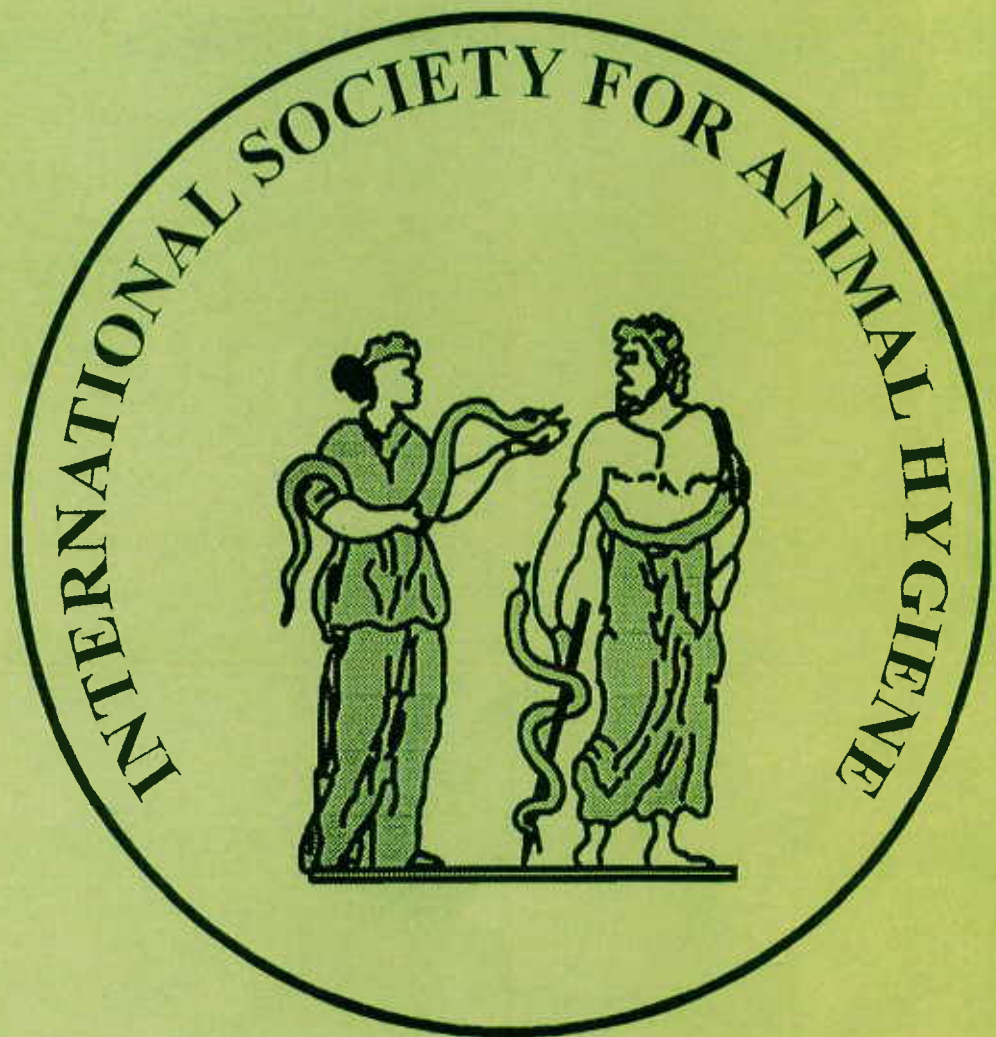


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International Society for Animal Hygiene

ISSUE 1

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Newsletter n° 1

Dear Members of the International Society for Animal Hygiene

EDITORIAL

Changes in the world have been enormous over the last years. In many countries, agriculture and animal production have faced even more severe changes than other areas of life. Mad cow disease, illegal use of hormones, multiresistance bacteria and misuse of antibiotics, hazards in gene manipulation, environmental pollution in its many forms, cruelty in animal transportation - all these are daily headlines in newspapers and TV. And, at the same time, many farmers have more and more difficulties in coping with the hard economic pressures of our time. We animal hygienists, in our manifold working fields, are involved with these problems - whether we like it or not.

Animal hygiene and its different subfields can give many realistic solutions to the problems of today. We have our solid scientific background and also a practical viewpoint to animal production and the life of the animals. Still, a lot has to be done to increase and share our knowledge in animal hygiene. Our own society, ISAH, will help all of us to gain the newest scientific and practical information by organizing international congresses and symposia.

