their public and private components – for better control in registration, import, distribution and on-farm use of antimicrobials.

All parties involved must work together to harmonize national and international antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes as well as implement risk assessment measures.

### **7.10 Silver Jubilee Celebration Function of Dr. G.C Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Palampur, HP**

Dr G.C. Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Palampur, and Himachal Pradesh celebrated its Silver Jubilee Celebration Function cum 2<sup>nd</sup> Alumni Reunion on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.2011. The function was inaugurated by honourable Chief Minister of H.P., Professor Prem Kumar Dhumal. He congratulated the faculty, students & all those who are associated with the college for attaining one of the best veterinary college status in the country. Prof. Dhumal informed that livestock population of the State was 52.26 lakhs where as human population was around 68 lakhs. He appreciated that the livestock sector was consistency contribution to the tune of almost 40% to the net agriculture income of the State. Professor Dhumal while appreciated the college for excellent work done in the past, asked the college faculty and other staff to establish effective linkages with State Animal Husbandry Department so that new research findings in the animal husbandry sector can be implemented. “As animal husbandry generate economic opportunity to the poorest of the poor throughout the year and thus is an ideal profession to retain the rural poor in villages. You have to make best use of your professional expertise to achieve this. This profession has many strength and opportunities and you should make use of all those so that our farmers feel elated to be associated with animal husbandry and animal resources”, he stressed.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor S.K.Sharma informed that the college has produced 573 veterinary graduates 242 M.V.Sc. and 20 Ph.d. students and has commissioned 75 research projects worth Rs. 8 crore. He told that 29 research projects worth Rs. 15 crore were being currently implemented and the faculty has published more than 1500 research articles in national journals and 130 in international journals. Dr. Sharma further informed that the college has developed 39 technologies. He expressed his gratitude to the honourable Chief Minister for sanctioning a mega-project worth Rs. 11 Crore under RKVY for establishing an ‘Advanced Veterinary Multispecialty Centre and Farmers’ Capacity Building Centre’.

Mr. Ravinder Singh Ravi, Honourable Irrigation & Public Health Minister; Mrs. Sarveen Chaudhry, Hon’ble Social Justice & Empowerment Minister; Shri Atma Ram, Shri Parveen Sharma, Shri Rakesh Pathania, Shri Sanjay Chaudhry, all MLAs; Prof. M.P.Yadav, Former Director IVRI & President NAVS; Lt. General Shyam Sunder Thakral, DG RVC, Lt. General

Narayan Mohanty, President VCI; General Amarjit Singh, Dr. A.K. Shrivastava, Director NDRI, Dr. AJV Parsad, Principle Secretary AH, Dr. Malhotra, Director Animal Husbandry, H.P. Dr. A.C. Varshney, Dean COVAS, Former Deans and retired faculty members of veterinary college, member of the board of Management, Statutory Officers of the University, Officers from District Administration, Heads Of Departments, Faculty members, non teaching staff of the university attended the function. Dr. A.C. Varshney, Dean Welcomed all the guests and Dr. Mandeep Sharma, ARD proposed vote of thanks. On this occasion, Dr. A.K. Srivastava delivered a keynote address on the Status of Animal Husbandry in India. Later in a technical session, Dr. M.P. Yadav, Dr. J.M. Nigam and Dr. P.D. Juyal also delivered their technical talks.

### 7.11 “One Health System”- Let Us Work for it Together

In 1984 American Veterinarian, Calvin Schwabe, coined the term "One Medicine" in his book *Veterinary Medicine and Human Health*, which term evolved into the contemporary "One Health" to represent health issues interwoven among humans, animals, and the ecosystem. The shifting of plan focus of development to “one health” would be necessary since despite green revolution, economic liberalization and scientific advancement, India has the largest number of under-nourished children. The developed world has already realized the impact of intensive farming on the health of future generations and environment. **An American nutritionist once remarked that the emphasis on fatness than fitness in the animals in US has resulted in their people becoming fatter than fit.** It is now beyond dispute that only a healthy environment and healthy animals can sustain a healthy life. The health of environment and animals rests on the community which uses & benefits from, it. Many of our ecosystems are changing dramatically through our actions in the name of development. Such changes gradually altered the way human population function. “One Health” seeks to shift the paradigm from the current "individual," or "disease centered" approach to a "community based" "system". As the health of human, animal, and ecosystem are mutually complimentary one must identify the role of health practitioners, veterinarians, agriculturists, environmental scientists, socio-economists and legal experts in its planning.

The first major event was a global debate Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, wherein (through the adoption of Agenda 21) sustainability was considered primarily in terms of continuing to improve human well being, whilst not undermining the natural resource base on which future generations will have to depend. [[info@thewaterpage.com](mailto:info@thewaterpage.com)] This was soon followed by a landmark ruling of the supreme court of India in 1996 that Natural resources such as land (includes water, air, minerals, fuels etc) which are in fact gift of nature need to be used very carefully to maintain ecological balance and only sustainable development should be adopted in the country in future.

Attention of the world was drawn in to some of the following scientific data/ information,-

- (a) Deforestation due to demands of land for agriculture is responsible for 6.4 billion metric tons of carbon emissions annually. Trees that contain stored carbon, when cut down, release carbon dioxide. Forestry and tree plantations (social forestry) are some solutions since trees store carbon 20 to 100 times more per acre than pastures and crop lands. The substitution of composting and organic techniques for fertilizing, pesticides on plantations also allows for increased carbon storage.
- (b) Adoption of stall feeding of animals in large numbers in one place is considered to produce a Green house effect due to methane released in large volume. Use of Growth hormones and

antibiotics in large quantity to maximize (not optimize) production is another point raised against the animal production system of the west. The residues of animal waste spread through intensive production have already been identified in drinking water in some states of U.S.

