
Association News

Providing travel assistance for young WPSA members and students to participate in regional and global WPSA conferences

The Association has funds set aside for a limited number of travel grants. These are to provide international travel assistance for young WPSA members (both scientists and poultry producers) from developing countries and students from developed countries to

attend and participate in regional and global WPSA conferences.

The application conditions and the application form can be downloaded from the website (www.wpsa.com).

WPSA Travel Grant programme for older scientists (>40 yrs) from developing countries

For many years, the WPSA Board has supported a travel grant programme for members 40 years of age and younger, to enable them to attend international WPSA-sponsored meetings in other countries. Application for these grants is open to WPSA members from both developing and developed countries. It is recognised that older scientists from developing countries, even those in relatively senior positions, frequently have considerable difficulty in finding funds to attend international meetings. It is even more difficult for scientists in this age group who have only recently obtained a higher degree. Because of the lack of available training opportunities, many scientists in developing countries are near to 40 by the time they obtain a higher degree and be in a position to present their work at international meetings. The value of interaction with other scientists with similar interests and expertise, is well recognised.

It is for these reasons that WPSA has instituted a new travel grant programme to assist older (>40 years) WPSA members from developing countries to attend and present a paper (oral or poster) at international meetings. The programme is designed to

provide some financial assistance, NOT to cover the entire costs of the travel to and attendance at the meeting in question. As a not-for-profit organisation, WPSA has limited funds to allocate towards the programme, which means that the number of grants and the size of the individual grants, will not be great. Successful applicants are encouraged to use the grant as leverage in application for additional funding from the applicant's institution or other bodies. The programme is competitive and applicants are required to provide information about their research, and current status and about their planned contribution to the meeting in question, as described below and on the application form. Successful applicants will be expected to provide on their return, a brief report on the meeting and on the benefits derived by their attendance.

All applications will be assessed by a travel grants assessment committee set up under the WPSA Board. The committee will make its recommendations to the Secretary, who will advise the applicants in due course. The application conditions and the application form can be downloaded from the website (www.wpsa.com).

WPSA Speakers Bureau Fostering local and regional conferences in the poultry sciences

During the 34th meeting of the Board of WPSA on August 20, 2000 in Montreal, Canada it was recognised that expertise in several areas of poultry science and production in low income countries is often very limited, and WPSA branches in these countries often do not have sufficient financial resources to fund overseas speakers.

To address this problem, the Board created a Speakers' Bureau to assist branches in low income countries to cover the travel costs of expert international speakers. This measure is consistent with the key objective of WPSA to encourage and facilitate liaison among research scientists and educators, between those in research and education and those working in the many diverse sectors of the poultry industry. Under the Speakers' Bureau scheme, WPSA will pay only the cost of air travel (lowest economy class). All other expenses such as local travel and accommodation are to be paid by the organizing Branch(es). WPSA will not pay any honorarium to speakers.

In 2011 the Speakers' Bureau has been extended to include speakers for Working Group meetings in both the European and Asian Pacific Federation.

A Branch (or group of Branches) may either identify a speaker to invite or seek the advice of WPSA in the selection of an appropriate speaker.

Given the high cost of international air travel it is important that optimum value be obtained from this expenditure by WPSA. This can be achieved by insisting that the visiting speaker provides more than just one paper at a conference. The visiting speaker could contribute in a variety of ways, e.g., present a second paper on a related topic, conduct a workshop for graduate students, have small group or one-on-one interaction, especially with students, visit industry groups, visit university groups, etc.

