

# International Society for Animal Hygiene: challenges and responses in the past 40 years

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Hygiene and Environmental Protection  
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Professor **Johannes Kalich** (Munich) and  
Professor **Ferenc Kovács** (Budapest)  
had the excellence to recognise the necessity of establishing  
an international forum  
for spreading and implementing  
of research achievements obtained in schools of animal  
hygiene of European countries and  
providing opportunities to personal contacts among  
researchers and scientists that work on the field of veterinary  
preventive medicine.

The organisation of the International Society for Animal Hygiene started in 1967 by the unanimous declaration of Professors/Leaders of Departments for Animal Hygiene of Veterinary/Agricultural Schools in a number of Western and Eastern European countries to set foundation to an international society.

After negotiations in Brno and Beograd, the **International Society for Animal Hygiene was established in Budapest, November 1970** in presence of representatives from 10 European countries.

# The first presidency

President:	Professor Ferenc Kovács (Budapest, Hungary)
Vice-Presidents:	Professor M. Cena, Wroclaw (Poland); Professor J. Ivos, Zagreb (Yugoslavia) and Professor J. Kalich, Munich (GFR)
Secretaries:	Docent J. Hojovec, Brno (Czechoslovakia) and Professor H. Willinger, Vienna (Austria)
Press Officer:	Professor D. Strauch, Stuttgart (GFR)

## Founding countries

Bulgaria

Austria

Czechoslovakia

Yugoslavia

Poland

Hungary

German  
Democratic  
Republic

Federal  
Republic of  
Germany

Today: 52 member  
countries



# Founding personalities

Camo, E. (Yugoslavia)  
Cena, M. (Poland)  
Czajkowski, Z. (Poland)  
Ekesbo, I. (Sweden)  
Hojovec, J, (Czechoslovakia)  
Hrgovic, N. (Yugoslavia)  
Ivos, J. (Yugoslavia)  
Kalich, J. (Federal Republic of Germany)  
Kovacs F. (Hungary)  
Petrov, K. (Bulgaria)  
Poljakov, A.A. (Soviet Union)  
Puhac, J. (Yugoslavia);  
Rosocha, J. (Czechoslovakia)  
Stojanov, P. (Bulgaria);  
Strauch, D. (Federal Republic of Germany)  
Szép I. (Hungary)  
Varenika, D. (Yugoslavia);  
Willinger, H (Austria)



