XXV Worlds Poultry Congress

Dr Ning Yang, the new President of the WPSA

At the Councillor's Meeting during Beijing's XXV World Poultry Conference, the position of President of the World's Poultry Science Association was officially passed from Prof Edir Silva of Brazil to Dr Ning Yang of China. Dr Yang is Professor and Head of the Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding and Director of the National Engineering Laboratory of Animal Breeding, at the China Agricultural University in Bejing, China. He received his BSc. from the Southwest Nationality College in China with a major in animal science in 1982, and his Ph.D. from the Beijing Agricultural University in 1990 with a major in animal genetics and breeding.

From 1990 until the present, Dr Yang has served as a faculty member of the Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding in the College of Animal Science and Technology at the China Agricultural University (formerly the Bejing Agricultural University) in Beijing. During 1997 and 1998, he spent a year's sabbatical with Dr Paul Siegel at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.

Dr Yang leads a large research group with 15 graduate students who focus their research on genetic selection, gene mapping, and functional genomics associated with meat and egg quality, disease resistance, feed efficiency and reproduction. He is the author or co-author of over 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals. He has been active in promoting the mission of WPSA in China, having served as the Branch Secretary (1999-2009) and President (2009-present). He has done the Chinese translation of abstracts for the World's Poultry Science Journal since 2004. Most recently he served as the Chair of the Organising Committee for the 25th World's Poultry Congress held in Beijing on September 5-9, 2016.

We look forward to Dr Yang's leadership as he moves WPSA forward over the next four years.

China's World's Poultry Congress Beijing, September 2016

On September 5-9, 2016, the 25th World's Poultry Congress (WPC2016), co-organised by World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA) and Chinese Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine (CAAV), made its debut at the China National Convention Center in Beijing. Against a background featuring global shortage of resources, food safety issues and environmental protection, the event aimed to promote the sustainability of the poultry industry by ensuring the effective supply, quality and safety of poultry products.

China's poultry production has evolved from a household sideline business into an important animal husbandry industry during the past 30 years. Significant progress has been made in poultry production, intensification and specialisation with large-scale poultry farming now accounting for the greater proportion.

In 2015, China's poultry egg output reached 29.99 million tons, accounting for 40% of global production, and the annual average consumption of poultry eggs reached 21.8 kg per capita. The total production and *per capita* consumption both ranked first place in the world. China's poultry meat production reached 18.26 million tons, and the annual average consumption was 13.2 kg per person. Total poultry meat output ranked second in the world.

Focusing on the theme of 'The quality and safety of the poultry products: meeting humans' needs', WPC2016 addresses a wide spectrum of subjects concerning the current situation and development trends of the industry, challenges facing poultry production, solutions to the

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043933916000970 Published online by Cambridge University Press

limitation of dwindling resources, better bio-security, animal welfare, and the frontiers of poultry research and technology.

According to the organising committee's statistics, WPC2016 had a total of 4210 delegates from 72 countries and regions in attendance, including 1694 international and 2516 domestic attendees, including 1215 attendees from the industry and 2995 from scientific academia. This has broken all of previous records for congresses. WPC2016 lasted three and a half days, which included three plenary sessions and 38 parallel sessions, and involved 65 invited speakers and scholars from 35 countries who made presentations during the sessions. The sessions included 253 oral presentations, and more than 600 poster presentations.

In total, 459 delegates took advantage of the special offer to WPSA members from low income countries. Those delegates will, hopefully, return to their developing countries to help the further development of the poultry industry in their country or regions.

The International Poultry Hall of Fame (IPHF) awards were hosted during the opening ceremony of WPC2016. The new members of the IPHF are Prof Dr Eddy Decuypere (Belgium), Dr Henry Classen (Canada), Prof Changxin Wu (China), Prof Avigdor Cahaner (Israel) and Dr Paul Hocking (United Kingdom). The outstanding scientist Prof Israel Roizenboim from Israel received the WPSA research award. Each award winner has been contacted by the WPSJ Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Lucy Waldron, to submit an invited review on their own research work conducted over the years.

The organisers launched a Young Scientist and Youth Programme, aimed to cultivate talents for the future development of the world poultry industry. Eighteen young scientists from 12 countries were selected and were awarded with full registration to WPC2016, accommodation, and round trip economy air fare tickets to Beijing. Thirty three international students from 17 countries were awarded with full registration to WPC2016, accommodation and a one-week post-congress technical tour in Sichuan Province, China.

An exhibition of WPC history was run alongside the Congress. The exhibition sector of WPC2016 was in collaboration with the international VNU exhibition group, and was held on September 6-8, 2016. The combination of WPC2016 and the international exhibition of intensive animal husbandry provided an exchange platform for new ideas, new technologies and new products. More than 20,000 people attended the exhibition and registered.

WPC2016 enhanced international communication and broadened the channels of communication for the poultry industry. Through this, the domestic poultry scholars can understand the current poultry industry and the new trend of science and technology throughout the world intuitively and in-depth, which helped narrow the gap, broadened research ideas, and improved research abilities.

The success of WPC2016 is largely thanks to all the dedicated sponsors, and attendance from delegates representing each field of the poultry industry. It was a distinctive gathering, and the organisers hope all delegates enjoyed the academic as well as the social opportunities WPC2016 offered.