Where a Branch or a group of Branches wish

to apply for Speakers' Bureau assistance, there are certain conditions which must be met:

Application conditions

- Application must be made using the WPSA Speakers' Bureau application form.
- Where the Branch (or group of Branches) has identified a speaker that they would like to invite, the *Curriculum Vitae* of that speaker must be submitted on the WPSA Speakers Bureau Speakers CV Form.
- Application must be submitted at least 2 months prior to the meeting.
- The speaker must contribute more to the meeting and/or branch than just presenting one paper.
- The speaker must be given an assignment dealing with the students at the Conference.
- Unless the Branch (or group of Branches) can pay all the speakers' costs itself, a speaker should NOT be invited until approval of Speakers' Bureau funds is made by the WPSA Executive Committee. The Branch(es) should not assume that approval will be given until so advised by the WPSA Secretary.
- Following approval, the speaker or the local Branch will be reimbursed by the WPSA Treasurer after the meeting.
- A maximum of 2 speakers will be sponsored from the Speakers' Bureau per meeting.
- The Branch(es) must be up-to-date with their membership payment.
- Incomplete or late submissions will NOT be considered.

Full details and application forms can be obtained from the WPSA secretariat (wpsa@xs4all.nl) or can be downloaded from the WPSA website (www.wpsa.com).

The completed application forms should be sent by e-mail to wpsa@xs4all.nl

Foundation for Promoting Poultry Science Stichting Bevordering Plumveewetenschappen

The XIX World's Poultry Congress, held in September 1992 in Amsterdam, was financially successful. This outcome was, to a large extent, due to the contributions received from the 16 main sponsors and over 2500 participants. The terms of reference of the Congress Organizing Foundation required that any credit balance that resulted after all liabilities had been met should be made available to the Dutch Branch of WPSA as initiator of the organization of the Congress. As a result, a Foundation for Promoting Poultry Science (Stichting Bevordering Plumveewetenschappen) was founded. The general objective of this foundation are "to promote the developments and propagation of poultry science in WPSA-structures, and specifically:

1. the stimulation of international congresses and the promotion of participation in these events, and
2. the support of initiative having the objective of establishing WPSA-branches in countries which do not yet have them".

Individuals and organizations may apply for financial support for appropriate WPSA activities such as conferences, congresses and

symposia. Applications for financial support of conferences, congresses and symposia should be forwarded through the local WPSA Branch.

The Foundation has a particular interest in assisting in the process of establishing new WPSA branches and therefore supports these branches by covering for three years part of the membership fees. Individuals and organizations may apply for financial support by contacting Ir H. Hupkes, Odijkerweg 37, NL-3972 NE Driebergen, The Netherlands, e-mail: h.hupkes@zonnet.nl. An application form will be send on request.

The Board of directors of the Foundation meets three or four times a year. In case of requests for financial assistance to attend conferences, congresses and symposia, applications should be received by the secretary at least 3 months before the meeting.

Application forms should be filled out completely and can be send through e-mail and fax. An original application form should be send by regular mail.

It is the Boards policy not to fund individual applicants more than 2 times.

WPSA Website: www.wpsa.com

The WPSA website provides much valuable information about the organisation and activities of the Association, its regional federations and country branches. In addition there are regularly updated news reports from branch meetings, conferences and symposia organised by the specialist Working Groups, as well as a calendar of future events.

In order to keep it regularly updated, the Association welcomes information and pictures from Branches, Regional Federations and Working Groups concerning activities of the various WPSA organisations, as well as news about appointment of officers and members.

Please send your information to Mrs D.M. Kleverwal, e-mail wpsa@xs4all.nl.

World's Poultry Science Journal – Digital Archive

Access from the first issue in 1945 until 2003 online – a total of 240 issues!

Volumes 1 – 59 of World's Poultry Science Journal are now available on Cambridge Journals Online. The archive is fully searchable by keyword and author; abstracts can be saved and e-mailed, full text articles printed and bibliographic details exported into reference management software. Perpetual Access is available for a one-off fee of just £500/\$995*.

For further information, or to purchase the WPSJ Digital Archive, please e-mail jnlsales@cambridge.org.

*For those who do not subscribe to the current volume, there is an additional annual maintenance fee of £45/85, payable from the second year of the deal.

www.journals.cambridge.org/WPS

E-mail WPSA Newsletter

WPSA has introduced a new version of the WPSA Newsletter that will be e-mailed to individual members, on request. To receive

this, please subscribe to the e-mail Newsletter on the website (www.wpsa.com).