Prof. Dr. K. Petrov

Prof. Dr. Ferenc Kovács

Ceremonial signing of the foundation chart

Prof. Dr. Jan Rosocha

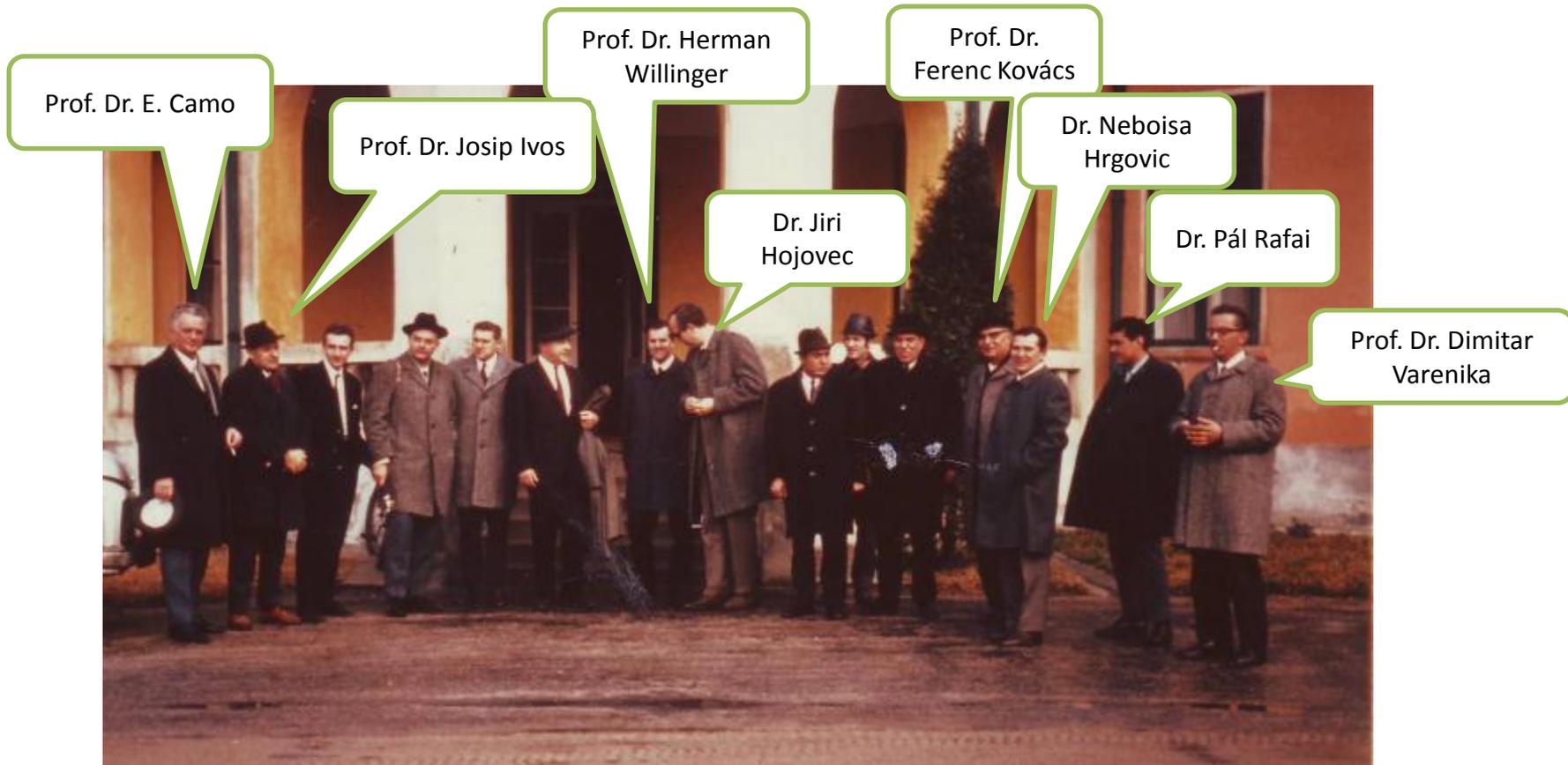
Prof. Dr. Herman Willinger

Dr. Jiri Hojovec

Prof. Dr. Dimitar Varenika



Friendly chat after ceremonial signing of the foundation chart



Visiting Bábolna State Farm the then flagship of the Hungarian Animal Agriculture

According to paragraph 28 of the statute  
the International Society for Animal Hygiene is an  
association of veterinarians and other experts that work  
on the field of animal hygiene

### Goals:

- promotion of practice and research in the field of animal hygiene;
- advancing of publication activity and exchange of scientific achievements;
- facilitating of connections between animal hygienists and experts of related branches of science;
- supporting of mobility among animal hygienist of different countries.

Implementation of above goals was greatly assisted by the **congresses** and the so called „**in-between**” **symposia** organised for discussion of special issues of animal hygiene

Main topics of the congresses have reflected the development of this branch of science and via these the ability of the Society to recognise the actual challenges of animal production and appropriate solutions