The Society will also offer its members information and a forum for discussion by publishing a newspaper, the first number of which you have just read. In this newspaper you can read reports from the meetings and symposia held in different countries. You can also get a short summary of the history of ISAH by reading the paper given by me, at the 75 th anniversary of our first president and honorary member, Prof. Dr Ferenc KOVÁCS.

The next international congress in animal hygiene, ISAH'97, will be held in Helsinki on 17th to 21st August, 1997. I hope that you have received the Second Announcement and Call for Papers. If not, please contact the Scientific Secretariat by phone, mail, fax or email. In the beginning of January, more than 160 abstracts have arrived to Helsinki. The Executive Board of ISAH have had a meeting on 14th to 15th February 1997 in Helsinki. In this meeting, abstracts have been selected for oral or poster presentation. Soon after the meeting the program of the congress has been finalized.

Wish all the members of ISAH welcome to our 9th Congress in Helsinki.

Hannu Saloniemi
President of ISAH

For more information call or write to:
ISAH'97 Scientific Secretariat/Prof. Hannu Saloniemi
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Clinical Veterinary Sciences
P.O. Box 57
HELSINKI UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI (FINLAND)
T +358 9 708 9528
F +358 9 708 0799
E +358 9 708 5583
E-mail: Hannu.saloniemi@helsinki.fi
You also can get more information from website: <http://www.helsinki.fi/dk/isah97.html>

Establishment and development of the International Society for Animal Hygiene and its role on the agricultural training, research and production of member countries

Speech given
by Prof. Hannu Saloniemi,
President of the ISAH, in the
celebration for the 75th anniversary
of Prof. Dr. Ferenc Kovács

Honored Professor Dr. Ferenc Kovács; Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen

Animal hygiene has long traditions. Many veterinary universities, schools and faculties have had a professor chair in animal hygiene since the first half of this century. A serious loss for all scientific and human co-operation, Europe was divided after the Second World War into two different blocs. Discussion and meetings between scientists in animal hygiene across the border of the blocs were difficult for many years. From this standpoint, the idea to establish a society for promoting co-operation between animal hygienists in all European countries was not at all an easy effort. Still, some courageous men made this their goal. I have a copy of the letter by Prof. Dr. F. Kovács to Prof. Dr. D. Strauch in Stuttgart-Hohenheim, dated on September 19th 1970, where Prof. Kovács proposes a founding meeting of the "Internationale Gesellschaft für Tierhygiene" during "III. Tagung über Bauen in Landwirtschaft" in Budapest. Animal hygienists from Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, Hungary, Poland, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia were present in the meeting in Budapest in 20th November 1970, and the International Society for Animal Hygiene was founded. The meeting elected the first Board to the Society, and the object of our celebration today, Prof. Dr. Ferenc Kovács, was elected as the first President of the ISAH.

Thanks to the vigorous work by Prof. Kovács and his collaborators - among them

professor P. Rafal, the secretary of the Organizing Committee - the First International Congress in Animal Hygiene was held in Budapest, in 2-5 October 1973. Professor Kovács presented the subject of animal hygiene in his opening address as follows: "The subjects of animal hygiene are the life functions of the healthy animal, the environmental conditions of animal health and the inter-relationships of the animal and the environment". In the statute of our society, accepted by the General Assembly in Leipzig on August 22, 1991, we can read: "The field of animal hygiene includes the interactions between abiotic and biotic factors of environment and domestic animals, especially food animals, with the aim to prevent diseases and promote animal health and to ensure species-specific health and welfare needs of all such animals". The topics of the sessions of the first congress in Budapest covered most of the important practical fields of animal hygiene. Liquid manure treatment and utilization, hygienic problems of large scale cattle, swine and poultry husbandry, bioclimatology, hygiene of feeding, influence of stable hygiene on milk production and incidence of mastitis, and calf rearing were discussed by scientists from 17 countries. For me personally, as a young veterinarian, the first congress here in Budapest in the Building of Hungarian Academy was a very impressive and memorable event.