(c) Live-stock wastes from the animals fed on concentrates contain harmful quantities of chemicals. In U.S. animal waste produced is 130 times more than the human waste. Soil change and displacement of wild life, cruelty issues are being raised against beef, pork, chickens production. [[www.api4animals.org/doc.asp](http://www.api4animals.org/doc.asp)]

(d) Scientists at the University of Calgary (U of C) in Canada have found that methane emission by stressed crops could be a bigger problem in global warming than previously thought. [Washington, August 18, 2009]

(e) **Wetlands are more productive than forest ecosystem:** The ecosystem service values provided by wetlands in the country is worth about a whopping Rs.5,60,000 crores a year, according to Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History founder Director V.S. Vijayan. Kerala's wetlands estimated at 3,28,402 hectares. Its ecosystem value is Rs.15,797 crores a year. 38 p.c. of wetlands lost between 1991 and 2001. There is lack of appreciation of the productive value of wetlands

(f) Coordination of wildlife with environment, human and domestic health sectors can improve our ability to *avoid* disease events rather than simply reacting to them. Prevention is preferable because it saves us from the impact of disease (morbidity, mortality. or loss of man hours. Furthermore, some of our frantic combat measures may have negative social or environmental impact. For example, massive killing of chicken east Asia, Thailand's extermination of migratory waterfowl to control 'bird flu', incineration of cattle suffering from "mad cow disease" or the mass slaughter and burial during the out break of FMD in England are some of the some of the innumerable examples that have left their footprints behind.

(g) Conventionally, the epidemiology of malaria (Krier and Baker, 1980) relates to nature and spread of the Plasmodium and its vectors. However studies show a close association of its prevalence with poverty (Gallup and Sachs, 1999). Economic, social and political factors are associated with epidemiological triad [viz., host, agents and environment] in spreading malaria. Medical and clinical studies must therefore be linked with social, political and economic behavior. The demographic features, like distance to the nearest health clinic or veterinary Hospital, the access to diagnostic labs. and the status of diagnostic equipment, are also crucial to vulnerability and combat strategy. **Nomadic pastoral cultures** also encourage the spread of the parasite. It can also be argued that Malaria forces groups to leave non-endemic areas. But this movement can introduce malaria into malaria-free areas. Economic evaluation and financial viability of alternative control strategies or willingness of people -to-pay control result.

## **7.12 Prominent One Health Advocate-Speaker-Author & Public Health Expert Joins One Health Initiative Team**

The One Health Initiative team of Laura H. Kahn, MD, MPH, MPP, Bruce Kaplan, DVM, Thomas P. Monath, MD and Jack Woodall, PhD proudly announces that **Lisa A. Conti**, DVM, MPH has officially joined with our autonomous pro bono team / website [www.onehealthinitiative.com](http://www.onehealthinitiative.com) as an active participant. We greatly appreciate and welcome her addition to our One Health efforts.

Among many other previous career accomplishments, Dr. Lisa A. Conti, a veterinarian, is the former Director of the Florida Department of Health's Environmental Health Division (USA)

where she supervised over 200 employees. She is an associate professor of Pathobiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (USA). In addition to numerous public speaking engagements and professional journal publications, Dr. Conti was co-author/writer with the prominent American public health physician at Yale Medical School, Dr. Peter M. Rabinowitz, of the groundbreaking ‘first of its kind’ One Health book entitled Human-Animal Medicine – Clinical Approaches to Zoonoses, Toxicants and other Shared Health Risks

### 7.13 XXXV Annual Congress of ISVS held at Kolkata

An International Symposium on “Nanobiomaterials in Biomedical Research: Their Application in Veterinary Surgery” and the XXXV Annual Congress of the Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery (ISVS) was jointly organized by ISVS and the Organising Committee of the West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, Kolkata, headed by Prof. D.K. De, the Dean of the Veterinary Faculty, with the active Co-operation of other members, at Swabhumi - The Heritage Plaza, Kolkata, on 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.



Prof. Dr. Amresh Kumar delivering ‘Dr. PE Kulkarni Oration Lecture’ at the theme session of the International Symposium on ‘Nano-biomaterials in Biomedical Research’ chaired by Prof. Dr. R.N. Kohli

The congress was inaugurated by Shri Nure Alam Chowdhury, Hon’ble MIC, ARD Department, Govt. of West Bengal and presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, Kolkata with the luminary presence of Prof. A.P. Singh, Prof. S. Thilagar, Prof. N.S. Saini, Dr. P.B.Kundu and Shri Haider Aziz Saifee, Hon’ble MIC, Co-operation and marketing, Govt. of West Bengal. During the theme session chaired by Prof. Dr. R.N. Kohli, the theme lecture was delivered by Prof. A.N. Maitra, Ex-Professor Emeritus, University of Delhi, while ‘Dr. P.E. Kulkarni Oration Lecture’ was delivered by Prof. Dr. Amresh Kumar. The Congress was very Successful due to the active participation of more than 500 scientists & researchers. Sessions on Ruminant Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Anaesthesiology, Small Animal Surgery, Imaging techniques, Equine Surgery, Wild & Zoo animal Surgery and Avian Surgery were live and vibrant. It was a very well organized successful event. The Next ISVS Conference is scheduled to be held at Anand, Gujarat.

## 7.14 66<sup>th</sup> World Homeopathic Congress of LMHI held at New Delhi

*Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis* (LMHI) organized its 66<sup>th</sup> World Homoeopathic Congress at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi from 1 - 4 Dec. 2011. The theme of the Congress was: "HOMOEOPATHY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH" and the technical sessions of were held simultaneously in five halls on several sub-themes including the following (as per Programme Schedule):

Current scenario of homoeopathy; Scope for homoeopathy in modern oncology; Clinical verification; Miasmatic diagnosis and its relevance; Prescribing techniques; Clinical studies; Diabetes and L.S.D; Female diseases; Drug proving; Homoeopathy in epidemics; Basic Research; Healthy mother and Happy child campaign; Homoeopathy in primary health care; Drug control and quality assurance; Tuberculosis and tuberculinum; Public health initiatives, Cardiology, Neurology, Homoeopathic education and policies; and Homoeopathic philosophy, Ethics, Education etc. The Congress also included several topics in the Poster Sessions.

**For the first time in its history, the LIMA Congress at New Delhi devoted a session entirely on "Homoeopathy in Veterinary Practices"** during which presentations were made by (Doctors) Prakash Thakor, S. Swaminarayan, J.P. Varshney, S.S. Makker, S.G. Shukla, Sanjeet Sharma, M Abdul Lethif, Beena Thomas, K.M. Jadhav, Vikram Jani, and Divya K. Verma. The Fellows of the NAVS (I) who attended the Veterinary Session included Maj. Gen. R.M. Kharb, Dr. M.P. Yadav, Dr. P.N. Khanna, Dr. Lal Krishna and Dr. R.N. Kohli.

