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# e-news

International Society  
for Animal Hygiene

N° 007 - 2020

## SUMMARY

Dear members and friends of ISAH,

I hope that this e-Newsletter finds you and your relatives healthy in this complicated pandemic period of COVID-19.

ISAH continues to publish its e-Newsletter, please find the end-year one. It keeps record of activities of the Executive Board of ISAH and informs members about recent developments in the Society and on interesting topics in various fields of Animal Hygiene and beyond.

Hot topics today relate to:

- letter from President,
- latest news from the Executive Board,
- important activities of EB members,
- **ISAH webinars in 2021!!!**
- ISAH congress postponed to August 2022.

Forthcoming events and publications related to the Society are presented in the end of this issue; please visit the associated pages (16 to 19).

*Stay healthy with the goddess Hygiea and I wish you all a blessed and Merry Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year!*

*Hope reborn for 2021: Together by strictly applying hygienic rules and with the benefits of advanced science knowledge and associated innovations in vaccination we will win this pandemic challenge!*

Enjoy reading the Newsletter of our Society!

Dr Christelle Fablet  
General Secretary of ISAH



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## EDITORIAL

### *By the President*

Dear members of ISAH, Colleagues and friends,

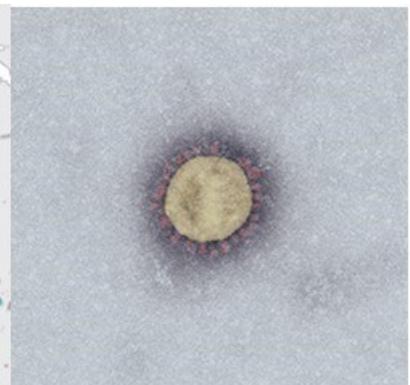
“What a 2020”! It was a difficult year with many ups and downs. Beside ASP which was in our focus in 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic spread rapidly around the world. Lockdowns and hygiene measures like distancing, reduced direct contacts between people, hand washing, nose-mouth breathing masks and frequent ventilation of meeting rooms were successful for some time, and the summer in Europe helped to reduce infection rates significantly in many countries.

With decreasing caution and care, however, the number of infected people and the death rate in the "second wave" rose sharply in autumn. A depressing scenario awaits us at Christmas. Most of the traditional family celebrations have to be canceled or limited to the core family. The elderly are particularly hard hit, and this age group is also the most severely affected by serious illness and death. Now the surprisingly quickly developed vaccines promise an improvement in the health situation. They are supposed to stop or alleviate the pandemic. This seems to be the light of hope at the end of the dark tunnel. Until then and beyond that, hygiene rules and measures will and will remain an indispensable part of people's health care - and we should never forget to show those who suffer, with the necessary distance, heart and affection.

The fact is that with the Covid-19 pandemic, mankind is currently experiencing one of the most serious health and economic crises in the last 100 years. More than 71 million people around the world are currently infected with the SARS-Cov-2 virus and more than 1.6 million have already died from it. The infectious agent spread from Wuhan in China across the world in less than a year.



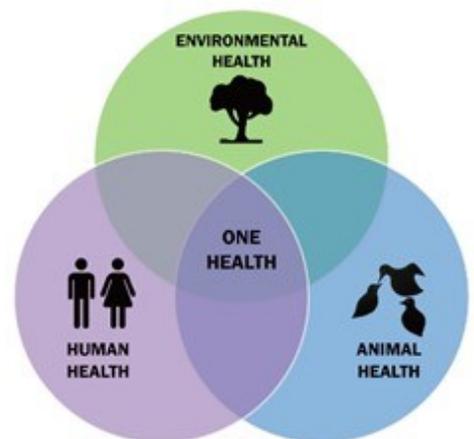
Corona-virus-map, worldwide spread, WHO



**SARS-CoV-2**, „pretty to graceful“. Electron microscopy, scale: 100 nm. (RKI)

It is all the more important that animal welfare, food safety, environmental protection and sustainable development in animal production are not neglected. With global population growth, more food needs to be produced, but at the same time we need to protect the environment, the world's limited resources, our wildlife and domestic animals, nature and, last but not least, human wellbeing and health.

Covid-19 is a typical zoonosis, i.e. an infectious disease that has passed from animals to humans. SARS-CoV-2 presumably has been transmitted to humans from a bat species via an alternate host. “There is no special barrier between animals and humans” (Mettenleiter 2020). People, animals and the environment together have One Health. 60% of the infectious diseases in humans and 75% of the newly occurring infectious diseases have an animal origin.