New WPSA officers

Four new Board members were elected during the WPSA Council Meeting in Beijing: Prof Ning Yang (China) as President; Dr Bob Buresh (USA) as Senior Vice-President and, Mr Yves Nys (France) and Prof Zehava Uni (Israel) as new Vice-Presidents. Dr Werner Bessei (Germany) and Dr Juliet Roberts (Australia) will continue to serve on the Board as Vice-Presidents. Treasurer, Dr Francine Bradley (USA) and General Secretary, Dr Roel Mulder (The Netherlands) will continue serving in their respective offices. Mr Alan Gibbins (New Zealand), and Prof Birger Svihus (Norway), remain as Presidents of the Asian Pacific Federation (APF) and European Federation (EF), respectively. Also continuing on the Board will be Dr Lucy Waldron (New Zealand) as the Editor of the World's Poultry Science Journal, Dr Michèle Tixier-Boichard (France) as the representative of the WPC2020, and Prof Edir Silva (Brazil), as immediate past-president.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043933916000970 Published online by Cambridge University Press

WPSA Awards 2016

To mark the success of the 1992 World's Poultry Congress in Amsterdam the Netherlands Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association established a series of special scholarship awards. The awards, worth € 11,000 (currently about US$ 12 500) are normally made in each of three categories representing the WPSA's three main areas of activity: Research, Education and Industry/ Organisation.



The Foundation for Promoting Poultry Science of the Netherlands Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association announced the sixth group of winners of these awards for 2016 at the XXV World's Poultry Congress in Beijing, China. In 2016, the Research award went to Prof Israel Rozenboim (Israel). No awards were made this year in the categories Education and Industry/Organisation.

For the past three decades, Prof Israel (Rully) Rozenboim major research studies were to create knowledge - based innovations to increase productivity in animal farming. His research therefore focuses on two major lines: firstly understanding the mechanism of photostimulation in domestic birds, followed by implementing the knowledge acquired as a practical tool in poultry management. Targeted monochromatic photostimulation and reproduction was explored in two major studies: The first investigated the role of monochromatic photostimulation in reproductive functions (egg and semen production) and the second in growth and development of meat type birds. Both studies created basic and practical knowledge. The other research line tries to understand and solve reproductive failures associated with aging and environmental stress in poultry. This is done while focusing on crucial questions in poultry welfare. The award will enable him to provide scholarship to students and present further results in upcoming meetings.

International Poultry Hall of Fame 2016

During the WPC meeting in Beijing, China the following distinguished poultry scientists were selected to the International Poultry Hall of Fame.

Professor Eddy Decuypere (Belgium)



Professor E. Decuypere obtained his master in zoology in 1969, his master in agronomy in 1972 and his PhD in agricultural sciences in 1979. Meanwhile he was working from 1974-1977 in Rwanda as responsible for agricultural practice and applied research in a developmental project.

He completed a post-doctoral position (1979-1980) at Rutgers University (New-Jersey, USA) and at Arizona State University (USA). From 1979 onwards he was a research fellow of the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (NFWO), then research director at NFWO until 1988.

From 1988 onwards he was full senior professor and head of the laboratory of Physiology of Domestic Animals at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), and extra-ordinary professor at the University of Wageningen (Netherlands) and collaborator of the Wageningen Business School for post-university education., as well as guest professor at the Sao Paulo University (Brazil) from 1996-2004. His main teaching duties include physiology of farm animals, production and reproduction physiology,

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043933916000970 Published online by Cambridge University Press

general animal husbandry, poultry production and biotechnology.

During his career he has published more than 850 papers in international peer reviewed journals and many book chapters and review papers. He has supervised 45 PhD students and lead 35 scientific projects (both national and international), mainly in the field of fundamental and applied poultry research. The main research themes were incubation and embryo development in the chicken,, endocrinology and energy metabolism in broilers, broiler breeder reproduction. Each of these themes linked fundamental as well as applied research topics, *e.g.* fundamental studies on epigenetics in the chick embryo as well as angiogenesis in the embryo as a model in relation to cancer research was linked, or emanated in research topics about better incubation conditions or tools for detecting fertility and predicting hatchability.

Fundamental studies on endocrinology of growth and reproduction and control of feed intake and energy metabolism were matched with studies on ascites in broilers, dwarfism in broiler breeders, improvement of lighting schedules, moulting in laying hens, understanding broiler breeder reproduction and paradox.

He has received several awards for his scientific work, amongst them the T. Newman Memorial Award, The Gordon Memorial Award and lecture, Doctor Honoris Causa from the Veterinary University of Budapest, Fellow of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS fellow), the Belgian Francqui chair, and the Farner medal for Avian Endocrinology.

Professor Decuypere is chairman of the Centre of Sciences and Ethics at the KU Leuven-university, vice chairman of the Interfaculty Centre for Agricultural History and was former Vice-dean of the Faculty of Bio-engineering Sciences.

Dr Henry Classen (Canada)



Henry Classen completed a B. S.A. at the University of Saskatchewan (1971) and pursued graduate studies at the University of Massachusetts (M.S. 1974, Ph.D. 1977). In 1978, he returned to Saskatchewan as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, became a tenured Professor in 1986, and served as Department Head from 2006-2011. In 2013, Dr Classen was named a Distinguished Professor and initiated a five-year term as Senior Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Chair in Poultry Nutrition.