The Society held the second Congress in Zagreb in 1976 (President: Prof. Dr. J. Ivos),

the third in Wien in 1980 (President: Prof. Dr. H. Willinger) and the fourth in Strebske Pleso in Czechoslovakia in 1982 (president: Prof. Dr. J. Rosocha). Further congresses have followed every three years: 1985 in Hannover (President: Prof. Dr. H.G. Hilliger), 1988 in Skara (President: Prof. Dr. I. Ekesbo), 1991 in Leipzig (President: Prof. Dr. G. Mehlhorn), and 1994 in St. Paul (President: Prof. Dr. S.L. Diesch). The ninth Congress of ISAH will be in Helsinki 17-21 August 1997. I have had the pleasure of participating in all these congresses, and I can assure you that all the congresses have been scientifically rewarding and socially very pleasant.

Since 1977, our society has patronized eight "In-between" symposia. Concentrating on the different important areas of animal hygiene, these symposia have given an excellent floor for scientific discussion, and a fertile ground for further co-operation across national borders. As a fruit of these congresses and in-between symposia, several smaller, but still international animal hygiene symposia and seminars have been arranged in different countries. As the latest examples I will mention the seminar "*Ecology and Veterinary Medicine*" in Kosice 21-24 May, 1996, and the seminar "*Demands on Animal Hygiene Education and Research*" in Mexico 28-31 October, 1996.

As I mentioned earlier, in the list of the participants of the first Congress in Budapest 1973, scientists from 17 different countries were mentioned. All of them were European, but later there have been participants from all continents. In the eighth Congress in St. Paul, scientists from as many as 32 countries were present, and 160 papers were discussed during the congress. The practical conditions in animal production differ very much between countries, and so do the main problems in animal health and welfare. The congresses and symposia of the International Society for Animal Hygiene have been an important influence in increasing the understanding of the work we animal hygienists are doing in our own

countries. I am sure that this has had a positive influence on animal health, environmental protection, and human health as well. We have great responsibility, but we want to work hard to show our talents in carrying this responsibility.

I am looking optimistically at the future of our society. The consumers have woken up to demand healthy, high quality food, and also to question about the methods of food production. Animal welfare issues and environmental protection are very often discussed in TV and newspapers in all countries. We animal hygienists are experts on these questions. We can help farmers build their cow houses to promote animal health or to handle the manure without any risk for nature. We can help swine producers create an economically beneficial herd health program which also guarantees healthy meat for the consumer. This is what we do every day, and, I'm afraid, we do all this without making any noise of our work. Maybe we should tell more often about our work and animal hygiene in the media. After all, animal hygiene is one of the key factors in solving the problems of increasing hunger and need for food.

I have an optimistic view of the future of the International Society for Animal Hygiene. The ninth congress, ISAH'97, will be held in Helsinki next year. We are waiting for 200 to 250 participants to our beautiful capital city. Nine well-known scientists from different countries have accepted the invitation to give a key note lecture to open the sessions, and we are waiting for good papers from all over the world. You all are welcome to Helsinki.

But today, I also want to look backwards and give the most respectful thanks to the first honorary member of our society, Professor Dr. Ferenc Kovács, for his magnificent work for our society and for animal hygiene. As the president of the society, I can assure that behind me are representatives from all the member countries of our society from all over the world. Your work has raised a plentiful yield. Thank you very much.

Where are we coming from ?

In the late sixties a small group of veterinarians mainly involved in teaching tasks in universities in central Europe used informally to meet. They had in common the strong belief that animal health was on the farms the result of a balance. It issues from a complex process in which numerous factors interact. Among these, man-made conditions play an important role, they said. They were also convinced that farm animals should provide products safe and adjusted to the human needs. At last they mentioned that animal farming should take a particular care of the livestock and of the surroundings. Clearly animal welfare and environmental safety should not be jeopardized. Retrospectively, reminding that at that time animal production was rapidly undergoing in many countries a deep changing towards intensification, these shared ideas, let's say this rather ambitious project, was a formidable challenge. Friendly feelings developed in the group and it was decided to formalize the meetings through the foundation of a scientific association. The vocable "Animal hygiene" was in use for many years in some veterinary faculties and the themes cited above were more or less considered in the teaching programs. The International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH) was thus created. Under its auspices a congress was organized on regular basis (every 3 years) and "in-between meetings" were also planned⁽¹⁾. The initiative was successful. The attendance became larger and an increasing number of countries had representatives. In Leipzig(1991), it was decided to jump over the step of the official international recognition and the statutes were adapted. The changes came into facts in St Paul in 1994 and membership was proposed. In the mean time it was suggested to prepare a questionnaire in order to try to get actual information from the scientists, members of the society or presenting a paper at the meeting in the US. The main reasons that sustained this initiative are the following :

