MINUTES of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY Meeting

WAHVM

Thursday 25th September 2003,
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Pablo Zierold Auditorium,
National Autonomous University of Mexico,
Mexico-City, Mexico

1. The President, Dr. P.A. Koolmees, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the members present and wished them fruitful discussions. Last year’s meeting in Wittenberg, Germany, had to be cancelled because of the flooding of the Elbe River. Therefore, the Board had to take decisions on various issues in accordance with our Constitution. Other decisions were postponed till today’s meeting.
   - The Board and Liaison Committee met yesterday for general discussions and preparation of this General Assembly meeting.
   - This year’s Congress has 82 participants and 16 accompanying persons from 14 countries, including 55 from Mexico and 19 from Europe; 43 oral presentations and 26 poster presentations are given. The interpreter English-Spanish vice versa is doing an excellent and accurate job. All credits go to Dr. M.A. Marquez who, together with his team, organized this congress.
   - The President confirmed that the number of voting rights present (30 out of 56) allows us to take the necessary decisions.
   - The President expressed a special welcome to Prof. Dr. M. Galloni from Italy, who is with us for the first time and will organize next year’s Congress.

2. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.
   - It was decided that non-members of the Association could attend and participate in the meeting.
   - Apologies for absence were received from the Board members Prof. Dr. J. Schäffer, Dr. G. Theves and Dr. M. Becker.
   - The Honoray President Prof. Dr. E.-H. Lochmann indicated that he was unable to attend this congress and sends us his best regards.
   - Dr. I. Katic, Mr. J. Broberg, Dr. A. Rosenbom, Mrs. Drs. I. Visser, Dr. R. Grimm, Dr. K. Buchi, Mrs. Dr. Susan Jones and Dr O. Katsuyama, all members of the Liaison Committee, are not with us. Three National Societies, from The Netherlands, U.S.A. and Japan, sent replacements, Drs. A.H.H.M. Mathijsen, Prof. Dr. R.H. Dunlop and Dr. M. Ogata respectively.
   - Also the two members of the Cash Auditing Committee, Drs. Berns and Jöhnssen, sent their apologies for absence.
   - The following correspondence was received:
     - The German DVG-Fachgruppe Geschichte/National Society has indicated that the WAHVM President will represent Germany during this Congress.
     - The American Veterinary Medical History Society informed us that Prof Dr. R.H. Dunlop will represent the Society at this Congress and will make suggestions for the themes for the Congress in Minneapolis (2005).
     - Dr. I. Katic sent his suggestions for future cooperation between the WAHVM and the journal Historia Medicinae Veterinariae. This issue will be discussed under point 23 of the agenda.
     - Dr. Becker made suggestions for the amendment of our Constitution since the actual number of Board members and the number of positions in the Board will change with the election of new Board members.
today. Since this issue is not on the agenda, the President suggested that the new Board will look into this matter and report next year to the General Assembly.
- The Veterinary History Society (UK) announced the new accommodation of the Veterinary Museum of the Royal Veterinary College, London in the new Eclipse Building at the field station in Potter's Bay.
- The National Society of Austria organizes a Veterinary History Symposium on the 5th December 2003 in Vienna. The WAHVM Board members Prof. Schäffer, Dr. Becker and Dr. Theves will attend this meeting.

The Board decided to invite the following keynote speakers for this congress:
Prof. Dr. M. Cordero del Campillo, Spain,
Dr. Sherwin Hall (UK), partly sponsored by the Vet. Hist. Society, U.K.
Prof. Dr. R.H. Dunlop (USA), partly sponsored by the American Vet. Med. Hist. Soc.

The Board decided to award the Cheiron medals for 2003 to Prof. Dr. M. Cordero del Campillo, Spain and to Prof. Dr. F. Dinçer, Turkey, in recognition of their contributions for the advancement of the history of veterinary medicine and/or for their contributions to the WAHVM and its activities. The medals will be conferred tomorrow night during a special ceremony.

3. The minutes of the General Assembly meeting held on Thursday 16th August 2001 at Oslo, Norway were adopted and ratified by the President and acting Secretary.

4. The WAHVM Annual Report 2001 was adopted.

5. The WAHVM Annual Report 2002 was adopted.

6. The WAHVM Financial Report 2001 was presented and discussed.

7. The meeting endorsed the report by Dr. J.B. Berns, member of the cash auditing committee, which was read by the President, and exonerated the Treasurer and the entire Board from their financial responsibilities for the year 2001.