Dr Classen's nutritional research has focused on feeding programmes and the nutritional value, anti- nutritional factors and processing of feed ingredients. He was a leader in the use of exogenous enzymes in poultry diets and his work contributed to changes in processing of canola meal worldwide. He also has a keen interest in poultry management and its impact on bird welfare. He has investigated lighting programmes for broiler chickens and turkeys, beak trimming in laying hens, broiler transportation, toe treatment in turkeys, and nutritional manipulation of bird behaviour. Practical solutions to industry problems have been Dr Classen's forte and the driving force behind his symbiotic relationship with industry and the success of the industry-funded Poultry Extension service at the University of Saskatchewan.

Believing in service to the research and teaching community, Dr Classen has made indispensable contributions to several professional organisations, including the WPSA Canada Branch and the Poultry Science Association. He has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the fields of animal and avian production, environment, physiology and nutrition, and received recognition for his teaching excellence and academic paternity. Many of his graduate students have become leaders in the national and international poultry industries as well as academia. He has authored or co-authored over 160 papers in refereed journals, over 20 book chapters and review articles, and numerous industry reports. He has been invited to present his research findings at poultry meetings and scientific conferences around the world.

Professor Changxin Wu (China)



Professor Changxin Wu graduated from Beijing Agricultural University with a major in Animal Science in 1957, and has been a faculty member of the university (now called China Agricultural University) since

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043933916000970 Published online by Cambridge University Press

then. He did his further study on animal genetics and breeding at Institute of Animal Genetics, Edinburgh University, Scotland, U. K. (1979-1981). After returning to the home school, he was promoted to the rank of associate professor in 1983, and full professor in1988. He was appointed as the head of the Department of Animal Science from 1983 to 1987, and the dean of the College of Animal Science and Technology from 1993 to 2004. He is now an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the highest honour in the scientific community of China.

Professor Wu became a member of WPSA in 1988 and was a key founder of WPSA China Branch, which is now one of the largest branches of WPSA. He served as the Secretary from 1990 to 1997 and the Chairman of China branch from 1997 to 2004. He also served as a Committee member of Asia-Pacific Federation of WPSA from 1988 to 2004. He attended the World's Poultry Congress in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008. He was a keynote speaker on 'Genetic changes affecting poultry production in China' during WPC 2000 in Montreal, Canada. He organised a satellite conference on waterfowl in Beijing just after WPC 1988, Nagoya, Japan. He chaired the scientific committee of the 25th World's Poultry Congress in 2016.In the fields of poultry science, he advanced the theory and method of 'synthetic line breeding system' in layer instead of 'closed flock breeding system' which was used for a long-time in the layer breeding in China, and the performance of layer was improved by using the new method. The achievement was awarded the 2nd class prize by the Ministry of Agricultural of China in 1992. Recognising the need of more efficient layers, he started to explore the use of dwarf gene in layer breeding. After eight years' research work, he and his colleagues successfully developed a commercial layer with the dwarf gene. The miniature layers have lower body weight and less feed intake, and the feed conversion rate is about 2:1. The achievement was awarded the 2nd class prize for the National Advances of Science and Technology by the Chinese Government in 1999. Now the miniature layers have been popularised about 80 million each year all over the country. His current research includes the genetic mechanism of hypoxia adaptation in Tibet chickens and published a book entitled 'Physiology and Genetics of Adaptability to Highland Hypoxia in Tibetan Chicken' in 2012.

Professor Wu is involved with conservation and utilisation of animal and poultry genetic resources. Molecular biotechnology, experimental animal simulation and geographical information system have been used in the conservation of animal and poultry genetic resources. Problems such as the effective population size, length of generation interval, optimum sex ratio and allowable inbreeding levels in a conserved population have been solved as a result. This achievement was awarded the 1st class prize by the Ministry of Agricultural of China in 1999 and the 2nd class prize by the State Council of China in 2001. For the utilisation of Chinese native chicken breeds, he has been involved with extension work through an academician work station in his name. The economic traits of these strains, such as egg number, egg shell quality, growth rate have been improved under his guidance.

Professor Wu is an excellent mentor for undergraduates and post-graduate students, teaching the topics of animal genetics, biostatistics, animal breeding and population genetics for undergraduate students and quantitative genetics, comparative animal breeding, and modern progress on animal breeding for graduate students. Because of his excellent teaching and education, the State Council gave him an honour certificate for his excellent contribution on the development China's education programmes in 1991. As the editor in chief, he compiled and published the books 'Animal Genetics' in 2015 and 'Animal Biology' in 2016. Up until now, more than 100 students have received PhD or master's degree under his guidance, among them 43 were awarded MSc and 76 PhD degrees, including 1 member of British Royal Society and 1 academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering

Professor Avigdor Cahaner (Israel)



Avigdor Cahaner obtained his PhD in Genetics and Breeding at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in 1977. In 1979, after two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the Avian Sciences Dept. of the University of California at Davis, he started to work at the Faculty of

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Agriculture as a Lecturer and researcher in poultry genetics and breeding. Later he was promoted to the ranks of Senior Lecturer (1987), Associate Professor (1992) and Full Professor (1997) . Recently he officially retired, but continues to do research and conduct teaching and training missions in various academic, public and industry organisations in Israel and worldwide.