## 7.15 XL Dairy Industry Conference held at New Delhi

The Indian Dairy Association (North Zone) organized the XL Dairy Industry Conference at New Delhi from 2 - 5 February 2012. The theme of the conference was "Indian Dairying: Perspective 2020". **Prof. Abhijit Sen**, Member (A.S.), Planning Commission, G.O.I. was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function on 2<sup>nd</sup> February which was held at Sri Fort Auditorium. This was followed by ten technical sessions, five scientific sessions, and three industry sessions as well as the poster presentations and the Dairy Exhibition which were all held at the Manekshaw Convention Centre, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February.

During the inaugural session, the biannual 9<sup>th</sup> "**Dr. Kurian Award**" was conferred on **Shri Mandava Janaki Ramaiah** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Indian dairy industry. The multifaceted Shri Ramaiah promoted the Co-operative Dairy Movement in Andhra Pradesh and has devoted his life to the welfare of milk producers and dairy farmers. The **Patronship of Indian Dairy Association** was awarded to **Dr. Rarnakar Nagarcenkar** in recognition of his services in furthering the cause of I.D.A. and the growth of dairy industry. A Ph.D. in Animal Genetics from IVRI, Dr. Nagarcenkar conducted his post doctoral research in population genetics and breeding in University of Naples, Italy. Being a renowned scientist, he was the Director - cum- Vice-Chancellor of NDRI from 1984-1990 and DDG (Education & A.S.) at ICAR in 1990-91. He was the President of IDA in 1987-88.

The Conference was attended by about 2000 delegates comprising of milk producers, policy makers, scientists, technologists, industrialists, machinery manufacturers, entrepreneurs and students of dairying. The galaxy of about 100 professionals and experts who spoke on the occasion included Prof. Abhijit Sen, Prof. Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Prof. Dr. R.B. Singh, Shri Dilip Rath, Dr. Sadamate, Dr. P.N. Bhat, and Dr. N.R. Bhasin. Many of them also contributed articles for the Souvenir released on the occasion.



The fulcrum of the conference was the extended session on **National Dairy Plan**. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) would initiate the implementation of the first phase of NDP beginning April 2012 with an investment of Rs 1,761 Crores over a period of five years. **The NDP -1** is expected to cover 14 States of India that account for India's 90% of milk produced, 87% of the breedable cows and buffaloes, and 98% of the total fodder produced. The implementation of NDP-1 would revolve on all activities that would ultimately increase per animal productivity of Indian breeds of cows and buffaloes and the crossbred cows. Implementation would be carried through the participation of all tiers Dairy Cooperatives, the State Livestock Development Boards, the Non-Government Organisations and private sector institutions active in the rural development and livestock farming services. To ensure that the milk producer gets easy access to market and earns remunerative price for the milk he produces, the NDP-1 would give primary importance to involvement of the milk producer based cooperatives, and cooperative companies that are formed according to the provisions in the Chapter IX-A of the Indian Companies Act 1956 as amended in 2002.

Perspective for 2020 was evaluated in respect of the various facets of Dairy Industry including Milk Production, Milk Procurement, Milk Products and Food Safety, Technology, Human Resource Development, Extension, International Trade and Policy during the Conference.

The President Indian Dairy Association, Dr. N.R. Bhasin holds the view that to increase milk production in India and to make it price competitive, important policy support actions are required from the Government of India. These are:

- Soft credit to the landless milk producers on the same interest rates as granted for crop loans.
- Discouraging large scale export of oilcakes and other ingredients for cattle feeds through imposition of custom duty @ 20%.
- Ban the burning of post-harvested straws.
- The FDI in retail sector would harm the interest of milk producers and should not be allowed.

### **7.16 NDRI (Deemed University) holds its Tenth Convocation**

The National Dairy Research Institute (Deemed University), Karnal had its tenth Convocation on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2012. On this occasion the degrees of Bachelor of Technology, Master of Technology, Master of Veterinary Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy were conferred upon the students of NDRI Deemed University.

Dr M. S. Swaminathan, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha and Former Secretary DARE and DG ICAR, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and gave away the degrees and delivered the Convocation Address. Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi; and Dr. Arvind Kumar, Dy. Director General, ICAR, New Delhi participated this solemn occasion as Guests of Honour.

On this occasion **Dr. R. Nagarcenkar** Former Deputy Director General, ICAR who also remained Director of NDRI from 1984 to 1990 and **Dr. N.R. Bhasin**, President, Indian Dairy Association, New Delhi, who retired as Principal Secretary of Rajasthan Govt. and served in very senior positions in the Rural Development & initiated various Dairy Development Projects in the country, were conferred the **Honorary degree of Doctor of Science**.

**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan**, father of Green Revolution while delivering the tenth convocation address, dwelled upon the food security challenges facing our country today. He stressed that we need to produce food and drinking water not only for 1.2 billion human population, but also the feed & fodder for over a billion farm animals. He said that by 2030 more than 200 million tons of milk has to be produced to meet the nutritional security of our growing population. He stated that milk is the seat anchor for nutritional security of vegetarian people of India. He emphasized on the need to develop a strategic plan for Rural Systems Research as still more than 70% of our population is confined to the rural areas. He said that mixed farming approach provides more security to the livelihood of small farmers as different components help in preventing a total loss even if there is a calamity. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan emphasized that we need accelerated efforts in improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of small holdings to fulfill the legal entitlement to food grains enshrined in the draft National Food Security Bill. He expressed satisfaction that NDRI is working on projects for lowering production of methane by cows and buffaloes. He expressed his happiness over the quality of research work by the students and scientists of the Institute.



*Dr. N.R. Bhasin receiving the degree of Doctor of Science at NDRI, Karnal, on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2012*

**Dr. A.K. Srivastava** Director and Vice Chancellor of NDRI read the convocation report and in the convocation, 20 students were conferred the B. Tech (Dairy Technology), 105 students were conferred Masters Degree in 13 disciplines and 25 students were conferred doctoral degree in various disciplines. He highlighted the research and academic achievements of NDRI in the fields of embryonic stem cell research, probiotics and dairy starter organisms, functional foods, traditional dairy products, new analytical methods and economic feasibility and model farming systems.

**Dr. Gurbachan Singh**, Chairman ASRB distributed the Best Thesis Awards to Masters and Ph.D scholars. **Dr. Arvind Kumar** gave away the Gold Medals and Merit Certificates to the meritorious students. Eminent members of the Board of management and Academic Council of NDRI were present on this occasion.