Branch Development Proposal

In the Board meeting held during WPC2016 in Beijing, China, the Board decided to increase the funds available for Branch Development by making a formal call for Branch Development Proposals.

The maximum budget for a proposal is US \$2,000.

What can you propose?

Some examples:

- Development of a Branch website and start-up expenses
- Organize activities to revitalize your branch
- Support to communicate with members
- Six months budget for secretarial assistance, stationary etc.

A Branch can receive this award once a year, for a maximum of 3 awards.

In cases where numerous branch projects are being evaluated, preference will be given to first time applicants.

If your proposal is awarded, you have to send in a report on how the money was utilized.

Deadlines

Deadlines for submission are January 1st and July 1st.

How to apply?

Please send your proposal and budget with itemized expenses (in US\$) to Dr Roel Mulder (roel.mulder@wpsa.com).

European Poultry Conference 2018

The WPSA Croatian branch is very pleased to announce that the registration for the XV EPC 2018 is now open! The Conference is to be held at Valamar Hotels & Resorts in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 17th to 21st September 2018. Organisers anticipate to attract more than 1,000 participants from all over the world, willing to improve their

knowledge in poultry research and production.

We encourage you to register before 30th of April 2018 and to take the advantage of early bird rates. Special registration fees apply to WPSA members and students.



**EUROPEAN
POULTRY
CONFERENCE**

In order to make your stay in Dubrovnik as enjoyable as possible and to make the registration process easier, the organising committee has prepared all in one registration form that include the accommodation and social programme.

More information can be found on the web site www.epc2018.com

If you are interested to participate or to sponsor EPC 2018, please visit www.epc2018.com or contact us at horvatek@vef.hr.

10th European Symposium of Poultry Genetics

The 10th European Symposium of Poultry Genetics (ESPG) took place from the 26th to the 28th of June in Saint-Malo, France. It was organised by the French branch of WPSA and Working Group 3 'Breeding and Genetics' of the European Federation of WPSA branches. It gathered 85 participants from 12 countries, both academics and from breeding companies. The programme featured six scientific sessions with 14 invited speakers, one industry session, with a speaker from FAO and 2 from industry (Lohmann and Hubbard) dealing with dual-purpose breeding and the 'Chicken of Tomorrow' case study, one poster session with 20 posters, and a PhD awards session with five PhD students presenting their work, one award was funded by the organisers of the 9th ESPG (Finland branch). Excellent review papers presented up-to-date work including original results on genetics of welfare, responses to biotic and abiotic stresses, new breeding technologies, genomics and whole genome sequencing, genetics of product quality and breeding issues for other species. A diversity of poultry species was considered: chicken, quail, turkey, guinea-fowl, duck and goose. Lively discussions took place and the participants enjoyed the location and the gala dinner. All sponsors are gratefully acknowledged: Grimaud (platinum), Aviagen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Hendrix Genetics, Lohmann, Orvia (gold), Cobb (silver). The organisers would also like to thank the European Federation for its support. A pdf of the proceedings, with full texts of invited talks and abstracts of posters, can be purchased from the French branch, wpsafrance@wpsa.fr. Invited papers were given in the 'Genetics of welfare' session, including Werner Bessei, University of Hohenheim, Germany - Genetics of welfare: a comprehensive study