- The circle of people taking interest in the ISAH is much larger than during the first years. The geographical area is certainly concerned but the overall profile of the scientists might also have changed. Its knowledge is useful for the team leading the society as it is for example to know these people's expectations regarding the ISAH.
- Because of numerous reasons including cost of travel, many of us have opportunity to meet only once every three years, at the congress. But a 3 to 4 day congress does not necessarily permit all the conversations that are wished because again of several reasons like the language barrier but also like the lack of basic information about the colleagues.

The objective of the questionnaire was thus to collect informations in a simple way and on voluntary basis about our postal coordinates, about what we are dealing with in our institutes and what we are expecting from the ISAH.

⁽¹⁾ for more details concerning the history of the ISAH one can refer to the upper paper from H. SALONIEMI and to the paper written by D. STRAUCH and published in the Congress proceedings in St Paul 1994

Questionnaire

The scientists presenting a paper at the congress in St Paul, the country representatives and the members of the executive board were requested. Seventy questionnaires were obtained, most of them during the period January-September 1994. Twenty nine (41 %) came from the members of the boards of the ISAH.

The questionnaire consisted in 6 questions all of them being open questions. That means we wanted each respondent to write down freely what he felt without having to check an appropriate box corresponding to a limited number of predetermined messages. The first two questions are related to the description and to the coordinates of the affiliated institutes. The third is asking the main items developed in the field of Animal Hygiene. The answers to this question are of interest to draw the borders of what is called Animal Hygiene. This point will be probably considered later in a separate paper. The fourth concerns the studies the respondents were particularly in charge of. The fifth deals with the publications and the last with what the scientists are expecting from the ISAH.

From the epidemiological standpoint, the option of open questions is not without generating difficulties when encoding the contents for a subsequent statistical analysis. The words must be turned into figures and hence arises the risk of inaccurate understanding the respondent's ideas with accordingly a risk of misclassification. In our case this was minimized through a relatively simple and clear wording of the questions. The proposal of examples for questions 3 and 4 was supposed to be guidelines to help the respondents and by the way to reduce missing answers. Furthermore the restrictive amount of place available on the forms was supposed to result in responses as concise and precise as possible.

The responses to the questions were encoded i.e. ranked into categories. The latter were decided after obtaining an overall view of all the questionnaires. The retained categories offered a field broad enough to include the matter listed by the participants. On the other hand their borders needed to be as clear as possible to prevent from misclassification and an excessive risk of overlapping. The goal was to build consistent groups of responses in each category.

Table 1 - Encoding the responses to questions 3 and 4 into categories

Name of the category	Comment on the contents
Animal Production Sciences (zootechnics)	Works aiming at measuring and/or improving performance and profitability. Feeding*, genetics, husbandry, economics... Excluding health considerations.
Animal health/management	Animal health 'per se', health disorders in relation with infectious and non infectious factors. Better health through management including feed quality for the livestock, research of risk factors...
Animal behaviour and Animal welfare	Applied ethology mainly.
Environment and safety	Environmental pollution, infectious and toxic wastes, hygiene of manure handling, of composting, Hygiene of Animal rendering.
Disinfection, disinfection, disinfection	Measurement, control.
Animal housing	Design (floor types, ventilation systems...) Utilization (climate, microbial load in the air, bedding...)
Food safety	Food safety for human health. Including residues, total quality procedures...
Legislation - Regulation	
Other	More basic sciences and engineering : physiology, immunology, mathematics, microbiology. - Animal disease surveillance.

***Unlike animal feeding, animal housing was kept apart as a category according to the great number of people concerned.**

From the statistical standpoint, each category was considered as a variable (a column in the data set) and each individual (each respondent) was a row. The rule was to give the value 1 to the variables when the response of an individual fell into the proper category and the value zero to the variables that did not correspond to the response. For most of the questions a given respondent could fall into more than one category.

Accordingly beyond simple countings, the statistical process should also consider the combinations, that is, the profiles of the responses by taking into account more than a single variable at the same time. The problem can be solved by using descriptive multivariate methods⁽²⁾.

