



**Merry Christmas
& Best Wishes
for 2009**



FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Dear All,

It is my intention to contribute a short article to each newsletter; whether or not I'll succeed is anyone's guess...

Unfortunately I have to kick off with some sombre news. The three Parasitology teams within AgResearch Animal Health have been undergoing a review of capabilities. I'm sure we all know what that means; this has been particularly difficult for many of the people involved, particularly those who went through the pain of the Wallaceville closure, relocation and retrenchment. The number of staff reductions would have been greater but for the last minute intervention of FRST, who provided enough money to save two positions for the next 18 months. Despite this, a total of 4 parasitology positions have been lost – two voluntary and two compulsory.

The current events make it even more crucial that we are proactive in raising the profile of parasitology research in New Zealand – industry and government needs to know who we are and what we have to offer. It should go without saying that we also have to be relevant and responsive to their needs. As a starting point, I have asked a number of people to contribute to the development of a strategy to pursue these objectives. I would like to thank Simone Hoskin, Tony Rhodes, Allen Heath and Bill Pomroy for agreeing to help. We held our first meeting last week and I was delighted with the enthusiasm and commitment shown by each of the participants. As a first step, our intention is to develop a foresight process to examine where parasitology research in New Zealand could go and should go. I am confident this will have a significant impact in the future, and more details will follow as they become available.

So, although our numbers may have decreased still further, I sense the time is right to fight back. Our discipline is important – it has just been overlooked.

It only remains for me to wish you and your families well over the holiday period, and hopefully we can all look forward to a bright 2009.

Merry Christmas, and take care on Hogmanay.

Ian

MORE FROM THE CONFERENCE

There was discussion at the annual conference regarding our intention to create a travelling museum exhibit, with the expectation it would raise the profile of parasitology. Planning for this is continuing, and hopefully we will have more news soon. Given this project is expected to have a relatively long development period, the Executive has decided to complement the exhibit with a Powerpoint presentation on parasites and parasitism. When completed, the presentation will be made available to all members for use in their local schools, universities etc. This will not be a dry scientific presentation, but instead will illustrate the wonderful world of parasites and their impact on all of our lives.

We would be grateful if you could look around for any good quality images of parasites/parasitism you may have (and which we can legally reproduce). Ideas for content are also extremely welcome.

Please send to Ian Sutherland (ian.sutherland@agresearch.co.nz) or any of the other executive members.

NOTICES

ICOPA XII

15 – 20 August 2010, Melbourne [<http://www.icopaxii.org>]

From Malcolm, Brown, Leo and Mark....

Novel Approaches 6 (NA6) - update and request comments

After due consideration of thoughtful comments and suggestions, the local committee has been proceeding with plans to integrate NA6 within the next ICOPA conference (<http://www.icopaxii.org>). There have been 6 symposia slots of 1.5 hours duration allocated and these will likely be over 2 days within the ICOPA conference program.

As yet registration costs have not been finalised but it is anticipated that a 2 day registration for those who only wish to attend NA6 will be possible.

The ICOPA Conference organisers have indicated the following:

- lunch will be provided during poster sessions each day as part of registration
- dinner will available most days (provided by sponsors and included in registration)
- international symposium chairmen and speakers will probably be offered some level of support
- scholarships for attendance will be available for postgraduate students and developing nation scientists
- an excellent conference program has been put together.

From general consensus, the following topics are proposed for the six NA6 sessions:

- (1) Refugia/ resistance management / targeted treatment
- (2) Alternative parasiticides
- (3) Communication of helminth control strategies
- (4) How to use new anthelmintics?
- (5) Novel diagnostics
- (6) Topics relevant to developing nations / non-ruminants / non-nematodes?

Within each of these it is anticipated that 2-3 speakers will introduce allocated topics to promote general discussion. Once the organisers have agreed on the topics for sessions, they will soon need to indicate speakers and their specific subjects.