Some historical examples of pandemics with high death tolls are:

- the so-called Spanish flu, from a US pigsty, 1918 - 1920, 500 million infected, 27 - 50 million dead,

- the so-called Hong Kong flu, poultry barn in Asia, 1968 - 1970, 1 million deaths,
- the so-called “swine flu”, Mexico, pigsty, 2009 - 2010, > 18,500 deaths.

Beside domestic animals, new viruses can also be transmitted from wild animals – like Covid-19 shows. The risk of new emerging infectious diseases increases with close contact to previously untouched nature. The penetration of humans into all areas and natural habitats of the world due to globalization of economy, travel, business, food production etc. brings the prevalent urban people into contact with new and unknown infectious agents. An example (of regional importance) is the Nipah virus outbreak in Malaysia 1998 - 1999. Due to drought and habitat destruction, fruit eating bats, which are the carriers of the virus moved into the villages and infected domestic pigs. The pigs got slightly sick only but transmit the virus to farm workers and slaughterhouse staff and killed 105 people.

What is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on health and well-being of farm animals? The good news is: Our usual farm animals and the food deriving from them do not transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus. SARS-CoV-2 is predominantly transmitted from person to person. However, chickens, pigs and cattle can be affected indirectly. As a result of massive disease rates among slaughterhouse staff, slaughterhouses have to close and the animals cannot be slaughtered. This leads to overcrowding in the animal houses and the animals suffer from a lack of space. There are reports of emergency killings of millions of chickens (Delmara Chicken Assoc. USA) and pigs ("assisted suicide factory" in MN, USA). The virus creates high economic and emotional losses for farmers.

Man can protect himself for example with a “pest mask”. More modern are the rules of preventing: Distance, Hand-Hygiene, Breathing masks and Ventilating (DHBV). And, man can act with comprehension, understanding and the implementation of scientific knowledge.



Left: Pest mask, 17th century (Die ZEIT Geschichte 5/20. 2020).  
Right: Breathing Mask in practical use.



## **What lessons can we learn?**

The pandemic shows:

1. We - humans, animals and the environment - “sit in the same boat on earth”.
2. When protecting animals and the environment (resource conservation), we protect human health too (“One Health”).
3. Globalization and the penetration of humans into previously natural habitats promote the possibilities for the development of new zoonotic diseases. We have to learn to deal better and more carefully with the "consumption" of nature.
4. Pandemics will continue to emerge. It is important to recognize virus reservoirs in the habitats of wild animals at an early stage. Global monitoring and cooperative research for rapid detection systems of novel pathogens are necessary. Complete monitoring of wildlife populations is not possible.
5. Farm animals are often alternate hosts. Monitoring health and welfare of our farm animals in the farms with modern techniques in real-time by algorithms and AI can serve as early warning system for a possibly emerging pandemic.

## **By preventing pandemics, we protect animals and people.**

Monitoring the spread of infectious diseases and developing practical measures of preventing transmission of infectious agents are very much at the heart of the science of hygiene for animal, man and the environment.

Finally, I wish you all that we can soon overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and the loneliness which connected with the quarantine and medical measures. The painting and little poem below want to characterize the Christmas situation 2020 which requires high solidarity in our societies.

### Corona-Christmas 2020

### Corona-Weihnachten 2020



Merry & blessed Christmas  
and a happy, healthy New Year.

Frohe und gesegnete Weihnachten  
und ein glückliches, gesundes Neues Jahr.

(G. Hartung)

### In the Times of Fading Light

The dreams of summer fell, on deeply frozen ground.  
With gloomy nightly visions, the year will close its round.  
The trees stand high and lonely we walk the shadowed road.  
Calls come from downs the valley, lonesome we will go.  
Eternal ice is floating on darken waters deep.  
White flakes be blown in faces, the wind is stiff and steep.  
The skies loom dark in silence, leaden clouds move slow.  
Through skinny trees now shimmers the silent river's flow.  
A barren hut so lonely light gutters in the dark.  
Rescue from dark is coming through our loving heart.

### In den Zeiten des schwindenden Lichts

Es fallen die Träume des Sommers auf den erkaltenden Grund.  
Es füllt sich die Nacht mit Gesichtern, es schließt sich des Jahres Rund.  
Es wachsen die Schatten der Bäume, wir wandern in langen Alleen.  
Es tönen die Rufe der Tiefe, einsam werden wir geh'n.  
Es treiben auf dunkelnden Wassern Schollen von ewigem Eis.  
Es fallen die weißen Flocken, vom Winde verweht wie im Kreis.  
Der Himmel in bleiernem Schweigen über uns drohend liegt.  
Es schimmern durch lichte Wälder schon die Ufer des Styx.  
Es dringt aus karger Hütte ein schwacher Lichterschein,  
in diesen Zeiten des Dunkel kann nur ein Herz uns befrei'n.