of feather pecking in laying hens and Bertrand Bed'hom, INRA, France - An overview of the trade - off in resource allocation between production and immunity traits in chicken. In the 'Response to biotic and abiotic stress' session, papers were presented by Androniki Psifidi, Roslin Institute - Mapping disease resistance in poultry, and Susan Lamont, Iowa State, USA - Genomics of response to abiotic and biotic stressors in chickens. The symposium on new breeding technologies included presentations by Benjamin Schusser, TUM, Germany - Genome editing in birds - from concept to reality, Mike Mc Grew, Roslin Institute, UK - Biobanking of poultry breeds using primordial germ cells, and John Hickey, Roslin Institute, UK - Potential of genome editing and gene drive technologies to increase genetic gain in livestock breeding programmes. The genomics session featured talks given by Mahendra Mariadassou, INRA, France - Genomics of chicken domestication and Janet Fulton, HyLine, USA - MHC-B diversity of domestic chickens. For the 'Genetics of product quality' section, presentations were made by Elisabeth Le Bihan - Duval, INRA, France - Genetics of meat quality defects in broilers and Ian Dunn, Roslin Institute, UK - Improving egg quality: win - win traits. In 'Breeding issues for other species', topics were discussed by John Ralph, Aviagen, UK - Current and future challenges for European turkey breeding, Alain Vignal, INRA, France - Guinea fowl whole genome assembly and application for genetic diversity in African and European populations, and Guillaume Le Mignon, Grimaud, France - Genetic parameters of electronically recorded feeding behaviour traits in meat Pekin ducks.

Combined 2017 Meeting of the Incubation and Fertility Research Group (IFRG/WPSA Working Group 6) and the Fundamental Physiology and Perinatal Development Group (PDP/WPSA Working Group 12)

The 2017 meeting took place from August 30th to September 1st in Wageningen, the Netherlands, and was organised by Marleen Boerjan (President IFRG, WPSA WG 6, Pas Reform); Glenn Baggott, (IFRG board, ed. British Poultry Science, London, UK); Ann Collin (IFRG board member, URA, INRA, Nouzilly France) and Barbara Tzschentke, (President of PDP/WPSA WG 12, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany).

The atmosphere of the 2017 meeting was cordial and easy-going with a mix of PhD students, young and experienced scientists. Thanks to the active input of all participants, new knowledge on the basics of incubation physiology was exchanged during dining times and discussions. The emphasis on the seven posters presented strengthened the discussions between participants.

With the support of the WPSA Speakers Bureau we were able to invite two early-career scientists as keynote speakers: PhD student Bence Lázár from the Doctoral

School of Animal Husbandry, Szent István University, Gödöllő, Hungary was a keynote speaker in session 3: Impact of parental effects and Mylene Mariette, a post-doc from the Centre of Integrative Ecology, Deakin University, Australia as the keynote speaker in session 4: Adaptation and epigenetic alteration in birds. Thanks to the sponsorship of the incubator manufacturers HatchTech and Pas Reform, we were able to invite Prof Ton Groothuis from the Institute of for Evolutionary Life Sciences, Dept. of Behavioural Biology, University Groningen, as the second keynote speaker in session 3.

The proceedings of the combined IFRG- and PDP meeting will be published on-line as an abstract collection of oral and poster presentations related to the respective session in the European Poultry Science during October 2017. It was agreed that the 2019 combined meeting of IFRG working group 6 and the PDP working group 12 will be organised in Tours (France).



EggMeat 2017

170 delegates from Europe and North America attended the XVII European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products and XXIII European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat. 'EggMeat 2017' took place at the John McIntyre conference centre in Edinburgh from the 3rd to 5th September 2017. The meeting began with a welcome reception on Sunday 3rd September which featured a talk by Sir John Campbell OBE from one of the biggest family owned egg producers in Scotland who entertained the audience as he described how he built up his business over the last 50 years. This was followed by a food and drinks reception which was sponsored by the WPSA (UK branch) and British Poultry Science Ltd in memory of the late Prof Sally Solomon.



Picture: Sir John Campbell (OBE) delivering his talk at the welcome reception (Sunday 3rd September 2017)



Picture: Maureen Bain (conference co-chairperson) with Roger Tippett (husband of the late Prof Sally Solomon) and distinguished guests at the welcome reception on Sunday 3rd September 2017.

