Annual report 2017

The WSAVA Continuing Education (CE) program aims to deliver CE for first opinion companion animal practitioners in countries where access to high quality CE is limited. The goal of WSAVA CE is to provide practical, relevant and inspiring CE that assists general practitioners solve clinical problems regardless of the size and sophistication of their practice. Each country in the CE program is categorised according to its level of need. In the countries where access to CE is most limited, WSAVA support all the running costs for the CE meeting. When countries are able to support local organisational costs through delegate registration fees and additional local sponsorship, sponsorship is reduced so that only speaker costs are covered. Speakers are drawn from all continents, chosen by their qualifications and their reputation as being excellent presenters of information.

In 2017, the WSAVA CE programme was possible due to the generous support of the WSAVA commercial sponsors Bayer and MSD and association sponsors, BSAVA (Britain), NACAM (The Netherlands), NSAVA (Norway), ASAVA (Australia) and the Global Veterinary Dermatology Education Group (GVDEG).

During 2017, WSAVA CE was delivered to 3289 delegates in 37 meetings, a slight decrease in meeting and delegate numbers compared to 2016 for a variety of logistical and political reasons. As in previous years, speakers came from a wide range of countries and included both private practitioners and University lecturers of a range of seniorities.

Seven countries in Eastern Europe received CE during 2017, but almost all meetings continue to draw participants from multiple surrounding countries. Following their move to Category 3 in 2016, Serbia again hosted a meeting in Belgrade, where David Connolly (Royal Veterinary College, UK) lectured on cardiology, followed by a regional meeting delivered by local experts in Futog which covered practice management, gastric dilatation and volvulus, and anaemia management. Dr Dominic Barfield (Royal Veterinary College, UK) lectured on emergency and critical care in Latvia, Montenegro and Albania and Professor Ed Hall (Bristol University, UK) lectured on gastrointestinal disease in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. Dr Matthew Pead (Royal Veterinary College, UK) lectured on hindlimb orthopaedic conditions in Ukraine and Dr Balzas Szladovits (Royal Veterinary College UK) delivered interactive sessions on clinical pathology in Opatija, Croatia.

Latin America saw a reduced programme in 2017. Dr Stephen Birchard (private practitioner from Ohio, USA) delivered lectures on surgery in Piuria and Cuzco in Peru, Dr Juan Borrego (private practitioner from Valencia, Spain) lectured on oncology in Guatemala and Ecuador and Dr Martin Sobreano (private practitioner from Argentina) delivered lectures on oncology to delegates in Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

In Asia, Dr Tim Hackett (Colorado State University, USA) lectured on emergency and critical care in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Chengdu. Dr Steve de Decker (Royal Veterinary College, UK) delivered very popular lectures on neurology to over 500 delegates in Bengaluru, India followed by an outreach meeting at the nearby veterinary school. Thanks to the sponsorship of GVDEG, Dr Chiara Noli (private...
practitioner, Italy) delivered lectures on dermatology in Myanmar. Professor Rick le Couteur (UC Davis, USA) gave two days of incredibly well organised and received lectures on neurology in the Philippines and Dr Bart van Goethem (Ghent University) delivered lectures on soft tissue surgery to practitioners in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr David Connolly (Royal Veterinary College, UK) lectured on cardiology for two days in Sri Lanka, and Drs Randi Drees and Richard Lam (Royal Veterinary College, UK) taught on diagnostic imaging at Ho Chi Minh and Ha Noi in Vietnam.

CE in Africa expanded further in 2017 to include support for a lecture stream on anaesthesia in Morocco, delivered by Dr Eric Troncy from Montreal, Canada and the first ever meeting in Nigeria on infectious diseases and diagnostic imaging delivered by Dr Martin de Scally from South Africa. Dr Martin de Scally had a busy year delivering CE on a range of topics related to diagnostic imaging and infectious diseases in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Ghana, several of which were in collaboration with Dr Lawson Cairns. Dr David Miller (Johannesburg, South Africa) lectured in Mozambique on internal medicine, and Dr Lawson Cairns used Clinician’s Brief to deliver an innovative session at the same meeting. Dr Greg Irvine-Smith (Johannesburg, South Africa) spent two days in Kenya lecturing on surgery.

Delivering the CE program remains a team effort, and it would not be possible without the regional and local coordinators who donate hundreds of hours of their time to this incredible endeavour. Huge thanks as ever to Jill Maddison for her role as Asia coordinator, to Nic Hayward for taking up the reins in Europe, and to Marcello Roza for coordinating Latin America. Dr Lawson Cairns continues to do amazing work in Africa, organising and overseeing a large number of meetings, often in challenging circumstances! The job of CE chair would be impossible without the support of Maggie Hodgson, June Ingwersen and Ellen van Nierop. The feedback from the lectures we provide remains outstanding and the engagement of our delegates in the meetings is evident. Our amazing speakers continue to deliver world class lectures in a whole range of settings, and I am incredibly grateful for their efforts.

Zoe Belshaw
Chair, WSAVA Continuing Education Committee
January 2018
WSAVA CE 2017 in pictures

Delegates and commercial display in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria
Dr Tim Hackett and delegates at one of the four meetings held in China
Delegates in Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Delegates in Ghana
Delegates in the commercial exhibition, Guatemala

Dr Dominic Barfield in Montenegro
A packed lecture theatre in the Philippines

Delegates in Sri Lanka
Dr Martin de Scally in Tanzania

Dr Matthew Pead in action in Ukraine
Delegates during the two meetings in Vietnam
Delegates in Kenya