Since 1977, Professor Cahaner has conducted basic and applied research on broiler genetics and breeding, in collaboration with many scientists in both academic and commercial sectors in Israel and worldwide. His international projects, over the years, were conducted in developed as well as developing countries, e.g. USA, Germany, The Netherlands, Egypt, Turkey, Vietnam, India, Ecuador, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.

Professor Cahaner's research has been covering a wide range of topics related to poultry breeding and production, especially with respect to genetic improvement of broiler performance and welfare under suboptimal conditions and stress environments. He is especially known for his innovating research showing that fast-growing broilers can acquire heat tolerance by the introduction of genes that reduce feather coverage (naked neck broilers) or totally eliminate the feathers (featherless broilers). Professor Cahaner's research included also to the applications of genomic information -- from 'DNA fingerprints' in the 1980's to SNPs and genome-wide association studies (GWAS) in the 2000's -- in basic research and in practical breeding. His research has yielded over 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and many invited presentations in international scientific meetings.

Professor Cahaner is deeply involved in WPSA affairs. He has been an active member of the Israeli Branch of WPSA since 1979, and currently he is the Branch's President. Since 1989, he is the Israeli representative at the European Federation's Working Group No. 3 (Poultry Genetics and Breeding), and active member of the Scientific Committee of this Working Group for many years.In 1996, Professor Cahaner was elected as Vice President of the world body of WPSA, and served in this post for 12 years, after being re-elected in 2000 and 2004. As Vice-President of WPSA, he was responsible mainly for relations with developing countries and the FAO, and for bringing INFPD (International Network for Family Poultry Development) into WPSA. Other WPSA-related activities of Professor Cahaner include membership in the Scientific Programme Committee of the 22nd World Poultry Congress (Turkey, 2004) and the 25th World Poultry Congress (China, 2016), and chairing WPSA's Nominations Advisory Committee (NAC).

Dr Paul Hocking



Dr Paul Hocking joined the Poultry Research Centre (PRC) in Edinburgh in 1983 after working in the cattle breeding industry and short periods of teaching and research in both England and Canada. The PRC subsequently became the Roslin Institute and part of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh in 2008 when he was appointed Reader.

Dr Hocking has conducted wide ranging research in poultry science and has published over 185 refereed papers, 280 abstracts and conference papers, including 92 invited contributions, nine book chapters and has edited two books. He has been an expert witness for the UK Government, the Farm Animal Welfare Council and a member of three EFSA Working Groups. His research has had three main themes: the productivity and welfare of breeding birds, the development and implementation of DNA markers for breed improvement and the identification of trait genes, and the investigation of specific production problems in poultry. He has also contributed to research on the structure of the eye and the importance of vision in birds, and was a member of the team that identified the cell autonomous (genetic) basis of sex determination in birds (Nature 464: 237-242).

Dr Hocking was secretary/assistant treasurer of the WPSA-UK branch from 1996-2000, treasurer/assistant secretary 2000-2002 and president from 2002-2006. He was elected as a Vice President of the European Federation of WPSA branches (2006-2010) and has been on the WPSA International Speakers Bureau since its inception. He has been the UK representative of Working Group 3 for many years and organised the 7th European Genetics

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043933916000970 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Symposium in 2009. He was chairman and WPSA representative on the Robert Fraser Gordon Trust and a section editor of British Poultry Science, member of the board and company director before becoming joint Chief Editor in 2010. He was on the panel of referees for Poultry Science 2008-2013 and is a member of the editorial board of Domestic Animal Endocrinology. Dr Hocking presented the Gordon Memorial Lecture in 2013 on 'Unexpected consequences of selection in broilers and turkeys: problems and solutions' (British Poultry Science 55: 1-12).

Dr Hocking has supervised or co-supervised 11 PhD students (and collaborated with colleagues at other universities on a further three PhD projects), seven MSc students and a number of undergraduate projects. He has served as PhD examiner both locally and internationally and has taught animal breeding undergraduate course and postgraduate seminars on poultry breeding and genetics.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council and General Assembly of the WPSA held at 16.30 hours on Thursday, September 8th 2016 in Room 311B of the China National Convention Centre (CNCC), Beijing, China

1. **Welcome by the President**
   The President welcomed all representatives of Branches and members of WPSA.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
   No apologies for absence were received.
3. **Roll Call**
   A Roll Call of Branches was held. 40 Branches had representatives in attendance.
4. **Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council**
   (held in Salvador, Brazil, August 8th, 2012).The Minutes were approved.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
   There were no matters arising from the minutes.
6. **Election of Officers for 2016-2020**
   The President announced that there had been only one nomination for the Office of President (Prof N. Yang, China), for the office of Secretary (Dr R.W.A.W. Mulder, The Netherlands), and for the office of Treasurer (Dr Francine Bradley, United States of America). These Officers were therefore elected by acclamation.Dr Bradley explained the voting procedures for the Vice-Presidents.There were nine candidates proposed for the five Vice-President positions. These were: Prof Dr Werner Bessei (Germany), Dr Robert Buresh (United States of America), Prof Anna Barroeta (Spain), Dr Fallou Guèye (Senegal), Mr Yves Nys (France), Mr Moshiur Rahman (Bangladesh), Prof Juliet Roberts (Australia), Dr Maritza Tamayo (Mexico) and Prof Zehava Uni (Israel).All Branch Secretaries received a short biography of each candidate. Following the results of the vote, the President announced Dr Robert Buresh as Senior Vice-President and Prof Dr Werner Bessei, Mr Yves Nys, Prof Juliet Roberts and Prof Zehava Uni as Vice-Presidents.
7. **Reports of the Officer for 2012 – 2016**
   The President, Secretary and Treasurer presented their reports which will be published in the WPSJ.
8. **Vision and Mission of WPSA**
   Mr Gibbins gave a short presentation of the Vision and Mission statement of WPSA. The vision of WPSA is to be the leading global network for poultry science and technology. The WPSA mission is to share and disseminate knowledge, to be responsive to the challenges facing poultry science and industry, to develop and maintain branches that are active and engaged, to create an environment for professional development of members, to collaborate and link with other similar organisations and to be an advocate for science based policy.To achieve this, a total of eight Action Plans have been adopted. These portfolios should be divided among the Vice-Presidents of the new Board (two