⁽²⁾ This step will not be cleared in this paper.

Results

1 The countries

Seventy data collection forms were fulfilled by scientists coming from 23 different countries (table 2). A relatively unequal number of forms was obtained from the concerned countries. Germany and USA came far ahead and provided all together 26 forms (37 %).

Table 2 - The replies per contry

Germany	15
USA	11
Bulgaria	6
Poland	6
Romania	4
Finland	3
France	3
Mexico	3
Sweden	3
The Netherlands	2
Switzerland	2
Others ⁽¹⁾	1
Total	70

(1) Others : Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, India, Italy, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Syria, Ukraina.

2 The job of the respondents.

Teaching and research were the most frequent activities (table 3). Out of the 70 respondents, 50 (71,4 %) had a teaching activity coupled with research. The respective part of time attributable to each was not indicated. Only 12 had a specific research job as single activity.

Table 3 - The activity of the respondents

Teaching + research	50	(71,4 %)
Research solely	12	(17,2 %)
Teaching solely	7	(10,0 %)
Other	1	(1,4 %)
Total	70	

3 The category of themes the respondents were in charge of (Table 4)

A good percentage of replies was obtained (95,7 %). More than half of the respondents were directly involved with animal health. Nearly all of them (2 exceptions) were dealing most of their time with non notifiable diseases.

Among the disorders, complex, multifactorial diseases come in first line and an important amount of research work is devoted to prevention through a better management on the farms. Animal behaviour and animal welfare arrived in second position and concerned 28 % of the respondents. As mentioned table 4, animal housing could be a part of the heading "animal production". According to the numerical importance of this activity (22 %), it has been considered as a specific category. The measurement and the control of the microclimate and air contamination inside the buildings for livestock represent the major themes of interest in this category. Environmental safety and disinfection represented 18 and 19 % respectively of the responses. Surprisingly, food safety was only mentioned by 6 scientists with Salmonella contamination of poultry products being outlined four times. The category named "other" got 8 responses corresponding to microbiology and immunology for 5 of them.

Table 4 - The categories of themes the respondents are in charge of

Not indicated	3	(4,3 %)
Indicated	67	(95,7 %)
Animal health/management	39	(58 %)
Animal behaviour/welfare	19	(28 %)
Animal housing	15	(22 %)
Disinfection/disinsect/dismest	13	(19 %)
Environmental safety	12	(18 %)
Animal production	11	(16 %)
Food safety	6	(9 %)
Legislation/regulation	2	(3 %)
Others	3	(4,3 %)

NB : Since each participant could have 2 themes or more the total is more than 70.

4 The publications.

Seventy answers were obtained to the question (100 %). Publications are available in 64 cases (91 %). In 6 cases publications do not exist yet (students) or are very few and/or strongly restricted (for confidentiality reasons). Out of the available situations, 11 (16 %) are solely in English, 6 (9 %) solely in German and 10 in other national languages. In the remaining 37 cases publications can be written in a language different from English but there is an English summary.

⑤ The animal species concerned.

The animal species concerned are reported table 5. Pigs, poultry and cattle are the most concerned. When the species is referred to as "general" it means that the respondents did not work with a particular animal species. It was mainly the case for the scientists involved in environmental safety, in animal welfare and in disinfection.

Table 5 - The animal species concerned (n = 70 replies)

Pig	19	(27 %)
Poultry	18	(26 %)
Cattle	14	(20 %)
Sheep/goat	2	(3 %)
Horses	2	(3 %)
Pets	2	(3 %)
Others	3	(4 %)
General	25	(36 %)

⑥ The expectations from ISAH (table 6).

Only 54 scientists answered (77 %). Looking at the whole data collection forms of the people who did not answer, no explanation and no clear profile could be found to this lower level of response.

Two general groups of expectations could be distinguished in the replies :

- ➔ The provision of communication between the scientists on matter of common interest.
- ➔ The promotion of animal hygiene and harmonization of teaching programs.

The need for communication is obvious since 100 % of the respondents are waiting for that from the ISAH. Going deeper into the answers a grading might be found out. For the representatives of a first level (47 %), the situation of an every three-year congress at its own looks adequate. At first sight, it allows the scientists to obtain information and probably to exchange on their own initiative in a proper way. The representatives of a second level (33 %) suggest to go further and to encourage the exchanges of informations through the provision of more numerous official formal opportunities. Different suggestions are made like organizing "in between meetings" on selected important topics. Other ideas were pointed out like the edition of a bulletin under the auspices of the ISAH or the choice of a specific scientific journal to publish animal hygiene research work.