(J. Hartung)

***Stay healthy. Vita sine ars hygienica mors est  
(=living without hygiene can be deadly)***

Very best regards

In the name of the Executive Board.  
Professor Dr. med. vet. Dr. h. c. mult. Jörg Hartung  
President of ISAH

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## News from the Society

### Nominations

#### **Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Jörg Hartung, President of ISAH**

Federal Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner awards Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Jörg Hartung, President of ISAH, the highest award from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany. He was director of the Institute for Animal Hygiene, Animal Welfare and Farm Animal Ethology of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (TiHo) for 20 years and, among many other functions, he was an honorary member of the animal welfare commission of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture for 26 years, including 20 years as its chairman.



Pictures: BMEL/Photothek/Ronny Hartmann

***We warmly congratulate him for this distinguished award!***

As a recognized and committed scientist, Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Jörg Hartung has been involved in research and teaching for over 40 years with animal and environmentally friendly animal husbandry, which also takes transport and slaughter into account. Federal Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner presented Jörg Hartung with the highest award from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture for his outstanding services to animal welfare.

### **His work**

In 1993, Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Jörg Hartung accepted a professorship at TiHo and became head of the Institute for Animal Hygiene, Animal Welfare and Farm Animal Ethology. Numerous work and activities at home and abroad followed, including for the EU Commission, the FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health OIE. Since the founding of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2003, he was a member - and from 2006 to 2012 Deputy Chairman - of the Committee for Animal Health and Animal Welfare. For many years, he was a committed member of the Senate and the specialist commission in the TiHo. The University of Wroclaw and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala each recognized his services with honorary doctorates.

### **The Professor Niklas Medal**

The Professor Niklas Medal has been awarded since 1978 to people who have made an outstanding contribution to food, agriculture and forestry or the well-being of the people working in these areas. Wilhelm Niklas was closely connected to agriculture and shaped it, starting in Bavaria, in the post-war years in Germany. From 1949 to 1953, he was the first Minister of Agriculture in the Federal Republic of Germany.



*A video portrait of Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Jörg Hartung can be  
find at*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWlkzj6nlWQ&feature=youtu.be>.

## **Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. Ingvar Ekesbo, Honorary President of ISAH**

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Ingvar Ekesbo from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Skara is the first recipient of the Marie-Claire Cronstedt Prize. He was awarded for "his pioneering efforts in research, teaching and legislation, both nationally and internationally, concerning the protection and welfare of farm animals". The Marie-Claire Cronstedt Foundation is sharing for the first time from the grand prize on 23 October.



The award was presented by the Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf at Swedish WWF's autumn meeting, "for these special efforts at the national level in the areas of ecology, fauna care, animal welfare or conservation of natural resources, which aim to preserve and promote good living conditions for plants and animals", as the statutes read.

Marie-Claire Cronstedt's prize consists of SEK 100,000 (~10 000€) as well as a medal of merit and a diploma. The medal and diploma were physically handed over this year at a small ceremony at the foundation's office in Stockholm on October 16, but the prize was formally handed out by the Swedish king at WWF's digital autumn meeting on October 23.

***We warmly congratulate him!***





## ***Some activities of ISAH members in recent months***

**Professor Jörg Hartung**, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover organized together with Prof. Mateus Paranhos, FCAV-UNESP Jaboticabal, Carmen Perez, Agropecuária Orvalho das Flores, Prof. Paulo Maiorka, FMVZ-USP São Paulo and Thomas Timm, AHK São Paulo 18th and 19th November 2020 the **2<sup>nd</sup> German – Brazilian conference on Animal Welfare** under the main title: **“Don’t forget the animal in the pandemic”**. Because especially in the COVID-19 crisis, the well-being of small and farm animals threatens to be forgotten. Over 700 participants took part in the virtual congress that drew attention to the challenges for animal welfare in the pandemic. The congress is seen as a platform to continue and deepen the dialogue and cooperation between Germany and Brazil on the protection of small animals and farm animals.

Contact: [stephanie.viehmann@ahkbrasil.com](mailto:stephanie.viehmann@ahkbrasil.com); [joerg.hartung@tiho-hannover.de](mailto:joerg.hartung@tiho-hannover.de)

**Thomas Banhazi**, ISAH Country Representative for **Australia**, is coordinating a project: “LivestockSense: Enhancing environmental sustainability of livestock farms by removing barriers for adoption of ICT technologies” The two-year-project is funded by ERANET ICT-enabled agri-food systems, and the project group is including scientists from Denmark, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Israel, and Sweden.