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VPs for each action plan) and should be reported on in the Board meetings.The eight action plans are:- Communication (branches, secretaries, website and newsletters, dues) - Conferences (organisation of archives, improving conference quality) - Sponsorship (cultivating more targeted sponsorship)- Publications (being more innovative in journal & proceedings production)- Education (support for teachers of poultry science, resource kits)- Extension & Research (coordinating Travel Grants, Speakers' Bureau)- Response to challenges facing poultry (e.g. sustainability, AGPs, welfare)- Collaboration (more, with other likeminded organisations e.g. FAO)

9. **Presentation of five members for the International Poultry Hall of Fame**
   The President reported that nine nominations had been received for the IPHF. The Selection Committee chose the following persons: Prof Dr Eddy Decuypere (Belgium), Dr Henry Classen (Canada), Prof Changxin Wu (China), Prof Avigdor Cahaner (Israel) and Dr Paul Hocking (United Kingdom). A plaque was presented to each of the five inductees.
10. **Reports WPSA Award Winners 2012**
    In 2012 two Awards were given: the Research Award (Dr Jae Yong Han) and the Education Award (Dr Mingan Choct, The Poultry Cooperative Research Center).Both gave a short presentation of their work.
11. **Report of the next World's Poultry Congress in 2020 in Paris, France**
    Dr Michèle Tixier-Boichard reported on the progress made in preparing the XXVI Congress in Paris, France which will be held from 16-20 August 2020.
12. **Any other business**
    None
13. **Closing of the meeting by the retiring President and installation of the President for 2016 – 2020**
    Dr Silva expressed his thanks to all officers, members and branches. The retiring President then asked Prof. Ning Yang to take the President's chair and presented him with the Presidential regalia. Prof. Yang thanked the retiring President and Council.

Report of the President 2012-2016

My duties and responsibilities as the President of the WPSA have included serving the board and the Executive Committee; serving on WPSA Committees; promoting Vision and Mission of WPSA at meetings, symposia and conferences; attending and representing the Board at WPSA sponsored international meetings; assisting in the establishment and operation of WPSA Branches. Besides participating in events, it has been a privilege and an honour for me to participate in meetings, events, exhibitions and other activities, selecting travel grant applicants, making comments and following board member discussions. I would like to emphasise and share my thoughts with the board members concerning including in future discussions; a review of future WPSA actions and how we can encourage more active and team leader scientists to step forward for our vice-presidents position next term. It is important to motivate the new generation of talented, leading poultry scientists to become actively involved in our organisation.

These activities in the last four years, as WPSA President, have been very stimulating and enjoyable for me. Although being President has taken up a great part of my time, it has been very stimulating. Over the last four years I have attended VIV China 2012, Beijing, China, 23-25 September; VIII International Seminar on Poultry Science and III Poultry Expo, City of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 11-13 October 2012; IPPE 2013/2014/2015/2016, Atlanta, USA; VIV Asia 2013, March 2013; WPSA Scientific Sessions, Sri Lanka, 18 May 2013; WPSA-Brazilian Branch Annual Meetings in 2013/2014/2015/2016; Brazilian Poultry Congress, São Paulo, Brazil, 27-29 August 2013; XV European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products, and XXI European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat, Bergamo, Italy, 16-19 September 2013; International Conference on

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Advancements in Poultry in the Middle East and African States, Antalya, Turkey, 21-25 October 2013; XXIII Latin America Poultry Congress, San Salvador, El Salvador, 12-15 November 2013; Holland Association Symposium, Maastricht, The Netherlands, 28-29 November, 2013; WPSA & VNUE - VIV International Nigeria Summit 2014, Abuja, Nigeria, 15 January, 2014. XII Annual Brazilian Poultry Layer Conference, Ribeirao Preto, SP, Brazil, 27 March 2014; WPSA Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 14-20 June 2014; International Seminar on Immunology and Poultry vaccines, Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia, 7 June 2014; Brazilian Association of Animal Protein, São Paulo, Brazil, 16 July 2014; 37th Annual Scientific Meeting of the egg producers, Bastos, SP, Brazil, 18 July 2014; 4th Mediterranean Poultry Summit, Beirut, Lebanon, 2-5 September 2014; 9th International Poultry Show and Seminar 2015 (IPSS), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 19-21 February 2015; 5th Nigeria International Poultry Summit 2015, Ilorin, Kwara Sate, Nigeria, 10-14 May 2015; Brazilian International Poultry and Pig Show 2015, São Paulo, Brazil, 28-30 July 2015; XXIV Latin America Poultry Congress (LAPC), Guayaquil, Ecuador, 8-11 September 2015; The Potential for Poultry Production in Developing Countries, Antalya, Turkey, 15-18 October 2015; Centre D'exellence Regional Sur Les Sciences Aviares (Cersa), Lomé, Togo, 2-6 December 2015; Poultry Summit Europe, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 16-18 May 2016; 2nd International Conference on Livestock Nutrition, Brisbane, Australia, 21-22 July 2016; X International Seminar on Poultry Science (X Seminario Internacional En Ciencias Avícolas), Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 25-26 August 2016.