Table 6 - Expectations from the ISAH (question 6)

No response	16	(22.6 %)
Response	54	(77.2 %)
- obtaining informations (through the every 3-year congress...)	25	(47 %)
- Providing more opportunities of contacts and exchanges (organizing seminars...)	18	(33 %)
- Stimulate cooperation on projects	1	(20 %)
- Promote animal hygiene and/or harmonize teaching programs	8	(15 %)

A third level of respondents propose the ISAH to intervene more actively and more practically in order to stimulate cooperation on scientific projects.

Beyond the first group of expectations, 8 respondents (15 %) suggest the ISAH, through the assembling of experts, to be a platform to promote animal hygiene specially towards the students. The ISAH is also wished to have a leadership in the settlement of consistent teaching programs in animal hygiene.

Short comment

The sample of 70 fulfilled forms was obtained from 70 % of the members of the two boards of the ISAH and from scientists attending the congress held in the US. With respect to this, undoubtedly the sample contains in a large proportion, people patently motivated by animal hygiene. As a consequence, the analysis of the content looks relevant. Of course for an epidemiologist the question to know whether the sample is representative or not of the real sphere of animal hygiene remains entire. But obviously at this time of our thought, we can consider the overall sample as a first realistic basis for our assigned purpose for at least one reason. We are still relatively hazy about the borders of Animal Hygiene so that the true whole parent population of animal hygienists is unknown. Hence random sampling could not be applied.

Looking at the descriptive results, specially at the answers to question 4, we can discern some of the scientific disciplines upon which animal hygiene is based. Works directly related to animal health with a special mention to multifactorial, environment-depending diseases are certainly a major point of interest. After this come disciplines more or less associated with disease states such as applied ethology, zootechnics and biochemistry applied to decontamination. Environmental safety represents another key point. It was a little bit surprising that the word epidemiology (or ecopathology) was cited only 6 times. Regarding the contents of "animal hygiene", further sources of information are available and could be prospected later like the papers published in the proceedings of the ISAH congress. This source has the advantage to be based on concrete work and moreover a

higher number of statistical individuals could be involved than in this inquiry.

Most of the respondents are dealing with teaching (around 75 %) mainly in veterinary schools, faculties or universities but also, for some, in agriculture faculties or animal science departments of universities. This is not without consequences because of the broad potential impact of the knowledge brought out from the ISAH sphere of influence on the young generations. On the other hand, it must be kept in mind that this position of choice has as counterpart the need to undertake research work relevant and undisputable from the scientific point of view. In addition the educational programs with respect to animal hygiene might have diverging contents through out the countries. The ISAH is suggested to play a role in this field with the aim at achieving harmonization. The expectations from the respondents are massively dealing with communication. This is converging towards the point just mentioned. Unfortunately despite there is not shortage of ideas in this field, the realistic possibilities are not so numerous for an association like the ISAH. Nevertheless we should try to find out and promote the conditions that could help the people to contact with each other.

Finally this small inquiry has reached its goal. The primary informations drawn out and presented here are useful for all of us. It has given a first idea of the extent of our task. We are confident that by combining our efforts we should move on, step by step with our skill, our enthusiasm and our friendship as bag and baggage !

Herd health programmes for dairy cattle and swine industry

Prof. Dr Pal Rafai
ISAH board : member at large

8th « In-between » Symposium of the International Society for Animal Hygiene.
Budapest, 30-31 October 1995

Summary

By the help of internationally known and acknowledged home and foreign experts, the 8th «In between» Symposium of the International Society for Animal Hygiene aimed to review the existing herd health programmes and introduce them into the Hungarian animal production in order to reduce the losses caused by management related diseases. The event commemorated the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Society. Beside 65 foreign participants from 18 countries, 281 Hungarian veterinarians and animal producers shared in the work. On basis of the 58 contributions and discussions the main experiences can be summarised as follow.

