

WSAVA – The State of the Association: A Report on Progress - 2018-2019

This year marks WSAVA's 60th anniversary, our Diamond Jubilee, and it is a particular honour to report on the achievements of our global community whilst celebrating this milestone.

Since our last meeting in Singapore, our clinical committees have continued to support our members and all companion animal veterinarians globally. A strategic planning task force led by WSAVA vice-president Siraya Chunekamrai has also been working hard on our strategic plan for the period 2020-2023. WSAVA assembly member representatives received a draft of the plan in May.

We look forward to discussing this and other matters during Assembly Meeting and Members' Forum at WSAVA World Congress in Toronto. But before we look ahead, let us reflect on some of our achievements during 2018-2019.

World Congress 2018 – a great success

More than 3,350 delegates from 66 countries attended the Singapore WSAVA Congress, making it the most popular World Congress ever. These record-breaking numbers reflect the rapid growth of companion animal practice across the Far East and the enthusiasm of Asian veterinarians and others from around the world to involve themselves in our global community. We sincerely thank the Singapore Veterinary Association and the many others who contributed to the success of the 2018 conference.

The Launch of the WSAVA's Animal Welfare Global Guidelines for Companion Animal Practitioners and the Veterinary Team

At the Singapore congress we launched the latest in our highly respected series of Global Guidelines, tackling the vital issue of animal welfare and highlighting the role of veterinarians as the advocates for welfare. Supporting animal welfare is one of the most fundamental obligations we have as veterinarians and we are proud that these guidelines have already been endorsed by 37 of our member associations. The full Animal Welfare Guidelines have recently also been published in the Journal of Small Animal Practice (JSAP), our official scientific journal. They are currently available in English, Portuguese and Slovakian with further translations planned and practical tools and resources for clinicians in development.

Continuing Education

Our Continuing Education (CE) program and CE Committee (CEC) have undergone changes this year and a new era ushered in under interim chairperson and Executive Board member Ellen van Nierop.

To understand requirements of, and type of CE that is most beneficial for our members, the CEC has recently undertaken a global survey of needs and will prepare the 2019-2020 program based on these findings. We appeal to our larger members to help us deliver this much needed CE to our colleagues in developing countries, joining contributing associations like BSAVA, ASAV and NACAM. We are also recruiting volunteer Regional CE Coordinators for West Africa, South East Asia and South Asia. Please contact [Emma van Rooijen](mailto:emma.van.rooijen@wsava.org) if you would like more information.

In addition to our face-to-face training, we now offer a vast array of online CE to our members, including state-of-the-art lectures from recent World Congresses. These resources are free to access and download from the WSAVA Academy on our website.



Understanding Veterinary Wellness

The work undertaken by our Committees helps to drive veterinary practice forward but, our efforts are at risk if we do not also work to safeguard the mental health and well-being of all members of the veterinary team. With the help of more than 4,000 participating WSAVA members, our Professional Wellness Group has recently undertaken the first global study into veterinary wellness. It will report initial findings during World Congress 2019 and will then focus on developing tools and resources to support our members' well-being.

New Industry Partner Agreements

We have received a positive response from our industry partners for our remodelled partnership offering and now have two 'Diamond Partners' – Purina Institute and Mars Petcare and one 'Gold Partner' - Hill's Pet Nutrition. Our work would not be possible without our Industry Partners and we are very grateful for their continuing commitment to companion animal practice and to companion animal veterinarians globally.

A New Educational Partner

Our Educational Partners help us to deliver high-quality veterinary education to our members. China is a particular focus so we were delighted to welcome ACTAsia as a new Educational Partner. ACTAsia is a not-for-profit association that provides veterinary training in Asia as part of its wider remit to promote animal welfare. It will now encourage the adoption of the standards set out in our Global Guidelines during the programs it runs in China and other Asian countries. We believe that working with ACTAsia will accelerate our joint efforts to develop companion animal veterinary practice in the region. It is without doubt a positive step forward for animal welfare in Asia.

Enhancing Member Communication

Ensuring that our activities and leaders are accessible to our members is a priority for my presidency. We have hosted two well-attended Members' Forums this year – the first during VMX in Florida, USA, in January and the second in Bangalore, India, in March. Both sparked lively discussion on the type of support our members need and how we can better serve them. We thank everyone who attended and shared their views.

We have also launched a new monthly newsletter for our Member Representatives in order to help them share our news with their own members and have increased the frequency of our Bulletin to twice a month. Our Bulletin' readership continues to increase but please contact us if you are not receiving all our output.

WSAVA Leadership Team

This year we bid farewell to Nicola Neumann, who will step-down from the Executive Board at the Toronto Congress. Nicola has been Congress Liaison Officer since 2015, an at-times difficult role that she has managed magnificently. I thank Nicola for her service and enormous contribution. We are now seeking a new Executive Board Director, preferably from Africa, the Middle East or Eastern Europe, to ensure that our leadership team is representative of our global membership.

WSAVA also said goodbye and happy retirement to our long-standing Financial Officer, June Ingwersen. I am delighted to say that our new Finance Officer, Joyce Dao, has settled in well and



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Community

successfully completed the first audit with our new auditor and help from our Honorary Treasurer Michael Day.

These are just some of the highlights of our work during the last year and I hope they give you sense of what we have worked together to achieve in this, our 60th year.

WSAVA is, of course, reliant on the support of our diligent and hard-working volunteers, who include the members of our 20 Standing and Clinical Committees, our Member Representatives and, of course, my colleagues on the Executive Board. I thank them and you all for this unstinting commitment to WSAVA and its members. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to find out more about being involved, please contact Geeta Saini, Chair of the Leadership and Nomination Committee.

Finally, I would also like express my thanks to all of our member associations and their members for the enthusiasm with which they support our work. We are strong global community and we work every day to make a difference to the welfare, well-being and health of companion animals and to the veterinarians and veterinary teams who take care of them.

Together we have made great progress during our first 60 years. Together we can achieve even more during the next 60.

Thank you

Shane Ryan
WSAVA President