The conference was officially opened on Monday 4th September by Vicky Sandilands (president UK branch WPSA). Mark Williams (Chief Executive of the British Egg Industry Council) and Mike Alcorn (Group Technical Director, Devenish Nutrition) then gave a brief overview of the current state of the egg and meat industries within the UK as a prelude to the first plenary session which focused on two hot topics: (i) 'Nutrition and Metabolism-with a focus on The Role of Lipids in Early Life' presented by Gita Cherian (Oregon State University) and (ii) 'Does Improved Welfare Result in Better Product Quality?' presented by Cecile Berri (INRA). This was followed by the first parallel egg and meat session which focused on 'Egg Processing and Nutrition' and 'The Effects of Pre-Slaughter Conditions on Meat Quality'. These sessions included presentations by invited speakers, contributed papers as well as short oral presentations by some of the poster presenters. Topics covered in the afternoon egg parallel sessions included 'Genetics and Genomics', and 'Egg Quality in Extended Laying Cycles'. In the afternoon meat sessions, the focus was on 'Eat Quality and Human Nutrition', and, 'Genomics for Meat Quality'.

The scientific sessions continued on Tuesday 5th September with the second plenary session featuring a talk on 'Campylobacter – A Major Human and Chicken Pathogen' presented by Tom Humphreys (University of Swansea), and the 'Microbial Risk From Shell Eggs and Their Products' presented by John Coia (university of Glasgow). This was followed by a parallel egg session which focused on 'Protecting Eggs Against Infection' and meat session which focused on 'Advances in Slaughter'. Dinah Nicolson (Aviagen) and Carsten Krischek (Foundation University of Vet Medicine) presented talks on 'Egg Hygiene in the Hatchery' and 'Management of Incubation Temperature During Embryonic Myogenesis as a Tool to Manage Meat Quality'. The final egg session was on 'Nutrition and Feed Additives' and the final meat session focused on 'Meat Quality'.

There were over 70 posters on display throughout the conference and during the closing ceremony 'The Sally Solomon Memorial Prize for The Best Poster' was

awarded to Ms Ceara Suther, a veterinary student at University of Glasgow.



Picture: Some of the students/ industry early career workers attending the conference dinner sponsored through the branch development fund

Through a successful bid for a branch development fund the UK branch of WPSA were able to provide all students attending

EggMeat 2017 with the opportunity to take part in an important networking opportunity, the conference dinner free of charge. An additional four students and industry early career workers received full scholarships allowing them to attend the conference free of charge.

The European Federation Working Groups 4 (eggs and egg products) and 5 (chicken meat) committees met on Tuesday 5th 2017. Their agenda included a discussion on the next EggMeat meeting which will take place in Cesme, (Turkey), 23-26 June 2019 (conference days 24 and 25 June) and also an update on EPC2018 which will take place in Dubrovnik (Croatia), 17-21 September 2018. On behalf of the organising committee the two chairpersons (Maureen Bain and Ian Dunn) would like to thank all delegates, speakers, sponsors and helpers for making EggMeat 2017 such a successful and enjoyable event.

Maureen Bain and Ian Dunn

29th International Poultry Symposium ‘Science for Practice – Practice for Science’, Poland



The 29th International Poultry Symposium entitled ‘Science for Practice – Practice for Science’ took place from 18th to 20th September 2017 in Tarnowo Podgórze, Poland. The programme covered scientific reports from both Polish and foreign scientific institutions and created enthusiastic discussions during the 93 scientific reports and eight lectures. There were 151 participants, including 109 scientists and 42 commercial poultry members. Papers were split into plenary sessions entitled ‘Biological Basis of Poultry Breeding and Production’, ‘Prevention in Poultry Production’, ‘Poultry Nutrition’ and ‘Poultry Production and Material Evaluation’.