Please forward any comments on the above list as soon as possible so that these can be fed back to the ICOPA Organisers prior to the Christmas break. Of particular importance is some feedback on possible issues to be discussed in Topic 6.

ROYAL SOCIETY

Constituent Organisations' Meeting Minutes

The recent RSNZ Constituent Organisations' meeting in Wellington was attended by Ian Sutherland. The minutes from the meeting are available.

Please contact Tania Waghorn [tania.waghorn@agresearch.co.nz]

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Letter to New Zealand Parasitologists

Forty years ago (1967) CSIRO sheep parasitologists combined with ruminant nutritionists in a trial to establish the effect of parasites on the efficiency of grazing feed conversion in adult Merino sheep. The trial took place at Chiswick, Armidale, NSW.

Estimates were made of the Dry Matter availability, Organic Matter Intake, grazing times, epg, live weights and wool production at monthly intervals of 3 flocks of dry Merino ewes stocked at 4, 8 and 12 sheep/acre which received no anthelmintic treatment. Similar estimates were made on ewes stocked at 4.5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 sheep/acre and maintained virtually free of worms by fortnightly drenching with thiabendazole.[after 12 months some resistant worms were present in the drenched flock].

Parasite infection depressed wool production and appeared to increase intake. As a result, overall gross efficiency of wool production was

depressed from 14.1 to 10.8 g of wool per kg of organic matter digested. Sheep stocked at 12/acre without anthelmintic treatment had a higher epg, longer grazing time and had a higher OMI, despite having less pasture available for ingestion.

My question to NZ Parasitologists is,"has anyone in NZ compared the efficiency of production of drenched and undrenched ewes (wool production, number of surviving lambs, milk production and lamb growth rate, productive lifetime)? Is it false economy to use mature ewes as pasture vacuum cleaners?"

What about cattle milk production?

Regards

David Heath

[Feed-back can be sent either to David or back to the newsletter](#)

INTERESTING WEBSITE

Parasite coverage in the newly-launched TeAra 'settled landscape' theme

An on-line encyclopaedia was launched in late November. Members may like to look at the coverage parasites get ...potentially useful educational / public awareness material.

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/TheSettledLandscape/AnimalFarming/DiseasesOfSheepCattleAndDeer/en>

from Gregor Yeates

JOB SEEKER

"My first name is Azar. I am woman born in 1969 at Tehran, studying school and finished high school in 1989. Entered Tehran university in 1991 in medical laboratory course for two years and graduated with grade B(15.65 from 20). Again I entered Hamedan university in 2001 till 2003 and my course was medical entomology(Insectology). I graduated with grade B (16.25 from 20). For MS degree I entered Kerman University in 2005 and graduated in July 2008 with grade A (17.75 from 20). I gave a lecture at congress of parasitology you participated in 2008 and will attach you summary of my lecture which was published in summary book of congress. Also I have been working for 6 years as lab. technician at medical laboratory of hospital, so I have lots of talents and skills in my job which helps me always to do best. I'll send you translation of my work certificate and other information you need too. For each grade I had an entrance exam and Hamedan, Kerman are two cities of Iran with good quality of universities. I can work on medical entomology too. As I explained before I need to use scholarship and need to have a job to continue my study till getting Phd degree. I love research and If you want I can work in all fields of parasitology. Im waiting for your reply and thank you for your kindly help."

Best regards
Azar.Shokri

Via David Heath.
Please contact David for details
[\[david.heath@agresearch.co.nz\]](mailto:david.heath@agresearch.co.nz)

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Return Subscription to: Dr Ian Scott
IVABS, College of Sciences, Massey University
Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North

Detach here

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY SUBSCRIPTION 2008 / 2009

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INTERESTING (SIC) PARASITE QUESTIONS



1. How long is the longest nematode ever recorded?
2. What sticky product is used to aid the diagnosis of pinworm?
3. Of which city is Ian Scott a native?

The first person to email the correct answers will receive a free year's subscription to the NZSP newsletter.