8. The WAHVM Financial report 2002 was presented and discussed.

9. The meeting endorsed the report by Dr. J.B. Berns, member of the cash auditing committee, which was read by the President, and exonerated the acting Treasurer and the entire Board from their financial responsibilities for the year 2002.

10. The meeting released Prof. Dr. G. Jönsen (Sweden) from his duties in the cash auditing committee with a vote of thanks. Because of the assumed transfer of the treasurership from The Netherlands to Austria, the meeting endorsed the proposal by the President to elect Dr. J.B. Berns (The Netherlands) and Mrs. Dr. Christa Mache (Austria) as members of the cash auditing committee 2003. Prof. Forstenpointner agreed to invite Dr Mache for this task.

11. 2004 subscriptions:
The acting Treasurer suggested to keep the various subscription rates for 2004 unchanged: National Societies US$ 5,= per member,
Individual members US$ 20,=
Veterinary Schools US$ 200,=
Veterinary Libraries US$ 100,=
Veterinary Museums US$ 50,=.
This proposal was adopted.

12. The proposed budget for the year 2004 was adopted.

13. The acting Secretary referred to the membership list on the 31st December 2002:
   - eleven National Societies, together 1069 members
   - 41 individual Paying Members, all together from 23 countries
   - two Veterinary Schools
   - one Veterinary Association and
   - two Veterinary museums, together five associate members.

   The number of associate members is very disappointing. It was suggested that we should make a new start, make more propaganda in our home countries and approach national veterinary organizations and institutions in order to attract more associate members. This group of members will receive our mailings, newsletters and a subscription to the journal Historia Medicinae Veterinariae free of charge. Member-museums have also a free link to the WAHVM homepage.

   The Société Française d’Histoire de la Médicine et des Sciences Vétérinaires joined the WAHVM as from 1st January 2003.
   The Sociedad Mexicana de Historia de la Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia has the intention to join the WAHVM as from 1st January 2004.
   It is a pity that the South-American countries are almost not represented at this Congress. Dr. Marquez will try to liaise with the National Societies in the various countries on behalf of the WAHVM Board.

14. The Board and Liaison Committee proposed to the meeting to award two Cheiron medals in 2004 to our members:
   - Mrs. Prof. Dr. A. Veggetti, President of the Section History of Veterinary Medicine of the Italian Centre for the History of Public Health and Hospitals (CISO), author of many articles on veterinary history, responsible for the development of the study of veterinary history in Italy, organizer of several national congresses on this subject and paying member of the WAHVM.
   - Prof. A. Mantovani, international expert on public health matters, active in the affairs and congresses of the WAHVM, promotor of the study on the history of public health and intermediary between the WAHVM and the Section for the History of Veterinary Medicine, CISO, which resulted in the organization of the 2004 WAHVM Congress in Torino.

   Prof. Kouba (Czech Republic) seconded the proposal. The meeting decided accordingly.
   The audience did not come up with other nominations.

15. Future International Congresses:
   The 35th Congress in Torino, Italy, 8th-11th September 2004: The Board and Liaison Committee recommended to the meeting to accept the following themes for this Congress:
   - Veterinary Medicine in the ancient Mediterranean World;
   - Veterinary Medicine in the First World War.
   In addition, a small session on the History of Veterinary Public Health will be organized for the members of the CISO. Furthermore, an exhibition will be organized by the Veterinary Military Group of the Section History of Veterinary Medicine.

   Prof. Forstenpointner will inform the working group on palaeopathology (part of the International Council on Zoopathology) accordingly and invite members to present contributions at this Congress, especially related to the first theme.

   The meeting endorsed the recommendations by the Board and Liaison Committee.