## 8. SCIENTIFIC SNIPPETS & INTERNET INFOTAINMENT

### 8.1: Cancer in Pets and People – Can the Similarities Provide a Cure?

**When it comes to the dreaded diagnosis of cancer - we all dream of an eventual cure. Believe it or not, thanks to our canine friends, that dream may not be too far away!**

Finding a cure for cancer is one of science's most challenging and elusive goals. But beyond defeating this pervasive killer, another important element is to find a way to prevent this disease from ever occurring again! Enter man's best friend. Thanks to our pets, and the fascinating work of a new breed of scientist, the comparative oncologist, some of the pieces of this complex puzzle are coming together.

The statistics about cancer in our pets are surprising. Estimates from the Morris Animal Foundation state that fifty percent of dogs will develop a cancer at some point in their lifetimes and half of those will die from the disease. For some breeds, the odds are much worse! Sixty percent of Golden Retrievers are said to die from cancer.

As you can imagine, these alarming statistics have gained the attention of many scientists because our dogs and cats often make good models for cancer research and can often improve the advances being made in human medicine. In fact, the field of comparative oncology got its start in the 1970s when researchers were able to perfect bone marrow transplants for people by studying pet dogs with lymphoma. Comparative oncology brings together veterinary oncologists, human medical oncologists, academic cancer research centers and the pharmaceutical industry.

At the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research, scientists say that because our pets share our environment and suffer from many naturally occurring cancers, they are probably good indicators of potential causes. In addition, there are many pet cancers that have similar or even identical biological characteristics as human cancers.

But beyond all of the objective data, the strong desire of pet owners to see their beloved dogs and cats live longer means that many new therapeutic options can be tried in order to save the pet. And, since more than 6 million dogs develop cancer each year, veterinarians and cancer researchers can evaluate these new therapies, refine them and potentially provide hope to both pet owners and to the families devastated by a cancer diagnosis.

For example, equipment used for human bone marrow transplants is now available in clinical settings for our pets! In addition the use of a radioactive isotope placed directly into bone tumors by a tiny drill and even the evaluation of specific drugs used to fight certain types of cancer can be used in veterinary medicine. Both research and techniques helping both pets and people is an exciting frontier in medicine.

Perhaps one of the most impressive advancements in comparative oncology is the development of a "canine cancer vaccine". This novel treatment was recently granted full licensure and is now available for dogs suffering from one of the most common forms of cancer, canine malignant melanoma.

This cancer can be seen in any breed of dog and is highly aggressive. Cancer cells may start in the mouth, footpad or nail bed, but often spread out to infect lymph nodes, liver, lungs or kidneys. For most dogs, a diagnosis of canine malignant melanoma means the pet has just a few months to live, even with surgical treatment. Chemotherapy doesn't improve survival times either.

But, thanks to research done at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, The Animal Medical Center of New York and Meril, the cancer vaccine (called ONCEPT®) is extending the lives of these dogs and giving hope to humans. In one study with 58 dogs, the researchers were surprisingly unable to determine an exact survival time. Why? Because amazingly more than 50% of the treated dogs were still alive when the study was published! Earlier studies for the vaccine showed that treated pets lived an additional three years after diagnosis.

ONCEPT® uses a human protein to stimulate the dog's immune system into attacking the cancer cells. Since malignant melanomas have such a tendency to spread throughout the body, this type of treatment helps to find and destroy small cancer clusters even after the main tumor is surgically removed. After the initial set of four vaccines every two weeks, patients receive a "booster" vaccine every 6 months.

The implications of this type of therapy are, of course, amazing for our pets. But further, they could have far reaching positive consequences for human cancer patients as well. Research in comparative oncology is exciting and will no doubt uncover many new potential therapies.

(Source: Dr. Jim Humphries, Veterinary News Network. To learn more about the canine cancer vaccine, please visit <http://www.myvnn.com>)

## **8.2 Does hunting reduce Lyme disease?**

The Answer to this question is 'No'.

Hunting has not been proven to reduce Lyme disease, but pesticides targeting deer ticks have proven to be very effective against Lyme disease. Those who claim that deer hunting reduces Lyme disease are not aware of how Lyme disease spreads or of how hunting causes state wildlife agencies to increase the deer population. Lyme disease is spread to humans by deer ticks, but Lyme disease comes from mice, not deer, and the ticks spread to humans mainly through mice, not deer.

Preventing Lyme disease

Although they are called "deer ticks," the ticks can live on mice, squirrels, cattle, humans, deer and other mammals. Deer ticks cannot jump or fly. Instead, they climb vegetation, wait for a potential host, then grab onto that animal as they brush past. After sucking blood from their host, the ticks fall off and then wait for another host. More homes have mice nearby than deer, and mice get closer to homes, dropping deer ticks right next to areas that people frequent.

Neither the American Lyme Disease Foundation nor the Lyme Disease Foundation recommend hunting to prevent Lyme disease. Instead, LDF offers tips for preventing tick bites such as:

Avoid tick-infested areas

Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants, in light colors

Apply tick repellent

Check yourself frequently for ticks

Check your pets for ticks

The LDF website also has [tips for reducing ticks](#) on one's property, such as clearing brush and litter. (Source: [Doris Lin](#), About.com Guide. Email Newsletter Received January 20, 2012).

## **8.3 NIH suspends new chimp research grants**

Late last year, the National Institutes of Health froze all new grants for studies involving chimpanzees after an Institute of Medicine review found little scientific necessity for using man's closest genetic relative as a research model.

Dozens of ongoing, federally funded projects will be evaluated according to the new stringent conditions adopted by the NIH, which the IOM says are necessary to justify conducting research on chimpanzees.

Advances in alternative research tools and methods, including cell-based tests and other animal models, have made chimpanzees largely nonessential as research subjects, concluded the IOM report, issued Dec. 15, 2011.

#### **8.4 Greece Bans Animals in Circuses**

Greece has become the first European country to ban all animals in circuses. Animal Defenders International reports that the measure was backed by fifty local animal protection groups, as well as ADI and the Greek Animal Welfare Fund. Several European countries including Austria, Portugal, Denmark and Croatia have either banned or are phasing out the use of wild animals in circuses, but the Greek ban applies to all animals. ADI had documented various abuses in Greek circuses, including "a rhinoceros forced to perform; a hippopotamus living in a filthy wagon with little more than a bathtub of dirty water; tigers living in small cages on the backs of trucks." In 2009, Bolivia became the first country in the world to ban animals in circuses. China followed in 2011. In the United States, the Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act would ban the use of exotic animals, such as elephants and tigers, but has not been passed into law yet. (Source: By Doris Lin, About.com Guide February 8, 2012)

#### **8.5 Saving the snow leopard with stem cells**

The survival of the endangered snow leopard is looking promising thanks to Monash University scientists who have, for the first time, produced embryonic stem-like cells from the tissue of an adult leopard.