We made several attempts to stimulate and promote poultry production development thought science and technology dissemination concerning WPSA activities on Africa (sub-Saharan countries). Regarding the African Poultry Network, Bob Pym (Chair) aimed to establish an African Poultry Network's (APN) and, to this end, a workshop was held during the International Congress on 'Advancements in Poultry Production in the Middle East and Africa', in Antalya, Turkey on 26th of October, 2013. This event followed on from the International Conference on Advancements in Poultry in the Middle East and African States. The APN workshop was held on October 25th. I provided the opening address and attended throughout the day. The programme was completed, and all points were discussed and rewritten according to Bob Pym's recommendations, whose hard work and preparation as the Chairperson made this meeting possible. Also, thanks to Michelle Tixier, for her presence and valuable contributions. It was a unique opportunity to have all of these important people together to launch this important programme for the African region.

A call for proposals was launched by Africa-Brazil Agricultural Innovation Marketplace as part of the Platform for African & European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development Phase II (PAEPARD II), in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (www.mktplace.org and www.africa-Brazil.org). Currently the MKTPlace funds 66 projects involving more than 29 Embrapa Centers in more than 21 countries in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. I had direct contact with the Brazilian partners enrolled in this initiative (Embrapa) to enrol the APN team on this, as it was a unique opportunity which could enable WPSA to make a real impact in Sub-Sahara Africa, as part of the APN proposal. They were very enthusiastic with the possibility to be a partner in this project. However, it remains that the motivation must come from Africa. Unfortunately our African steering committee members didn't show commitment or provided inputs for the proposal within the time frame required.

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks and congratulate all board members, WPSA branch representatives, and supporters with special recognition to all the sponsors that made the WPSA worldwide activities possible.

I want to recognise some special people in our association. My particular thanks to Francine for her above and beyond efforts as our Treasurer; we have been in very good and caring hands. Also, to our General Secretary Roel Mulder, thanks for his outstanding performance over the past four years; and to Dorien for her exceptional contribution in her support of Roel and to keep moving all of us on time. It is pleasing to see that all of you will be staying on in this capacity on the new Board. Thanks to Alan and Birger, President for the Asian Pacific and European Federations for their contribution to their respectively Federation. A special thanks to Lucy for her efforts as Editor in modernising and

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expanding the size and scope of WPSJ and in delivering its currently high impact factor.

To Bob, many thanks indeed for your valuable contribution over the past eight years to WPSA. Specially conducting the revision of the Constitution, support for the establishment of the Mediterranean and African Poultry networks, and the family poultry farming working group as a global working group of WPSA, among many other activities. My very best wishes to Ning and the new Board for a productive and enjoyable term of office. And finally, my thanks to all of you for your efforts on behalf of WPSA, it has been a pleasure working with you. I encourage all of you to keep supporting and attending the WPSA activities.

Edir N. Silva

Report of the Treasurer 2012-2015

Annual dues income continued to cycle, with our average over the last four years of $108,981. Total income from journal sponsors and advertisers fluctuated, the four year average being $128,761. In general, income from journal sales averaged around $55,136.

Expenses associated with printing and mailing WPSJ have declined each year. While the four-year average was $153,475, 2015 expenses were only $124,946. During the period in question, there was nearly a 50% reduction in printing costs. However, the greater savings was in mailing costs - a 70% reduction. This was made possible due to the members now receiving the journal on-line. Costs associated with the general operations of WPSA decreased since 2013 and some of this was due to the strengthening of the US dollar. In 2015, general operations expenses were $98,363.

Enriching the experiences of our members and the continuing development of Branches and Federations, remains the strong commitment of the WPSA Board. This is accomplished through Special Programmes: Travel Grants, Branch Development, Speakers' Bureau, and the Archives. Funds budgeted for these activities far exceeded the actual funds used. Successful applications for the various Programmes peaked in 2013, when $56,649 was awarded. On average, $45,065 was expended per year. Once again, I encourage individual members and Branch Secretaries to apply for these funds.

Looking at total income versus total expenses, only in 2015 did income exceed expenses. For every year except 2012, all journal income exceeded all journal expenses. The year of 2012 had unusually high expenses. Again, due to accounting problems at CUP, WPSA was not billed for 2011 management fees until 2012. This resulted in the payment of two years' worth of management fees in 2012. Dues income covered general operations in two out of the four years (just as in 2008-11). Both dues income and certain expenses can be cyclic. On the average, dues income came up short $5,213/yr over general operation expenses.

The good news is that the Association's net worth has increased every year, ending with $1,565,501 in 2015. This is due to the performance of our investment portfolio. The total rate of return for the four-year period was 52.44%.