## The first Congress:

Budapest, Hungary: 2-5 October, 1973

President: Professor Dr. Ferenc Kovács

### Challenge:

Marking the borders of animal hygiene as science and discipline

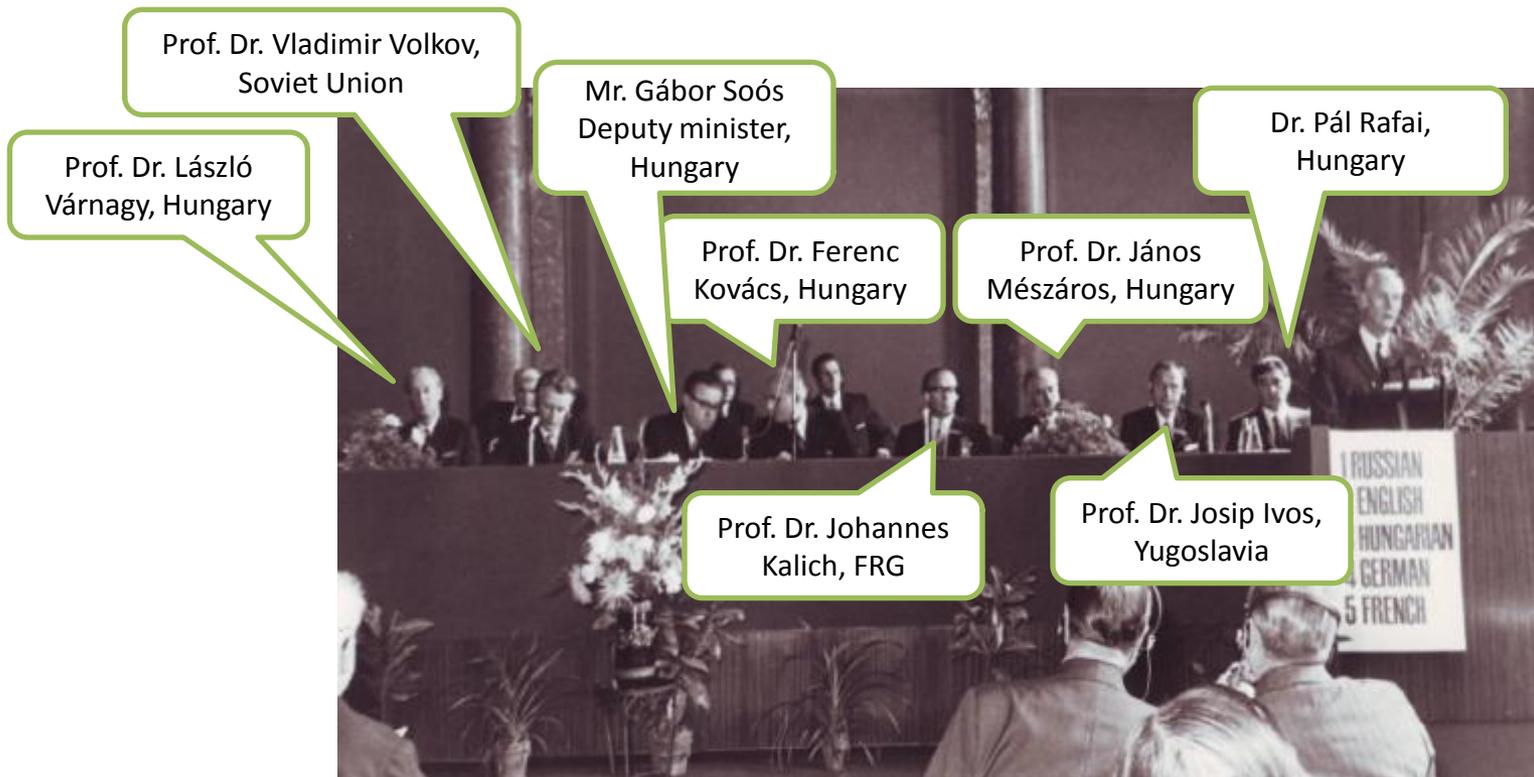
Answer: appropriate selection of the main topics

- Treatment-, disposal and utilisation of liquid manure;
- Disinfection of large-scale animal premises;
- Animal hygienic issues of large-scale cattle-, pig- and poultry production farms;
- Feed hygiene;
- Bioclimatology.





The first plenary session of the International Society for animal Hygiene  
(Ceremonial Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Science)



Professor Dr. Artur Horn addresses the Congress on behalf of the European Association for Animal Production

## The second Congress:

Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 9 September – 2 October, 1976.

President: Professor Dr. Josip Ivos

Challenge:

animal welfare

Answer: the congress

- made it clear: animal welfare is an integral part of animal hygiene;
- inspired further research in the field of animal welfare;
- set foundation for further discussions of welfare related issues in the forthcoming congresses.





## Third Congress:

Vienna. Austria, 10-13, September 1980.  
President: Professor Dr. Hermann Willinger

### Challenge:

management related diseases



### Answer:

- discussions of research related to connection between environmental factors and development of multifactorial diseases of ruminants, pigs and poultry (Three sessions)
- This congress has proven the necessity of research in the field of air hygiene which by present has grown into studying the human health and emission aspects of air pollutions with special reference to opportunities of reducing the negative effects of airborne pollution on the environment and farm workers



## Fourth Congress:

Strbske Pleso, Czechoslovakia, 19-22 September, 1982.

President: Professor Dr. Jan Rosocha



Challenge:

ethology of farm animals

Answer:

- first research reports appeared in the field of veterinary applied ethology which then returned with greater emphasis at the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress in Skara, Sweden).