Never before have induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, which share many of the useful properties of embryonic stem cells, been generated from a member of the cat family. The breakthrough raises the possibility of cryopreservation of genetic material for future cloning and other assisted reproduction techniques. The study, published in *Theriogenology*, is part of the PhD project of Rajneesh Verma, supervised by Dr Paul Verma, both from the Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR). (Source: <http://www.vetscite.org/publish/items/007105/index.html>)

#### **8.6 Ancient domesticated dog skull found in Siberian cave: 33,000 years old**

A 33,000-year-old dog skull unearthed in a Siberian mountain cave presents some of the oldest known evidence of dog domestication and, together with an equally ancient find in a cave in Belgium, indicates that modern dogs may be descended from multiple ancestors. If you think a Chihuahua doesn't have much in common with a Rottweiler, you might be on to something. An ancient dog skull, preserved in a cave in the Altai Mountains of Siberia for 33,000 years, presents some of the oldest known evidence of dog domestication and, together with equally ancient dog remains from a cave in Belgium, indicates that domestication of dogs may have occurred repeatedly in different geographic locations rather than with a single domestication event. In other words, man's best friends may have originated from more than one ancient ancestor, contrary to what some DNA evidence previously has indicated. "Both the Belgian find and the Siberian find are domesticated species based on morphological characteristics," said Greg Hodgins, a researcher at the University of Arizona's Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Laboratory and co-author of the study that reports the find. (Source: [Science Daily](#), February 7, 2012)

## **8.7 Ten Laws that Newton failed to share with the World**

- 1. LAW OF QUEUE:** If you change queues, the one you have left will start to move faster than the one you are in now.
- 2. LAW OF TELEPHONE:** When you dial a wrong number, you never get an engaged tone.
- 3. LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR:** Just after your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.
- 4. LAW OF THE WORKSHOP:** Any tool, when dropped, will roll into the least accessible gap.
- 5. LAW OF THE ALIBI:** If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the next morning you will have a flat tire.
- 6. BATH THEOREM:** When the body is immersed in water, the telephone rings.
- 7. LAW OF ENCOUNTERS:** The probability of meeting someone you know increases exponentially when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
- 8. LAW OF THE RESULT:** When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will!
- 9. LAW OF BIOMECHANICS:** The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the difficulty in reaching it.
- 10. LAW OF COFFEE:** As soon as you sit down for a cup of hot coffee, your boss will call for a discussion which will last until the coffee is cold.

## **8.8 Study Shows Elephants in Zoos Live Shorter Lives**

A study published in Science magazine finds that zoo captivity shortens elephants' lives. An international team of researchers examined data from over 4,500 elephants, and found that elephants in zoos live much shorter lives compared to those in Kenya's Amboseli National Park and even compared to elephants working in a logging camp in Myanmar. [[animalrights.guide@about.com](mailto:animalrights.guide@about.com)]

## **8.9 Hurrah for Murrah**

In an event titled 'Murrahwalk', a fashion show for Murrah buffaloes was organized by Haryana Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department and J.K. Trust in Jind in which more than two dozen 'black beauties' walked on a specially designed 'ramp' to impress the fans and panelists who judged them for their 'vital statistics' including looks, health and milk output. They even impressed the chief guest -- Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar. Several people were ready to pay up to Rs. 6 lakh to purchase Golu - an eight year old bull owned by Narender Singh from Didiwari village in Panipat. One of the calves fathered by Golu was recently purchased by a Panchayat in Bhiwani district for Rs. 2 lakh. But Narinder has no intention of parting with Golu, whom he bathes with shampoo and treats like a family member. The show was aimed at promoting the rearing of well bred Murrah - a high yielding variety of the domesticated buffaloes.

## **8.10 Love Is the Drug?**

According to researchers at the University Of California San Diego School Of Medicine, a hormone called oxytocin, which is released whenever people hug or touch each other, could be useful in helping depression. In a press release, Dr. Kai MacDonald, an assistant

clinical professor of psychiatry at UC San Diego, noted that this hormone may change the firing of the amygdala, a part of the brain which plays an important role in processing emotional stimuli. In previous studies of healthy people it has been shown that oxytocin reduces activity in areas of the brain associated with fear and increases eye contact, trust and generosity. Earlier studies also suggest that it may help people with anxiety disorders or schizophrenia.

Dr. MacDonald is now recruiting participants for a new study which will examine whether oxytocin might also help depression. "A hug or a touch that causes a release of this hormone might somehow change brain signals," said MacDonald. "We want to see if we can harness this response to help patients who suffer from depression." (Source: [Nancy Schimelpfening](#), About.com Guide February 21, 2012).

### **Too Often...**

Too often we don't realize  
What we have until it is gone.  
Too often we wait too late to say  
"I'm sorry - I was wrong."

Sometimes it seems we hurt the ones  
We hold dearest to our hearts;  
And we allow foolish things  
To tear our lives apart.

Far too many times we let  
Unimportant things into our minds;

And then it's usually too late  
To see what made us blind.

So be sure that you let people know  
How much they mean to you.  
Take the time to say the words  
Before your time is through.

Be sure that you appreciate  
Everything you've got;  
And be thankful for the little things  
In life that mean a lot

## 9. HEALTH & SOCIETY

### 9.1 Top 8 Tips for Living with Depression

When you're depressed it can feel like you barely exist. By obtaining the correct medical intervention and learning better coping skills, however, you can not only live with depression, but live well. The following are some tips that can help improve your quality of life.

#### 1. Join a Support Group

Having a caring group of people who can be there to listen to you and support you is perhaps the most important thing you can do outside of medical treatment to help you with your depression. There are numerous groups, both online and in your community, dedicated to supporting those with depression and other mental illnesses. One of the best online resources is our own forum here at About.com. [Locate Other Online and Offline Support.](#)

#### 2. Reduce Your Stress

When the body is under stress, the adrenal gland increases secretion of cortisol. Short-term, this hormone can help aid in survival. Long-term elevation of cortisol, however, can have detrimental effects. Although the exact mechanism that causes depression is uncertain, clinical studies suggest that chronically elevated cortisol may induce clinical depression by somehow affecting the neurotransmitter serotonin. Learning stress reduction techniques may be helpful in reducing depression.