Because of the financial health of WPSA, no dues increases are necessary. However, Branches must pay their dues. The retention of an increase in journal support is crucial. Members and Branches should be making better use of the Special Programmes. My thanks to the membership for their confidence in re-electing me. I pledge to take the greatest care with our expenditures and continue our current, conservative investment strategies.

Report of the Secretary 2012-2016

Membership of the WPSA has increased from 7677 on 01-01-2012 to 8007 on 01-01-2016, a total increase of 330 members = 4%. Three new Branches were (re-)established in Azerbaijan (2012), United Arab Emirates (2013) and Zimbabwe (2013).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043933916000970 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The Board of the WPSA held its annual meetings: in Salvador, Brazil in combination with WPC2012, August 2012; in Bergamo, Italy in combination with the XXI European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat and the XV European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products, September 2013; in Jeju, Korea Republic in combination with the 10th Asia Pacific Poultry Conference, October 2014; in Prague, Czech Republic in combination with the 20th European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition, August 2015.

In 2015 the new WPSA website was launched. Many thanks to the great work to my secretary Dorien Kleverwal. Support was received from several others, but special thanks to the work of Prof Rob Gous and his South African colleagues.

The activities in this field have been limited. Over the years offers of training from several universities and institutes are published in our Journal and on the website. For the past few years there are contacts with World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH) a new branch of the European Association for Veterinary Specialisation. These have been promoted and discussions now may lead to courses in egg production.

From 2012-2015 in total 64 travel grants (including eleven 40+ applications) were accepted to attend the following meetings: Mediterranean Poultry Summit (Egypt 2012, Lebanon 2014), UK Spring meeting (2012, 2013, 2015), World's Poultry Congress (Brazil 2012), International Poultry Show and Seminar (Bangladesh 2013, 2015), European Symposia on Poultry Nutrition (Germany 2013, Czech Republic 2015), European Symposium on Poultry Welfare (Sweden 2013), European Symposia on the Quality of Poultry Meat and Eggs (Italy 2013, France 2015), World Waterfowl Conference (Vietnam 2013), International Conference on Poultry Production in ME and Africa (Turkey 2013), European Poultry Conference (Norway 2014), Poultry Science Association Meeting (USA 2014), Asian Pacific Poultry Conference (Korea Republic 2014), Australian Poultry Science Symposium (2015), International Poultry Science Forum (USA 2015), Potential for Poultry Production (Turkey 2015). In 2016 travel grants were accepted for the Poultry Science Association meeting, the World's Poultry Congress 2016 and the Mediterranean Poultry Summit. Not all recipients could attend the meetings they applied for, sometimes for financial reasons or a visa was denied.

From 2012-2015 a total of 39 requests for the Speaker's bureau were accepted. The following branches made an application: Algeria, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Korea Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey, Vietnam.

During the Asian Pacific Poultry Conference in Jeju, Republic of Korea, October 2014 Mr Alan Gibbins (New Zealand) was re-elected as President for the next four years. Dr Jae Yong Han (Republic of Korea) was elected as Senior Vice-President, Dr Pratuang Sudsakorn (Thailand) as Junior Vice-President and Mr D.V. Thomas (New Zealand) as Secretary/Treasurer. The 11th Conference of the Asian Pacific Federation will be held in 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Symposia of Working Groups of the Asian Pacific Federation were held by:

- Group 2 'Waterfowl' in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2013
- Group 3 'Ratites' in Johannesburg, South Africa 2016

During the European Poultry Conference in Stavanger, Norway, June 2014, as successor to Dr. Yves Nys (France), Prof. Dr Birger Svihus (Norway) was elected President of the European Federation of WPSA for the next four years. Prof. Estella Prukner-Radovcic (Croatia) was elected as 1st Vice-President, Prof Carlos Garcés Narro (Spain) as 2nd Vice-President and Prof M.A. Grashorn (Germany) as Secretary/Treasurer.

The 15th European Poultry Conference will be in 2018 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.Symposia of Working Groups of the European Federation were held by:

- Group 1 'Economics and Marketing' in Zollikofen (Switzerland) in 2013 and Cambridge (United Kingdom) in 2015
- Group 2 'Poultry Nutrition' in Potsdam (Germany) in 2013 and in Prague (Czech Republic) in 2015
- Group 3 'Breeding and Genetics' in Venice (Italy) in 2013 and in Tuusula (Finland) in 2015
- Group 4 and 5 'Quality of Poultry Meat and Eggs' in Bergamo (Italy) in 2013 and in Nantes (France) 2015
- Group 6 'Reproduction' in Gottingen (Germany) in 2013, in Lunteren (The

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043933916000970 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Netherlands) in 2014 and in Berlin (Germany) in 2015
- Group 9 'Poultry Welfare' in Uppsala (Sweden) in 2013
- Group 10 'Turkeys' in Berlin (Germany) in 2013 and 2015
- Group 11 'Education' was involved in the programmes of the other symposia. The Mediterranean Poultry Summit 2014 in Beirut, Lebanon, was organised under the umbrella of Working group 11.
- Group 12 'Physiology' in Gottingen (Germany) in 2013 and Berlin (Germany) in 2015

Furthermore, there were many conferences organised by local Branches.