## Fifth Congress:

Hannover, FRG, September 9-11, 1985

President: Professor Dr. Hans Georg Hilliger

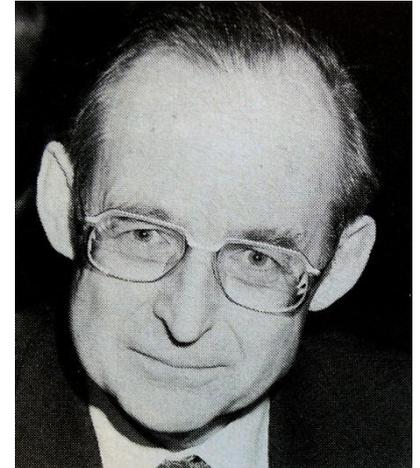
### Challenge:

factors that decrease the production efficiency in animal husbandry

### Answer:

overview of related issues

- effects of microclimate and microbiological load on health and production of farm animals;
- hygiene of feed and water;
- disinfection and pest control;
- emissions from animal premises;
- treatment, handling and disposal of liquid and solid manure;
- irradiations and noise effects in animal production systems



## Sixth Congress:

Skara, Sweden, June 13-17, 1988.

President: Professor Dr. Ingvar Ekesbo



This was a milestone congress in the row of congresses

- the congress systematically disclosed those research results that dealt with the interactions between
  - ✓ **facultative pathogenic microorganisms** and health of farm animals;
  - ✓ the **stress and diseases**;
  - ✓ **microclimate and health**, and
  - ✓ **behavioural needs** of farm animals and **diseases/ethoanomalies**.
- Introduction of **herd-health programs** into themes of discussions formed second important development of the congress.

This congress on the one hand summarised the information available for understanding the pathomechanisms of multifactorial diseases and gave an overview on the new approach of controlling management related diseases.



**Seventh Congress:**  
Leipzig, GDR, August 20-24, 1991  
President: Professor Dr. Günter Mehlhorn

The congress was characterised by tense atmosphere caused by unexpected political developments.

Main subjects of discussions were as follows:

- connections between housing and multifactorial diseases;
- pollutant effects of animal husbandry systems;
- timely questions of feed hygiene and
- ethology and animal welfare in livestock and poultry farms.

## Eighth Congress:

St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, 12-16 September, 1994.

President: Professor Dr. Stanley L. Diesch

First step toward **globalisation of the Society**

- number of member countries increased substantially with overseas countries;
- first congress organised outside of Europe.



**Challenge :**

**animal welfare;**

**quality and safety of foods of animal origin.**

**Answer:**

This congress was the first that highlighted that food quality and safety depends primarily on the quality and conditions of primary production. Beside dealing with the related issues the congress continued discussing the newest results obtained in the traditional fields of animal hygiene.

## Ninth Congress:

Helsinki, Finland, 17-21 August, 1997.

President: Professor Dr. Hannu Saloniemi



## The Congress

- followed the traditions and continued discussing the theoretical and practical aspects of preventing management related diseases of ruminants, pigs and poultry;
- Animal behaviour was discussed from points of using behavioural patterns as welfare indicators.
- Two new elements appeared at this congress:
  - benchmarking and economic evaluation of veterinary preventive and curative interventions;
  - discussion of animal hygienic aspects of housing and caring of companion animals

## Tenth Congress:

Maastricht, The Netherlands,  
2-6 July, 2000.

President: Professor Dr. Martin Tielen



- With respect to our present days' requests four plenary sessions dealt with theoretical and practical questions of the **integrated quality control systems**.
- Discussion of different aspects of formation and prevention of production diseases continued.
- Special sessions dealt with
  - **biosecurity of animal production;**
  - **treatment and disposal of animal wastes and**
  - **animal hygienic questions of keeping companion animals.**

## Eleventh Congress:

Mexico City, Mexico, 23-27 February, 2003.

President: Professor Dr. Jorge A. Saltijeral



### Challenge:

How can animal agriculture supply food to the fast increasing population of the Globe?

### Answer:

Theater presentations and related discussions made it clear: if **global population expands** with the present speed and **demand for quality food remains unchanged** (first of all in India and China) the world will face with **price explosion** in the food markets. Moreover, if we will not find the up-to-date methods of mass production of good quality food **famine** and related **death toll** is foreseen. Actual questions of **food safety** and **animal protection** also have been addressed at the congress. Prevention of **multifactorial diseases**; **sustainability of animal agriculture** and experiences with **teaching animal hygiene** were the other topics.

## Twelfth Congress:

Warsawa, Poland, 4-8 September 2005.

President: Professor Dr. Andrzej Krynski

Three plenary sessions were organised:

- Herd health programmes;
- Protection of the environment;
- Animal welfare



## Thirteen Congress:

Tartu, Estonia, 17-21 June 2007.

President: Professor Dr. Andres Aland

Beside two plenary sessions a special symposium was organised with involvement of **FAO** with the title:

„Sustainable animal husbandry – good agricultural and veterinary practices”

After long period of time this congress revived discussing the topical questions of environmental physiology as one of the traditional pillars of animal hygiene.