#### 3. Improve Your Sleep Hygiene

Sleep and mood are intimately related. In fact, some studies seem to show that rather than being only a symptom of depression, insomnia may in fact be a cause of depression. Learning how to get a good night's sleep could improve your mood.

#### 4. Improve Your Eating Habits

A poor diet can affect both your physical and mental well-being. Eat better to feel better. [Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies Can Cause Depression](#); [Food and Mood](#); [Eat Fish for Healthy Baby, Happy Mom](#); [Food Allergies May Contribute to Depression.](#)

#### 5. Learn How to Stop Negative Thoughts

Did you know that habitual negative thinking can lead to depression? Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is a type of therapy which works to alter common patterns of negative thinking called cognitive distortions in order to eliminate depression. Numerous studies have shown that CBT is an effective treatment for both depression and anxiety. The best results are obtained by using CBT in conjunction with medication.

#### 6. Beat Procrastination

The symptoms that we experience when depressed, such as fatigue and hopelessness, make it easy to fall into a habit of putting things off until we feel better. When important deadlines draw near, however, procrastination creates anxiety and guilt that further feeds our depression. It's a vicious cycle, but it can be stopped by learning how to break through the habit of procrastination.

#### 7. Get a Handle on Your Household Chores

Depression destroys so much of our motivation and energy that it can become difficult to keep up with day-to-day chores, yet a dirty living environment only serves to make us feel more worthless and discouraged. The following tips can help you get a handle on your house work.

#### 8. Learn How to Forgive

Holding on to anger about past events can contribute to depression. Forgiving these wrongs can help you heal and move forward with your life, but the Biblical definition of forgiveness is very hard for most of



us to swallow. How can you forget the unforgettable? How can you forgive the unforgivable? To enjoy the benefits of forgiveness, however, we don't need to go that far.

Forgiveness can help depression.

(By Nancy Schimelpfening **Source:** [Doris Lin](#), About.com Guide. Email Newsletter Received January 20, 2012).

## 9.2 Microwaving Water!

A 26-year old man decided to have a cup of coffee. He took a cup of water and put it in the microwave to heat it up (something that he had done numerous times before). I am not sure for how long he had set the timer, but he wanted to bring the water to a boil... When the timer shut the oven off, he removed the cup from the oven. As he looked into the cup, he noted that the water was not boiling, but suddenly the water in the cup 'blew up' into his face. The cup remained intact until he threw it out of his hand, but all the water had flown out into his face due to the buildup of energy. His whole face is blistered and he has 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face which may leave scarring. He also may have lost partial sight in his left eye. While at the hospital, the doctor who was attending to him stated that this is a fairly common occurrence and water (alone) should never be heated in a microwave oven. If water is heated in this manner, something should be placed in the cup to diffuse the energy such as a wooden stir stick, tea bag, etc.... (nothing metallic, of course.)

General Electric's Response: Thanks for contacting us, I will be happy to assist you. The e-mail that you received is correct. Microwaved water and other liquids do not always bubble when they reach the boiling point. They can actually get superheated and not bubble at all. The superheated liquid will bubble up out of the cup when it is moved or when something like a wooden spoon or tea bag is put into it. To prevent this from happening and causing injury, do not heat any liquid for more than two minutes per cup. After heating, let the cup stand in the microwave for thirty seconds before moving it or adding anything into it.

Here is what our local science teacher had to say on the matter: 'Thanks for the microwave warning. I have seen this happen before. It is caused by a phenomenon known as 'superheating.' It can occur anytime water is heated and will particularly occur if the vessel that the water is heated in is new, or when heating a small amount of water (less than half a cup).

What happens is that the water heats faster than the vapor bubbles can form. If the cup is very new then it is unlikely to have small surface scratches inside it that provide a place for the bubbles to form. As the bubbles cannot form and release some of the heat has built up, the liquid does not boil, and the liquid continues to heat up well past its boiling point.

What then usually happens is that the liquid is bumped or jarred, which is just enough of a shock to cause the bubbles to rapidly form and expel the hot liquid. The rapid formation of bubbles is also why a carbonated beverage spews when opened after having been shaken.'

## 9.3 Dog bite prevention

### 9.3.1 Did you know that:

- \* 4.7 million people in this country (the USA) are bitten by dogs every year
- \* children are by far the most common victims
- \* 800,000 Americans receive medical attention for dog bites each year
- \* children are far more likely to be severely injured;
- \* approximately 400,000 receive medical attention every year
- \* most dog bites affecting young children occur during everyday activities and while interacting with

familiar dogs

\* senior citizens are the second most common dog bite victims

**There are a number of things that you can do to avoid dog bites, ranging from properly training and socializing your pet to educating your children on how, or if, they should approach a dog.**

Information is one of the best cures for this public health crisis.

There are a number of things that you can do to avoid dog bites, ranging from properly training and socializing your pet to educating your children on how, or if, they should approach a dog. Information is one of the best cures for this public health crisis.

What's a dog owner to do?

§ Carefully select your pet. Puppies should not be obtained on impulse.

§ Make sure your pet is socialized as a young puppy so it feels at ease around people and other animals.

§ Don't put your dog in a position where it feels threatened or teased.

§ Train your dog. The basic commands "sit," "stay," "no," and "come" help dogs understand what is expected of them and can be incorporated into fun activities that build a bond of trust between pets and people.

§ Walk and exercise your dog regularly to keep it healthy and provide mental stimulation.

§ Avoid highly excitable games like wrestling or tug-of-war.

§ Use a leash in public to ensure you are able to control your dog.

§ Keep your dog healthy. Have your dog vaccinated against rabies and preventable infectious diseases. Parasite control and other health care are important because how your dog feels affects how it behaves.

§ Neuter your pet.

§ If you have a fenced yard, make sure the gates are secure.

How can you protect your family?

§ Be cautious around strange dogs, and treat your own pet with respect. Because children are the most common victims of dog bites, parents and caregivers should:

§ NEVER leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.

§ Be alert for potentially dangerous situations.