Utilisation of ICT based tools in agriculture is crucial for the EU to become internationally competitive, socially inclusive and climate neutral by 2050, the goal set in the European Green Deal. However, promoting and adoption of ICT tools is a major challenge in animal production. Although advanced ICT solutions improve the environmental and economic viability of animal husbandry; farmers are not open to new technologies due to a lack of in-depth knowledge about the implications of its use. The development of sustainable animal husbandry requires the removal of socio-economic and cultural



barriers preventing the wider adoption of ICT tools. Therefore, the main objectives of the **LivestockSense** are

- (1) to improve the economic and environmental viability of livestock farms (pig and poultry) through application of advanced information and communication technologies
- (2) AND (2) to identify/remove social barriers for technology adoption to achieve a wider adoption of ICT on farms.

This will be achieved by selecting and supplying a number of pig and poultry farms in key geographical areas in Europe with *Precision Livestock Farming (PLF)* tools. Both qualitative and quantitative surveys will be used to understand farmers' attitudes towards PLF tools and to identify barriers for the limited adoption of ICT based technologies.

**LivestockSense** will also involve other actors in the value chain, such as technology developers and policy makers to explore attitudes towards PLF systems and understand the future expectations of the livestock producers. Recommendations will be made to remove or reduce the impact of those barriers. The likely economic and environmental benefits associated with technology adoption will also be incorporated in a learning database and associated website using AI based technologies and ICT tools for decision support.

***Longlife to this promising and exciting project!***

**Prof. Dr. Tabbaa**, University in Hama, long-time **Syrian ISAH member and ISAH Country Representative** was appointed School- and Education Minister in Syria.

***Congratulation and best wishes for fruitful work in difficult times.***





## *Join ISAH*

*and become a member of a community of science  
and a circle of lifelong friendship*



Scientists, veterinary practitioners and other persons with a special interest in the field of Animal Hygiene are cordially welcome to become a member of the International Society for Animal Hygiene.

Entering the society is absolutely easy! Just send an informal email to the ISAH Secretary and upon receiving of the invoice by paying the biannual membership fee of 40 Euros for two (2) calendar years in between the ISAH-congresses. Alternatively, you can also use our entry form on the Society's web page ([www.isah-soc.org](http://www.isah-soc.org)).

ISAH membership fee is effective from the 1st of January and runs for 24 consecutive months. Members who pay their fee in due time get a discount on the congress fee for the upcoming ISAH congress in that period.

**For instance, those having paid the fee in 2020 or 2021, will have a discount for 2022 ISAH congress!**

Membership fee can currently be paid only by money transfer. Alternatives are currently explored and might become available in the future.

*Please visit our webpage for more details:*  
<https://www.isah-soc.org/?Members/Membership-fee>



## Gentle Payment Reminder



As this challenging year comes to its final end, ISAH would kindly like to reach out to you and thank all those members who have paid their membership fee for this year!

**We are truly grateful for your contribution!**

All others we would kindly like to ask to check their balance and to remind you to satisfy your balance by the end of the year. If your fees are overdue please contact ISAH'S Treasurer for an invoice and pay the amount due.

**Thank you!**

*ISAH's Treasurer wishes you a festive season, relaxing holidays  
and may the new year bring you  
joy, happiness, prosperity and good health  
and an end to all pandemic troubles and sorrows!*

*Stay safe and remember the principles of good prevention  
– keep distance, wear a mask, apply as much hygiene as possible!*



## *20<sup>th</sup> ISAH Congress, Pattaya Thailand – postponed to August 2022*

*Save the date!*



The next ISAH congress will be held in Pattaya, Thailand in August 2022 instead of 2021 due to COVID-19.

A specific homepage for the Congress is in progress and will be launched in the near future. The scientific programme and organisational details will be developed in close cooperation between with the local hosts and the Executive Board of ISAH.

We hope that You will join us and take an active part in all that will be offered. The Congress is a unique opportunity for industry and scientists to meet and acquire new knowledge as well as to exchange experience.



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## ***ISAH virtual meetings on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021*** ***Save the date of these webinars!***

In between the past physical congress hold in Wroclaw, Poland (2019), and the upcoming congress in Pattaya, Thailand (2022), ISAH executive board (EB) is delighted to invite you to 2 virtual meetings in May 2021.

***These webinars will cover the importance and role of biosecurity and biodiversity during pandemics and epidemics in the one health context.***

The role of Hygiene as a first line of defence in combating epidemics in human and veterinary medicine and also the crucial role of biodiversity as reservoir for new threats but also as prevention against their emergence will be explained and discussed by outstanding keynote speakers from Europe and Asia. Actual information on Covid-19 and African Swine Fever will be under the scope these webinars!