- ① Production of farm animals, quality of products of animal origin, profitability and market competitiveness is bound in all countries to health of animal populations.
- ② Healthy animal populations risks less both environment and public health.
- ③ Due to devotional work of the veterinary health service, Hungary has achieved internationally acknowledged results in the control of epizootic and contagious animal diseases. In contrast, prevention and control of management related diseases lag behind the expected.
- ④ These diseases cause several 10 billion HUF (Hungarian forint) loss to the Hungarian animal production, owing to production parameters inferior to genetic merit, reproduction failures, endemic diseases and - in spite of the considerable pharmaceutical expenses - to emergency slaughters and mortality.

⑤ In order to reduce these losses every efforts should be taken to wide spread and employ the production oriented, planned veterinary programmes, which have been used in countries (including those of the EU) of sophisticated and efficient animal agriculture.

⑥ These programmes do not restrict to the treatment of individual animals. They deal with the population as whole and by using up-to-date information technics and by accelerating the use of relevant scientific results these methods serve prevention. Their introduction to the Hungarian animal production depends overwhelmingly on the expertise and interests of animal producers.

⑦ Both foreign and home contributors set examples and expressed the results also in monetary terms of the consulting veterinary health service. It was also, emphasized that this service is the most noble veterinary care, that serves the interests of mankind.

P.S. : Papers published in a special issue of the Hungarian Veterinary Journal (October 1995).

**International Scientific
Conference held in VARNA,
Bulgaria, 6-7 November 1996**

Prof. Dr Martin Tielen
ISAH 2nd Vice-President

The Conference was put under the patronage of the ISA on request of the District Veterinary Station in Varna.

The Conference took place in the International Centre of Scientist in Varna, Bulgaria.

The Conference was organised for the 60th anniversary of the District Veterinary Station Varna.

The Conference was organised by :

- ⇒ Agricultural Academy - Sofia
- ⇒ District Veterinray Station - Varna
- ⇒ National Veterinary Office - Sofia.
- ⇒ Foundation « Zooantropnis »
- ⇒ Union of Veterinarians in Bulgaria

The Conference was attended by about 200 veterinarians and officials all over Bulgaria and 10 scientists from 7 different foreign countries, who presented a paper.

Five papers were fully presented in English and translated to Bulgarian; the rest took place in the Bulgarian language.

In total there were about 130 paper presentations in the Conference. The Conference started with a general meeting in the morning with after the opening ceremony and the congratulations 4 mainpapers presented by :

- Prof. Dr. Andrei Kozarov, Dept. Director of the National Veterinary Office, Bulgaria.
- Prof. Dr. Ir. Martin Tielen, ISAH/Animal Health Service, The Netherlands.
- Dr. Paul Van Gulick, Practitioner, The Netherlands.
- Dr. Stephan Marinov, Director District Veterinary Station, Varna.

The representative of the ISAH, Prof. Dr. Ir. Martin Tielen, presented the Society in the opening ceremony by presenting the goals and the tasks of the Society and by addressing the congratulations to the District Veterinary Station.

In the Conference there were hand-outs for all the participants with an abstract of all the papers in the bulgarian language.

After the Conference all the complete papers were to be included in the Proceedings of the Conference, with for each paper the title, the authors and a summary in English.

After the Conference the conclusion can be that putting the Conference under the patronage of the International Society of Animal Hygiene has strongly increased the effort of the organisator to introduce international scientists to present a paper in the Conference and it has clear contributed to lift up the image of the conference on the national level. We have to realise, that due to the poor situation in such developing countries the opportunity for scientific work and travelling to international scientific meetings is only poor too and that for the scientist the participation to this Int. Conference in the own country is the only opportunity to become international information and international contacts. That fits in the goal of the ISAH.

**Animal Hygiene Seminar held at
Universidad Autónoma
Metropolitana-Xochimilco,
Mexico City,
Mexico, 29-31 October 1996**

Prof. Dr Ingvar EKESBO
Former ISAH President

The seminar covered three topics

- ⇒ The role of Animal Hygiene in modern veterinary medicine and for environmental protection
- ⇒ Animal Hygiene education
- ⇒ Animal Hygiene and public health

About 50 persons from seven countries, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Sweden and USA, attended the seminar. The great majority came from Mexico.

The proceedings were available before the seminar was opened on the morning of the 29 October 1997. Most papers were in Spanish, the others in English. There were presented 27 papers at the seminar of which 24 are published in the proceedings. Our senior vice-president S. Diesch presented the paper : « Teaching methodologies for animal hygiene » and I presented the paper : « The role of animal hygiene in modern veterinary medicine.: definition teaching and application in veterinary practice ».