The Jerzy Będkowski’ Young Scientists Competition was of especial note this year because 18 competitors participated. Congratulations go to the winner, Mr Kamil Otowski from University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland). The symposium’s participants came from various countries including Italy, Algeria, Turkey or Netherlands and the biggest surprise was a lecture made by Mr Roel Mulder (Secretary General WPSA) entitled: ‘World’s Poultry Science Association: today and tomorrow’. The first day of the symposium including awarding the Honorary Member of PB WPSA to Dr hab. Katarzyna Cywa-Benko,

Prof Nadzw. and Prof Dr hab. Eugeniusz Herbut. The board of PB WPSA honoured Ms Katarzyna Będkowska-Przychodni, Editor of *Polskie Drobiarstwo Journal* – for promoting knowledge and practice in poultry production in Poland for 25 years. The National Competition for the Best Master Thesis in Poultry Science was won by Mss Marta Kubiś from Poznań University of Life

Sciences with her thesis entitled: ‘The use of phytase and protease in yellow lupine diets for laying hens’.

We would like to invite all members of WPSA to participate in the 30th anniversary International Poultry Science Symposium PB WPSA in 2018.

Dr hab. Monika Michalczuk

Branch Development Proposals

In the Board meeting held during WPC2016 in Beijing, China, the Board decided to increase the funds available for Branch Development by making a formal call for Branch Development Proposals. More information can be found under the header ‘Support’ on the WPSA website (www.wpsa.com). A proposal from the UK Branch was received and accepted for supporting students to take part in the conference dinner during the XVII European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products and the XXIII European Symposium

on the Quality of Poultry Meat, which will be held from 3-5 September 2017 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. A proposal from the Sri Lanka Branch was received and accepted to start a website and to establish a database of the whole poultry sector in Sri Lanka. The website is being developed and was officially launched on 15 September 2017 by Mr Alan Gibbins, President of the Asia Pacific Federation (www.wpsasf.com). The database project has started and the preliminary work and the reviews are being done.

Branch News

Italy

The Italian Branch of WPSA organised a technical seminar entitled ‘Phytate and Phytase: the value chain of phytate destruction’ on last June 8th in Ozzano dell’Emilia. Martino Cassandro, President of the Italian Branch of WPSA, opened the seminar and introduced Dr Markus Rodehutschord, Hohenheim University, Germany, who presented an update on phytate degradation patterns in the gastrointestinal tract of broilers and on the minerals interaction and degradation of fats in poultry, highlighting the issue of phosphorus digestibility testing. This was followed by a review of the reduction of tetrakisphosphate (IP4) IP6 phytate to trisphosphate (IP3) – or perhaps even lower – which does not remove anti-nutritional properties and its implications for poultry, by Dr Mike Bedford, Research Director at AB Vista., who brought to the table the main highlights from the 3rd International Phytate Summit (IPS3). Slides of the presentations can be accessed at our site: [\[com_content&view=category&layout=t=as002057free:category&id=48&Itemid=181\]\(http://www.wpsa.it/home/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=as002057free:category&id=48&Itemid=181\).](http://www.wpsa.it/home/index.php?option=-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Japan

The Autumn Meeting of JPSA, 2017 was held at Shinshu University, Ina, Nagano, from the 4th to the 6th September. Oral presentations, council, and general meetings were held during the meeting. Moreover, an open symposium and a mini-international symposium were additional events of the meeting. The open symposium entitled ‘Challenges and directions for the improvement of chicken breeding’ was held on the first day. Several guest speakers from poultry breeding institutes and companies talked about the present and future status and issues related to broiler and layer breeding. The symposium was open to the public with no charge for participation. The oral presentations were held on the second day. A total of 39 presentations, including 17 from individuals who were nominated for excellent presentation awards. A mini-international symposium entitled ‘Leading-edge research on

the poultry and animal sciences' was held on the third day, and was hosted by JPSA, the Japan Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association, Japanese Society of Animal Science and was co-hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture at Shinshu University. Two speakers were invited from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Seoul National University, Korea. Dr Jae Yong Han presented a lecture on 'Primordial germ cells, and genome editing in aves'; and, Dr Heebal Kim lectured on 'Genome-wide evolutionary analysis to resolve genomic enigma of animals in the era of next-generation sequencing'. These lectures were followed by three genetics communications. The mini-international symposium was also open to the public and is free of charge to participants.