***Don't miss these unique opportunities to take part to these events and to exchange knowledge and ideas during the discussion sessions!***

More information on the programme and registration will follow in the beginning of the New Year 2021.

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## Publications



### *Proceedings of 71th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP)*

The onsite EAAP Porto Annual Meeting has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the meeting was hosted as a virtual event from the 1st to 4th of December. Around 1000 participants took part in the virtual meeting.

The meeting hosted scientists and experts from the field of animal science, not only from Europe but also from other countries around the globe. The EAAP Congress provided insights into the latest research results from many areas of animal science.

Every year, the Annual meeting is a unique opportunity for scientists and industry to meet and acquire new knowledge and to exchange experience. Carried out through many sessions, plenary meeting, a poster and exhibition presentations, and discussions about scientific achievements in the European and world livestock production, the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting gave another opportunity for the application of new ideas in practice. All these preferences make the EAAP one of the largest animal science congresses in the world.

*Interested in the book of proceedings?*

*Please visit the EAAP 2020 webpage:*

<http://www.eaap.org/eaap-2020-virtual-meeting-1st-4th-december/>



## Publications

### *Of interest from ISAH members*

#### *About poultry production & animal hygiene*

- ▶ Huneau-Salaün A., Scoizec A., Thomas R., Le Bouquin S. 2020. Cleaning and disinfection of crates and trucks used for duck transport: field observations during the H5N8 avian influenza outbreaks in France in 2017. Poultry science 99, 2931-2936.

#### *About pig production & animal hygiene*

- ▶ Courboulay V., Meunier-Salaün M.-C., Stankowiak M., Pol F. 2020. BEEP: An advisory pig welfare assessment tool developed by farmers for farmers. Livestock Science 240, 104107
- ▶ Fablet C., Dubarry E., Rose N., Pol F. 2020. Alternative pig farms: a diversity of housing types and health statuses. 71st Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP), 522
- ▶ Fablet C., Hervé S., Dorenlor V., Eono F., Eveno E., Barbier N., Gorin S., Keita A., Simon G., Rose N. 2020. Air sample as a welfare friendly method to detect swine influenza A virus in pigs? 71st Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP), 512

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## Forthcoming events

### *European Symposium of Porcine Health Management (ESPHM)*



The ESPHM is a joint collaboration among three parties including the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM), the European Association of Porcine Health Management (EAPHM) and, for the ESPHM 2020, the Vetsuisse Faculty from the University of Bern. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) includes also representatives from the Vetsuisse Faculty in Zurich, the Swiss Association of Swine Veterinarians and the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO).

The ESPHM in Bern will be the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the symposium, representing the complete consolidation of a meeting that started in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 2009 with 220 delegates. Since then, the congress has evolved at all levels, with more than 1,900 delegates in the most recent edition in Barcelona, Spain, in 2018. This is an evident proof of the increasing interest that the scientific contents of the ESPHM offers, not only for European veterinarians but also to the international community. Although settled in Europe, the ESPHM aspires to be a source of updated knowledge and knowhow in its field for the whole world.

*Interested in the congress?  
Please visit the dedicated webpage:  
<https://www.esphm2020.org>*



## Forthcoming events

### 26<sup>th</sup> World Poultry Congress (WPC)



The World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA) organized every four years a World's Poultry Congress (WPC). This Association is a long established and unique organization that strives to advance knowledge and understanding of all aspects of poultry science and the poultry industry. Its major role is to encourage, and help facilitate, liaison among research scientists and educators, and between those in research and education and those working in the many diverse sectors of the industry.

First WPC held in the Hague, the Netherlands in 1921. The spirit of international collaboration established at that time has continued to be a strong characteristic of the WPSA ever since. From the first, these scientific and technical events have been associated with exhibitions of poultry and the commercial sector, so helping to strengthen the bridges between science and practice.

The 26<sup>th</sup> WPC will be held in Paris, France, from August 08<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2021.

***Interested in getting more information? Please follow this link:***

<https://wpcparis2021.com/>

***Don't miss these events scheduled in 2021!!!***

The Newsletter is sent to all ISAH Members. You are all invited to submit information for the newsletter. Please send information, news, text, photos and logo to: [christelle.fablet@anses.fr](mailto:christelle.fablet@anses.fr) and [joerg.hartung@tiho-hannover.de](mailto:joerg.hartung@tiho-hannover.de)

**Production staff:** ISAH Executive Board