One of the days there was a study tour organised with emphasis on hygienic aspects on sewage handling plants but also with visits to a deer keeping plant and to a horse stud.

The seminar was well organised but apparently it had been a better participation if there had been an announcement of the seminar at an earlier time. It was a pity that no other Central or South American countries were represented. According to the conclusions made by the organisers an earlier announcement should have facilitated financial support for scientists from other American countries to participate. I hope that a new seminar will be organised and announced not less than two years ahead in order to promote participation from as many American countries as possible.

International Conference :
**«Ecology And Veterinary
Medicine III»**
KOSICE, SLOVAK REPUBLIC
May, 21-24, 1996

Prof. J. VENGLOVSKY
Country representative

An international conference on Ecology and Veterinary and Veterinary Medicine was held under the ISAH heading in Kosice, Slovak Republic, in May, 21-24, 1996 in the Congress Hall of Institute of Experimental Veterinary Medicine. « This conference continued with the tradition of « in-between-seminars » that are organized in different countries in the time between ISAH Congresses. The last Congress of ISAH was held in St Paul, Minnesota, USA, in 1994, and the next, already the 9th Congress will take place in Helsinki, Finland, in August 17-21, 1996.

The conference in Kosice concentrated on topical problems of environmental protection in relation to veterinary medicine, animal hygiene, hygiene and epidemiology.

The 54 papers presented dealt with the strategies for reduction of environmental pollution resulting from animal production from the point of view of emissions of gases, dust and production of biological aerosols, disposal of excrements and with the related topics. Problems arising from the survival of bacterial and viral pathogens and parasites were also discussed. Attention was paid to the systems of housing employing environment-friendly approaches and to utilization of natural materials. Veterinarians and specialists from practice from Slovakia and the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Russia and Slovenia participated in the conference.

Proceedings of the conference were published under the title « *Hygienic and Ecological Problems in Relation to Veterinary Medicine* ». Edited by Venglovský, J. Juris, P. Ondrasovic, M. Sokol, J. Prodeeding had 331 pages and 150 copies were printed ISBN 80-967536-4-9.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President :

Prof Dr Hannu Saloniemi
University of Helsinki
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine
Section of Animal Hygiene
P.O. Box 57, (Hämeentie 57)
FIN-00014 University of Helsinki, FINLAND
☎ + 358 9 708 49 528
+ 0400 701 533
☎ + 358 9 70849 799
E-mail : hannu.saloniemi@helsinki.fi

1ST Vice-President

Prof Dr Stanley L. Diesch
College of Veterinary Medicine
1365 Gortner Avenue
University of Minnesota
55108, USA
☎ + 1 612 625-7296
☎ + 1 612 624-3007
E-mail :
diesc001@maroon.tc.umn.edu

2ST Vice-President

Prof Dr Martin Tielen
Animal Health Service
Molenwijkseweg 48, 5282 SC
Boxtel
Postbus 4, The Netherlands
☎ + 31 4116 59500
☎ + 31 4116 59550
E-mail :
tielen@bdv.dgk.ruu.nl

3ST Vice-President

Prof Dr Reinhard Böhm
Universität Umwelt und
Tierhygiene
Gerbenstraße 30
D-70599 Stuttgart, Germany
☎ + 49 711 45 92 427
☎ + 49 711 45 92 431
E-mail :
Boehm@uni-hohenheim.de

Secretary

Dr Francois Madec
Centre National d'Etudes Vétérinaires et
Alimentaires
CNEVA Ploufragan
BP 53 - Les Croix
22440 Ploufragan, France
☎ +33 2 96 76 01 30
☎ +33 2 96 78 68 61
E-mail : croix@cneva.zoopole.asso.fr

Treasurer

Prof Dr Bo Algiers
Dept. of Animal Environment and Health
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
P.O. Box 234
S-532 23 Skara, Sweden
☎ +46 511 67220
☎ +46 511 67204
E-mail : bo.algiers@hmb.slu.se

Member at large

Prof Dr Pal Rafai
University of Veterinary Science
P.O. Box 2
H-1400 Budapest, Hungary
☎ + 36 1 322 2660
☎ + 36 1 342 6518
E-mail: prafai@ns.univet.hu

Extended Executive Board

A Representative from
38 Countries