§ Teach their children – including toddlers – to be careful around pets. Children must learn not to approach strange dogs or try to pet dogs through fences. Teach children to ask permission from the dog's owner before petting the dog. (Source: American Veterinary Medical Association)

### **9.3.2 Experts say together we can prevent dog bites**

The Australian Veterinary Association today gathered a group of experts to discuss a collaborative dog bite prevention solution.

They explained a combination of proven strategies including reward-based training, early socialisation, parent and child education, dog selection and environmental modifications.

The group included vet and TV personality Dr Lisa Chimes, registered veterinary behavioural specialist in behavioural medicine and regular ABC radio presenter Dr Kersti Seksel, Associate Professor of Injury Prevention and Safety at James Cook University, Richard Franklin and vet and president-elect of the Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group, Dr Andrew O'Shea.

Dr Lisa Chimes said "I've seen many dog bite injuries in practice as a result of dogs not being trained properly."

Dr Kersti Seksel said dog bites were just as much a people problem as they are a dog problem.

“We really need to tackle the things people do that may contribute to canine aggression. Any dog is capable of responding aggressively when they’re scared or threatened,” Dr Seksel said.

“It’s important for dogs to socialise with other dogs as well as people and receive manners training as early as possible.

“The best way to train your dog is to reward them when they do what you want. This technique, known as reward-based training, is the most humane and effective way to train your dog.”

Associate Professor Richard Franklin said that simple safety precautions go a long way in preventing dog bites.

“Children below the age of 10 are at highest risk but this is mainly because the children haven’t been taught how to be safe around dogs. As most dog bites happen in the home with a familiar dog, a child under 10 should never be left unsupervised with a dog.”

Incoming President of the Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group, Dr Andrew O’Shea said that the solution lies in cooperation across the community.

“We need trainers, vets, local councils, educators and pet owners to deliver the solution. Only by working together can we prevent dog bite injuries.” (Australian Veterinary Association Media Release ,Wednesday, 29 February 2012)

## 9.4 What's Wrong with Chicken?

According to the US Department of Agriculture, the consumption of chicken in the United States has been climbing steadily since the 1940s, and is now close to that of beef. Just from 1970 to 2004, chicken consumption more than doubled, from 27.4 pounds per person per year, to 59.2 pounds. **But some people are now swearing off chicken because of concerns about animal rights, factory farming, sustainability and human health.**

**Chickens and Animal Rights:** Killing and eating an animal, including a chicken, violates that animal's right to be free of abuse and exploitation. The animal rights position is that it is wrong to use animals, regardless of how well they are treated prior to or during slaughter.

**Factory Farming - Chickens and Animal Welfare:** The animal welfare position differs from the animal rights position in that people who support animal welfare believe that using animals is not wrong, as long as the animals are treated well. Factory farming, the modern system of raising livestock in extreme confinement, is an often-cited reason for people going vegetarian. Many who support animal welfare oppose factory farming because of the suffering of the animals.

**Sustainability:** Raising chickens for meat is inefficient because it takes five pounds of grain to produce a single pound of chicken meat. Feeding that grain directly to people is much more efficient and uses far fewer resources. Those resources include the water, land, fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and time required to grow, process and transport the grain so that it could be used as chicken feed.

**Human Health:** People do not need meat or other animal products to survive, and chicken meat is no exception. Furthermore, the portrayal of chicken as a healthy meat is exaggerated, since chicken meat has almost as much fat and cholesterol as beef, and can harbor illness-causing microbes such as salmonella and lysteria.

One could stop eating chicken, but the best solution is to abstain from all animal products because all the arguments about animal welfare and the environment also apply to other meats and animal products.

## 9.5 Yes I Am a Senior Citizen

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

**However**, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was **Not** the senior citizens who took:  
The melody out of music,  
The pride out of appearance,  
The courtesy out of driving,  
The romance out of love,  
The commitment out of marriage,  
The responsibility out of parenthood,  
The togetherness out of the family,  
The learning out of education,  
The service out of patriotism,  
The Golden Rule from rulers,  
The nativity scene out of cities,  
The civility out of behavior,  
The refinement out of language,  
The dedication out of employment,  
The prudence out of spending,  
The ambition out of achievement or  
God out of government and school.

And we certainly are **NOT** the ones who liminated **patience** and **tolerance** from personal relationships and interactions with others!!

And, we do understand the meaning of patriotism, and remember those who have fought and died for our country.

Just look at the Seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention with their hand over their hearts!

**YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!**

I'm the life of the party..... even if it lasts until 8 p.m.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps.... with a hammer.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having the time of my life!

Spread the laughter

Let's be happy

**Over the past century life expectancy has increased dramatically and the world will soon have more older people than children. Older men and women can lead full and productive lives and be a resource for their families and communities. W.H.O. is focusing on ageing and health for World Health Day on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2012. (Source: W.H.O.)**

## 10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Calendar of Conferences, Conventions and Symposia in India and abroad

### 2012

#### **10.1 International Conference in Canine Hip Dysplasia**

Hip Dysplasia Conference to be held in Hong Kong from March 21st to March 23rd, 2012, as per following programme: (Source: BVA Overseas Newsletter February 2012).

March 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday: PennHIP , Hip Dysplasia screening method

A full day lecture / a dry laboratory consists of comprehensive training to prepare attending veterinary surgeons for successful completion of certification exercises requisite to full “PennHIP Membership”

By: Gail K. Smith, VMD, PhD, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Founder and Director of

PennHIP, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, USA

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday: Veterinary Rehabilitation Medicine

This intensive, full day, seven-hour lecture track will introduce the attendee to the principles of physiotherapy and how they can be applied to the canine patient. Diagnostic and therapeutic techniques will be described in depth, allowing the attendee to immediately take home new skills.

By: Dr Janet B. Van Dyke, DVM, Diplomate. American College Veterinary Sport Medicine and Rehabilitation, CEO, Canine Rehabilitation Institute Inc, Director, Internal Veterinary Academy of Pain Management.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday: Management of Canine Hip Dysplasia

This evening seminar will cover various strategies (medical and surgical ) in managing canine hip dysplasia patients.