Lebanon

The Lebanon branch of the WPSA held its annual meeting on October 12, 2017, at the Lancaster Hotel in Hazmieh, a suburb of Beirut. The meeting was held at the beginning of a two day conference sponsored by the Branch in cooperation with Elanco. The annual meeting was chaired by the President Dr Nuhad J. Dagher, who welcomed the members and their guests and presented both the secretary's report prepared by Dr Nada Usayran and the financial report prepared by the treasurer Mr Samir Cortbawi. Both reports were approved by the members, after a brief explanation by the President. The business meeting was then followed by the scientific conference which lasted for two days (October 12-13, 2017). The first day covered the subject of 'Global policy developments, the regulation of the use of antibiotics in the veterinary sector and the reality of antimicrobial resistance'. The second day dealt with the topic 'An overview of the regulatory assessment of veterinary medicines and vaccines'. The conference focused on topics of interest to regional regulators as well as poultry producers and scientists. This is why besides members of the Lebanon Branch, several regional regulators as well as scientists from Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were invited and attended the two day meetings. Over 50 members and invitees attended the conference and they all participated in the discussions that followed the presentations. The lectures were given by a selection of specialists from the UK, France, Germany, Spain and Lebanon, in poultry

science, microbiology, vaccines and representatives from regulatory bodies and international organizations. Dr M. Farran, the Vice-President of the Branch coordinated all arrangements with the sponsors and chaired the meeting during the second day while the President of the Branch chaired the meeting during the first day.

Mauritius

The WPSA (Mauritius Branch) organised a special technical talk on 'Alternatives to antibiotics in broiler production' delivered by Emeritus Professor Simon Shane from North Carolina State University on Wednesday 14 June. The talk was well attended by industry, veterinary authorities and by academia. Professor Shane is a regular visitor to Mauritius and provides valuable advice to the local poultry industry.

The Executive committee of WPSA (Mauritius) met officials of the University of Mauritius on Friday 11 August to consider the possibility of organising a joint certificate course on poultry health and production. Resource personnel will be chosen from amongst WPSA members, university staff and foreign professors, the latter providing on-line courses.

Turkey

The WPSA Turkish Branch continues to take an active role in all activities related to poultry. Preparatory work is underway in connection with the International Poultry Congress to be held in Niğde, situated in the Cappadocia region, in May 2018. This congress, which will be held in cooperation with Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University Faculty of Agriculture, is expected to attract substantial participation from all over the world.

Our board members participated in the VIV Turkey 2017 8th International Trade Fair for Poultry Technologies held in Istanbul between July 5-7, 2017, and important discussions were held with attending national and international companies. Branch President Prof. Dr Akbay was among those who made opening remarks.

The 1st Poultry Workshop was organised by Niğde University Faculty of Agriculture and Ankara Poultry Research Institute and was held on the 21-22 July 2017. The workshop was held in memory of the late Prof. Dr Orhan Düzgüneş who brought poultry statistics and genetics to Turkey and in honour of our Branch President Prof. Dr

Rüveyde Akbay for establishing the WPSA Turkish Branch and for her contributions to the Turkish poultry sector. There was significant participation from the related departments of the universities and the sector and an award was presented to Prof. Dr Akbay.

United Kingdom

Spring Meeting, University of Chester

The UK Branch held its annual Spring meeting on 26th and 27th April 2017 at the University of Chester. This lovely city has hosted our conference for the past two years but we will be visiting a new venue of Croke Park in the city of Dublin, Ireland for 2018. As ever, the meeting show cased the work of many early career poultry scientists alongside some very thought-provoking invited and submitted papers. The standard of talks from first time presenters was very high indeed. The 2017 Gordon Memorial Lecture was given by Prof. Dr Rudi Preisinger, Chief Technical Officer, EW Group on Innovative layer genetic approaches to handling global challenges in egg production, which provided a true insight into how a leading company is addressing the demands for rapid change. Our first invited speaker session provided two excellent papers from Aiden Leek (Trouw Nutrition) on the potential application of insects for poultry nutrition and Mike McGrew (The Roslin Institute and R(D)SVS) on Future prospects for gene editing of poultry genomes. The second invited speaker session provided an external perspective on the use of insects in the animal production sector with an insight into consumer perception, which was followed by a broader evaluation of Consumer engagement with the animal production sector from Prof. David Hughes, Imperial College London.