   The President expressed our thanks to Prof. Galloni and his team for organizing the 35th Congress. We are looking forward to visit Torino next year.
The 36th Congress in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, 20th-23rd July 2005: This Congress will be held in conjunction with the World Veterinary Congress and the American Veterinary Medical Association Convention. After Prof. Dunlop had read the message from the national organizer, Mrs. Dr. Susan Jones, the President reported on the outcome of the discussions by the Board and Liaison Committee and suggested to invite Prof Dunlop to report back to the Board of the American Veterinary Medical History Society as follows:
- History of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals:
The meeting, for various reasons, has some hesitations in respect of this theme. Pharmaceuticals have been covered in two recent Congresses (Amersfoort 1993 and Brno 2000). During these Congresses we experienced that pharmaceutical companies are only willing to sponsor our Congresses to a (very) limited extent, because they are not really interested in the history of veterinary medicine. This resulted in publicity talks which had nothing to do with history; only specific company products were promoted. The meeting can accept this theme, provided that the title is changed to: ‘History of Veterinary Therapies’ with sub-themes like: ‘The history of the discovery of (effective) veterinary pharmaceuticals’. Publicity lectures can not be accepted in the programme.
- The second theme, ‘History of Veterinary Medicine in War and Peace’ is enthousiastically welcomed, particularly since it is a follow-up of the theme of the Congress in Torino (2004), where World War I will be covered.
The meeting suggests to specify the title to: ‘Progress and Developments in Veterinary Medicine during and after Wartime, with emphasis on the Second World War and later Wars’.
The following subthemes are suggested:
- Specific contributions/actual roles of veterinarians in wartime;
- Impact of wars on the development of veterinary medicine in terms of progress and inventions;
- Changes in veterinary medicine as a result of war experiences;
- Animals, Animal Health and Welfare on the battle field (check the proceedings of the recent German Symposium on this topic).
- An additional theme could be: ‘Veterinarians in national and international Voluntary Work’. This would include veterinary contributions to Third World Countries.
- The meeting endorsed the proposals presented by the President. The meeting expressed a vote of thanks to the AVMHS for the efforts already made in relation to the 2005 Congress and wishes Dr. Susan Jones and her team success in the preparation and organization of this Congress.

The 37th International Congress at León, Spain, 2006: The Spanish National Society will prepare a proposal for the Congress themes during its meeting next month.

The 38th International Congress in Switzerland, 2007: The offer has been made by Board member Dr. M. Becker.

The 39th International Congress in Turkey, 2008: The offer has been made by Prof. F. Dinçer and his colleagues.

The 40th International Congress in The Netherlands, 2009: The offer has been made by our President, also Board member of the Dutch Society on the History of Veterinary Medicine.

The meeting gratefully accepted these offers; the future of our congresses looks very promising.

16. Final Draft on ‘Guidelines, procedures and responsibilities for the organization of International Congresses’: The President introduced this issue:
The Board has taken notice of the comments submitted by Dr. Per Folkestad and Dr. I. Katic and noted that the working group on this issue, established in 2001, could not reach an agreement. Therefore, the
Board has prepared a final draft. This draft contains guidelines and not rules. Each country has its own culture and approach to the organization of congresses. However, the Board is ultimately responsible for the quality of the papers presented and for the scientific standard of our Congresses as a whole. During the meeting of the Board and Liaison Committee there was a difference of opinion about who should have the responsibility for the scientific aspects of our Congresses and the papers presented. The General Assembly is advised to endorse the final draft as proposed by the Board. The text is flexible enough to assure a fruitful cooperation between the Board and the congress organizing committees under various circumstances, accepting that the Board has to be involved to ensure the scientific quality of our Congresses. The meeting decided accordingly. Furthermore, the meeting followed the advice to evaluate our Congresses and to include a proposal on the most desirable frequency of our Congresses. Preference is given to annual Congresses to assure continuity. More attention should be given to the Asian countries; other periods of the year for our Congresses could also be considered. The Board will prepare a proposal for the evaluation, to be discussed at next year’s meeting.