By: Dr Alane K. Cahalane , DVM, MA, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Surgeons  
(Small Animal), PAVC

#### **10.2 Summer School on Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies**

ICAR Sponsored Summer School on Cross Sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies in Livestock Sector - An Orientation for Teachers of Veterinary colleges is being organized by the Veterinary Emergency Response Unit of Bihar Veterinary College, Patna-800014, from 29th May to 18th June, 2012. The main objective(s) of this training programme is to make qualitative improvement in teachers engaged in teaching Disaster Management courses designed by VCI and ICAR. Teachers / researchers not below the rank of Assistant Professor or equivalent from SAUs /CAUs/ Veterinary Universities/ ICAR/ National Institutes having minimum two years of service experience in any branch of Veterinary and Animal Sciences are eligible to enrol. The detailed circular is available on website [www.bvcpatna.org.in](http://www.bvcpatna.org.in). All correspondence may kindly be address to: **Dr. S. Samantaray**, University Professor & Chairman / Head Department of Parasitology, Prof. I/c Veterinary Emergency Response Unit Bihar Veterinary College, PATNA-800014; [samantarays@hotmail.com](mailto:samantarays@hotmail.com); [samantaraypatna@gmail.com](mailto:samantaraypatna@gmail.com); Phone : 0612-2226644 (O) 09473422185(M), 0612-6529917 (R) Fax: 0612-222231

#### **10.3 World Buiatrics Congress 2012**

World Buiatrics Congress 2012, June 3 – 7, 2012, will be held in Lisbon, Portugal.

(Details: [www.wbc-2012.com](http://www.wbc-2012.com)).

#### **10.4 64<sup>th</sup> CVMA annual Convention**

CVMA's 64<sup>th</sup> annual Convention “Learn à la Montréal” -- Canada's ONLY national multi-species convention - takes place in Montréal, Québec from July 11 to 14, 2012. Three days of small

animal topics with three concurrent streams; three days of equine and bovine topics; one day of Animal Welfare, Integrative Medicine, and Small Ruminants. Online registration open. For more information contact: Sarah Cunningham, Assistant, Conventions & Special Programs at [scunningham@cvma-acmv.org](mailto:scunningham@cvma-acmv.org) or 1-800-567-2862 ext. 121.

### **10.5 International Congress on Animal Reproduction**

Jul. 29th - Aug. 2nd, 2012; Website: [www.icar2012.com](http://www.icar2012.com)

### **10.6 International Veterinary Vaccine and Diagnostics Conference**

The 6th International Veterinary Vaccines and Diagnostics Conference will be held this year on the 29th July - 1st August 2012 at the Cairns Convention Centre in Cairns, Australia. Abstract submission and Registration are now open for this triennial International Veterinary Vaccine and diagnostic development for veterinary uses is a rapidly expanding field, bringing both commercial advantage to agricultural pursuits as well as innovation which may have applications in human health. The IVVDC conference is established as the most important meeting in the field and it will capitalize on the enormous recent progress, bringing together leading international academic, commercial and veterinary experts. The keynote speaker is Paul Wood, former Executive Director of Pfizer Animal Health. With its interactive format and idyllic setting, this meeting is a must for scientists, managers and veterinarians interested in the latest advances and results. Please visit and bookmark [www.ivvdc2012.org](http://www.ivvdc2012.org) now to stay informed of the meeting. Registrations and abstracts can now be submitted from the web page.

KEY DATE: 11th May is the final date for abstracts and last date for securing the discounted early registration fee. (Oral & Poster presenters will be invited to submit a full paper for inclusion in a special issue of the Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology Journal). For further details contact the meeting secretariat on [ivvdc@asnevents.net.au](mailto:ivvdc@asnevents.net.au)

### **10.7 Annual Convention of IAVMI and International Conference on “Future of Livestock Health - First Announcement**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Indian Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases (IAVMI) and International Conference on “Future of Livestock Health: A paradigm change to maximize the productivity for economic gains” is to be held at Madras Veterinary College, TANUVAS, Chennai during 6-8<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012. The Conference would provide an opportunity to the scientists, research workers, teachers, policy makers, planners and students to present their research findings and update themselves in their relevant areas to boost animal production and productivity. The detailed information regarding the scientific sessions and submission of articles will be intimated soon. For Details contact: Organizing Secretary Prof. Y. KrishnaMohan Reddy, Vaccine Research Centre-Viral Vaccines, Centre for Animal Health Studies, TANUVAS, Madhavaram Milk Colony, Chennai-600051 (Mob. 09962754861, Fax. 044-25551577, email. [iavmi2012@tanuvas.org.in](mailto:iavmi2012@tanuvas.org.in)).

### **10.8 11th World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesiology**

24th to 26th September 2012, Cape Town, South Africa; Website: [www.wcva2012.com](http://www.wcva2012.com)

### **10.9 36<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS of the INDIAN SOCIETY for VETERINARY SURGERY**

Anand, Gujrat (Date to be announced)

## **2013**

### **10.10 Medical Library Association 2013 Conference**

The Medical Library Association annual meeting for 2013 (MLA '13), will take place on May 3–8, 2013, in Boston, and will incorporate the 11th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML), the 7th International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists (ICAHIS), and the 6th International Clinical Librarians Conference.

The 2013 meeting theme is “One Health: Information in an Interdependent World,” which emphasizes global interdependencies in all health-related areas. “One Health” is meant to encompass not only human and animal health, but also public health, environmental health, climate change, food safety and production, and international health policy.

### **10.11 31<sup>st</sup> World Veterinary Congress marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Veterinary Association**

31<sup>st</sup> World Veterinary Congress will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, 17-20 September 2013, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Veterinary Association.

(For details log on to: [www.wvc2013.com/en/](http://www.wvc2013.com/en/))

### **10.12 41<sup>st</sup> DAIRY INDUSTRY CONFERENCE**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Dairy Industry Conference will be held in Mumbai, 8 - 12 March 2013.

**Get your event listed in this section by mailing Complete details to: [rnkohli@gmail.com](mailto:rnkohli@gmail.com)**

#### **ADVERTISE IN NAVS WEBSITE**

The National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) has permitted publication of professional advertisements on its website (<http://navsindia.org>). Accordingly, firms dealing in scientific pursuits, diagnostics, vaccines, publication of books in veterinary sciences, etc. may place their advertisements on the website on nominal rates.

Professional bodies may place their information such as biodata of scientists for placement and jobs, ads for newly published books, admissions on our website. Professional associations may also give ad regarding their professional activities like Annual Convention and Conferences on NAVS website.

*For further information, please contact: Dr Gaya Prasad, Secretary (NAVS-India), Assistant Director General (Animal Health), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 114*  
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