## Fourteenth Congress:

Vechta, Federal Republic of Germany, 19-23 July 2009.

President: Professor Dr. Jörg Hartung

The current Animal Health Strategy of the European Union: „**Prevention is better than cure**” was chosen as backbone of discussions. Accordingly, overview and critical analysis of veterinary preventive measures and biosecurity of animal farming systems has formed core elements of sessions.

After the 12<sup>th</sup> congress, this meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time gave opportunity for dealing with timely questions of **precision farming** and **zoonotic diseases**.

## In-between Symposia I.

- 1) 1977, 5-7 September - Krakow, Poland  
Methods and results of hygienic investigations of air in animal stables.  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. T. Janowski
- 2) 1978, 21 - 22 September - Altmünster, Austria  
Hygiene of the disposal of animal carcasses, slaughterhouse offal and food wastes (animal rendering).  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. H. Willinger
- 3) 1980, 13 September - Vienna, Austria  
Bacteriology, mycology and mycotoxicology of animal feeds.  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. H. Willinger
- 4) 1984, August- Hannover, Germany-West  
Dust in animal houses.  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. H.G. Hilliger
- 5) 1987, June - Krakow , Poland  
Microphysical problems in biology and animal hygiene.  
Organizer Prof. Dr. T. Janowski

## In-between Symposia II.

- 6) 1990, 18 - 19 September - Stuttgart-Hohenheim, GFR  
Actual problems of disinfection of animal houses, of farm-yard manure and slurry.  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. D. Strauch
- 7) 1994, March - Hannover, GFR  
Hygiene and animal welfare during transportation.  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. J. Hartung.
- 8) 1995, October- Budapest, Hungary  
Symposium of the International Society for Animal Hygiene,  
Budapest , Hungary  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. P. Rafai
- 9) 1996, 21 - 24 May, Kosice, Slovakia  
"Ecology and Veterinary Medicine"  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. J. Venglovsky
- 7) 1996, 28 -31 October, Mexico City, Mexico  
"Demands on Animal Hygiene Education and Research"  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. J. Saltieral

## In-between Symposia III.

- 9) 1996, 6-7 November, Varna, Bulgaria  
International Scientific Conference  
Organizer: [Andrei Kozarov](#)
- 10) 1999, 22-25 April, Postojna, Slovenia  
Environmental Protection and Animal Welfare.  
Organizer: Prof. Dr. [M. Amon](#)
- 11) 2002, 7-11 July, Australia  
ASAP/ ISAH Conference and Executive Board meeting, Adelaide, Australia  
Organizer: [Prof. Dr. T. Banhazi](#)
- 12) 2004, 11-13 October, Saint-Malo, France  
Animal production in Europe: The way forward the changing world.  
Organizer: [Dr. F. Madec](#)

After the decision on the Congress 2005 in Warsaw, Poland to move to bi-annual congresses the organisation of in-between conferences stopped.

The seedling our forefathers implanted in Budapest jumped into speedy development and by now, worthily for its 40 years, has become a vigorous tree that protects and nurtures animal hygienists in 52 countries. When we salute the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation we pay homage to **Professor Dr. Ferenc Kovács**, the legendary founding father.



We thank him the implantation of the seedling, the careful tendance of the growing three and the careful transferring of its maintenance into worthy hands.

With him we greet the still living outstanding personalities of our Society, namely:



**Ingvar Ekesbo**  
(Sweden)



**Günther Mehlhorn**  
(FRG)



**Stanley Diesch**  
(USA)

We think with respect to the eminent honorary members of our Society who – to our greatest sorrow – had passed away. We pay tribute to professors

Johannes Kalich (GFR);  
Thomas Janowsky (Poland);  
Jan Rosocha (Slovakia);  
Vasile Tomescu (Romania);  
Herman Willinger (Austria);  
Josip Ivos (Yugoslavia);

and



Jiri Hojovec  
(Czech Republic)



Dieter Strauch  
(GFR)

May I take the opportunity that on behalf of the still active honorary members, namely



Hannu Saloniemi  
(Finland)



Reinhard Böhm  
(GFR)



and good myself

I wish all members and officers of the Society good health, happy family life and fruitful professional career for the next 40 years.



Finally

we congratulate  
Professor Dr. Jörg Hartung,  
the active President of our Society,  
on the occasion that the Swedish  
University of Agricultural Sciences  
has appointed him Doctor honoris  
causa on  
the 9th of October 2010