32nd Poultry Science Symposium, University of Cambridge

Every few years, the WPSA UK branch organises a poultry symposium, which aims to attract members of industry, research and education. Since its inception, the symposium series has covered a wide variety of topics. This year was the 32nd symposium, which was held from the 3rd to 5th July in the historic city of Cambridge. The theme was 'Poultry Feathers and Skin – the past, present and future of poultry integument' capturing the aspects of biology, genetics, welfare, nutrition and

management related to poultry feathers and skin. Over 50 international delegates attended to hear world leading experts discuss their subject matters in great detail. The lively panel discussions highlighted the interest in a niche, but important topic for the poultry industry. Delegates also enjoyed a social programme which encompassed punting along the River Cam and a gala dinner in Clare College's magnificent 17th century Great Hall. A symposium book will soon be published containing all the papers and posters presented at the conference.

The 2018 WPSA UK Branch Annual Meeting

The 2018 WPSA Annual Meeting will be held in Dublin from 9-11 April at Dublin's iconic Croke Stadium with a theme of 'Innovation to compete in the global livestock industry'. The joint WPSA / BSAS event will see more than 500 scientists, vets, policy makers and farmers from across the globe gather to hear about the challenges and opportunities facing the livestock sector, and the ways it can innovate to create more sustainable systems. An international line-up of world-leading speakers will discuss the ground-breaking technologies being made in livestock production, as well as the issues that need to be addressed to ensure potential gains in productivity are grasped. Speakers will also discuss how those developments are communicated with farmers and producers, and how the sector can encourage the adoption of new ways of working. We look forward to meeting up with Irish colleagues to explore how the poultry sector can share knowledge, ideas and best-practices as Brexit drives the UK to become more global in the way it deals with critical issues such as trade and policy. As ever, the UK branch annual meeting provides a great opportunity for helping scientists, policy makers and producers to build relationships and networks across the European livestock sector and beyond. Submissions are now being accepted on any aspect of poultry science or related disciplines. In order to be considered for the WPSA section of the joint meeting (which includes subsequent publication in British Poultry Abstracts) please ensure you use the WPSA abstract template and submit to the WPSA section of the meeting. One-page submissions for original communications must be completed by 31 October 2017.

Steve Lister, UK Branch Secretary

USA

The USA and Canadian Branches of the WPSA jointly sponsored the annual WPSA lecture held during the Poultry Science Association Annual meeting in July in Orlando, FL. The speaker was Dr Kevin Wells of the University of Missouri presenting the topic 'History and future of genetically engineered food animal regulation'. His presentation was both very informative and challenging to all in attendance. His core message was that genetic engineering in food animals is coming and the poultry industry is significantly behind the times in preparation for this new technology that was initiated in the 1970's. His thorough and extensive review of the history of genetic engineering set the stage for outlining the challenges that will be faced by the industry.

During the PSA annual meeting, the USA

and Canadian Branches hosted a joint annual luncheon promoting fellowship and interaction between the branches. The USA Branch conducted its annual business meeting in Orlando, with a majority of the Board members present. Key topics discussed were a review of the financial reports, discussion of the under-utilisation of WPSA's Travel Grant programme, and discussion about opportunities to expand membership and retain student members. The USA Branch also made a brief presentation during the annual PSA Business meeting highlighting the leadership of WPSA and the USA Branch, benefits for WPSA membership and recent WPSA activities.

Bob Buresh, Branch Secretary