Regarding the WPSJ, this is available on-line to members, and now over 6000 members receive the online Journal. Over the years the number of companies advertising in and sponsoring the WPSJ has decreased. In 2012 there were 31 advertisers and 35 sponsors companies; in 2016 there were 27 advertisers and 22 sponsors for the WPSJ.

Costs for printing and postage are expected to be kept more or less at the same level as previous years. Complaints about delivery of the print copy of the journal have decreased, as branch secretaries are better in providing the correct addresses. Some branches have now indicated that they would like to receive the journal again by normal mail – but individual members will need to request this directly via the web page.

For general promotion of WPSA and WPSJ, abstracts of papers have been made available via newsletters of magazines produced by Reed Publications 'World Poultry' and Watt Publications 'Poultry International'. There are links to the WPSA website as well as to the Cambridge University Press websites for membership and WPSJ information.

The Newsletter has over 1500 subscribers and contains increasingly more information on Branch activities. The Newsletter will be e-mailed to individual members, on request. People who are interested to receive the WPSA Newsletter can subscribe to it on the WPSA website.

In order to promote WPSA and to have contact with present and future advertisers and sponsors, WPSA had a booth at several exhibitions.

2012: WPSA was present at the International Production and Processing Exhibition, IPPE, (Atlanta, USA), Victam Asia (Bangkok, Thailand), Bahrain International Agricultural Exhibition (Bahrain), AGRA ME (Dubai, UAE), VIV China (Beijing, China), Saudi Agricultural Exhibition (Riyahd, Saudi Arabia) and Eurotier (Hannover, Germany). During AGRA ME, WPSA organised with help of the local exhibition organiser the 1st Poultry Outlook Forum. During VIV China, WPSA took part in a Poultry Summit, organised by VNU Exhibitions.

2013: WPSA was present at IPPE (Atlanta, USA), VIV Asia (Bangkok, Thailand), AGRA ME (Dubai, UAE), VIV Russia (Moscow, Russia) and the International Animal Farming Exhibition (Kiev, Ukraine). Further at the European Symposium on animal welfare (Uppsala, Sweden) and the European Symposia on the quality of poultry meat and the quality of eggs (Bergamo, Italy). During VIV Asia a symposium was organised focussing on the Worlds Poultry Congress in China 2016. During AGRA ME the 2nd Poultry Outlook Forum was organised. During VIV Russia together with the Russian Branch of WPSA a special symposium 'WPSA & Russian Branch Conference 'Poultry Outlooks' was organised. The same type of meeting was held in Kiev, together with the WPSA Ukraine branch.

2014: WPSA was present at the Poultry Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, IPPE (Atlanta, USA), Victam Asia (Bangkok, Thailand), AGRA ME (Dubai, UAE), VIV Europe (Utrecht, The Netherlands, VIV China (Beijing, China) and Saudi Agricultural Exhibition (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia). Further at the Mediterranean Poultry Summit in Beirut, Lebanon and the Asian Pacific Poultry Conference (Jeju, Republic of Korea). Together with the UAE branch the 3rd Poultry Outlook Forum was organised at AGRA ME (Dubai, UAE). During VIV Europe a special session on Alternatives to reduce antibiotic usage was chaired. During VIV China, WPSA took part in a Poultry Summit, organised by VNU Exhibitions.

2015: WPSA was present at IPPE (Atlanta, USA), VIV Asia (Bangkok, Thailand), AGRA ME (Dubai, UAE), AGRA ME (Dubai, UAE), Victam Europe (Cologne, Germany), the European Symposia on the Quality of Poultry Meat and the Quality of Eggs (Nantes, France) and the European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition (Prague, Czech Republic). During

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VIV Asia a WPSA Poultry Conference was organised, the 4th Poultry Outlook Forum was held in Dubai, UAE.

In many occasions local WPSA members helped to organise the booth.

Over the period 2012-2016 the Secretary attended several Branch meetings and symposia, conferences and congresses.

2012: The inaugural meeting of the Azerbaijan branch, the international seminar organised by the Russian Branch, the International Poultry Conference organised by the Indonesian Branch in Padang, (Sumatra, Indonesia) and the 19th Finnish and Baltic conference in Riga, Latvia were attended.

2013: The International Poultry Show and Seminar in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the 20th Finnish and Baltic Poultry Conference in Helsinki, Finland, the European Symposium on animal welfare in Uppsala, Sweden, the European Symposia on the quality of poultry meat and the quality of eggs in Bergamo, Italy, the International Waterfowl Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam, and the inaugural meeting of the UAE branch in AL Ain, UAE, were attended.

2014: *T*he Hafez Symposium on Turkey Diseases in Berlin, Germany, the 4th Mediterranean Poultry Summit, in Beirut, Lebanon, and the International Poultry Symposium organised by the Turkish Branch in Elazig, Turkey were attended.

2015*:* The International Show and Seminar organised by the Bangladesh branch in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Quality of Poultry Meat and the Quality of Eggs Symposia in Nantes, France, the Russian Branch meeting in Sergiev Posad, near Moscow, Russia, the Scientific sessions organised by the WPSA Sri Lanka branch in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the branch meeting of the UAE branch at UAE University in Al Ain, UAE, were attended.

All together we have had a successful four years, thanks to the cooperation of the Board and Executive Committee. I sincerely thank Prof Dr Edir Silva, Dr Francine Bradley and Prof Dr Werner Bessei and my secretary Dorien Kleverwal in this respect.

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