17. Reports by the various WAHVM working groups:
- Veterinary Museums: the WAHVM homepage includes a list of the veterinary museums in the world. New museums are in Potters Bay, UK and in Vienna, Austria as part of the veterinary faculties. New museums are also established in the East-European countries. Our webmaster should be informed about new developments.
- Prof. Dunlop will follow-up the publication of the Mulder-survey on the teaching of history in veterinary colleges in U.S.A and Canada. National Societies should try to persuade their national faculties to include this subject in the curriculum of their colleges. There are wonderful books on veterinary history but we need a concise book for students; ‘what every student should know’. Another proposal was to include an chronological overview of the history on the WAHVM website (example: the lecture of Dr. Hall) and/or combine it with the Veterinary Biography project. A lot of information is already available but has to be arranged in a time- or in discipline-based approach. Other themes are relatively new such as the dramatic increase of female veterinarians, companion animals and epidemiology. The Board will prepare a proposal for discussion next year.
- International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography:
  Drs. Mathijsen reported that this project started in Cordoba, Spain, in 1997. Progress has been made, but slowly. Last year the number of biographies increased from 191 to 259. Some countries have a team of writers, in other countries it is a one-man-job and there are countries (U.K., Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Spain) which have not submitted anything. The last group in particular was represented in the biography-book, published in 1863 by Schrader-Hering, with over 2.000 biographies. Once more all National Societies were challenged to participate in this valuable project. At a later stage we have to decide on the way of publication: As a book? In a journal? Illustrated? On the website? Selected by country or by discipline? It could be useful to prepare a first publication to show to interested people what we are doing. During one of our future congresses a workshop should be held the discuss the criteria for selection of the persons to be included, the writing/translation of the biographies in the English language according to the format adopted and how to present the results. Further informations: mathijs@worldonline.nl
- Retrospective bibliography:
  Drs. Mathijsen reported that the number of references has increased from 13.000 to 14.462, about 250 publications on veterinary history per year. Euroscience, Bilthoven, The Netherlands, has offered to prepare and distribute the database on behalf of the WAHVM and in return pay royalties to the WAHVM. The Board will look into this matter.
- The website has many visitors. In fact, three participants of this Congress learned about this event on our website. National Societies were invited to send their contributions directly to the webmaster. Others were invited to visit: http://www.wahvm.vet.uu.nl. For another two years, the Veterinary Faculty in Utrecht, The Netherlands, will take care of the expenses for our website; the WAHVM pays for the expenses of the webmaster.
- The members of the temporary working group for the preparation of ‘Guidelines, procedures and responsibilities for the organization of international congresses’ were released from their duties with a vote of thanks.

18. Composition of the Board:
When the future organization of the WAHVM became uncertain in 1993, it were the members from The Netherlands who provided the solution; now in 2003 it is the turn of our colleagues from Austria to do so. The meeting expressed a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. M. Marquez and Dr. P. Leeflang who will leave the Board.
The meeting was grateful to the colleagues Prof. Dr. G. Forstenpointner (incoming President), Dr. G.E. Weissengruber (Secretary) and Dr. P. Paulsen (Treasurer) from Austria for their willingness to take over the leading role from their Dutch colleagues; they were elected accordingly. Prof. Forstenpointner will take over the presidency from Dr. Koolmees, next year.
As organizer of the 2004 Congress, Prof. M. Galloni was also elected to the Board.
The meeting noted that the positions of secretary and treasurer have been split over two Board members. The new Board was invited to consider the necessity of amending our Constitution accordingly.
The new Board members present, Forstenpointner, Weissengruber and Galloni were invited to join at the Presidents table.
Dr. Leeflang will be released from his duties after completion of his annual and financial reports for 2003. The President thanked him for his ten years of dedication to the WAHVM and presented him some books about Mexico.
Prof. Forstenpointner, also on behalf of his colleagues from Vienna, expressed his gratitude for his election to the Board and for the confidence of the meeting in his ability to carry out the job as required!

19. Compensation:
The meeting endorsed the proposal by the Board and Liaison Committee to pay a 50% compensation towards the travel-costs, accommodation and registration fee to the President, Incoming President, Secretary and Treasurer for their attendance of WAHVM International Congresses. Costs of accommodation and traveling should be as low as possible. The meeting realised that payment of this compensation becomes an important aspect to secure the future occupations of the Board positions.

20. Membership of Liaison Committee:
Dr. Susan Jones is the representative for the U.S.A. in the Liaison Committee.
As France joined the WAHVM this year, Dr. J. Blancou will be the representative in the Liaison Committee.
With the election of Prof. Forstenpointner in the Board, Austria nominated Prof. Dr. Ch. Stanek as member of the Liaison Committee.
The meeting did not wish to elect additional WAHVM members to the Liaison Committee.

21. Contacts with the WVA Executive Committee:
Dr. S. Heath (U.S.A.) represents the WAHVM in the WVA Council.
The WAHVM Board will be in regular contact with Dr. Heath in connection with our participation in the World Veterinary Congress, Minneapolis 2005.

22. Possible link between WAHVM and the journal Historia Medicinae Veterinariae:
The President referred to a letter by Dr. Katic on this matter. Drs Katic and Theves will remain the scientific editors. The logistic and administrative work will be handed over to Mrs. Dr. Christa Mache (Austria). This move will also be important for the WAHVM as both the WAHVM Board and the administration/distribution of HMV will be centralized in the Veterinary University at Vienna. Our members may wish to subscribe to HMV and pay only half the price (€ 35,=) per year (six issues). HMV could be used to publish the abstracts for future Congresses. Presented papers will be selected for publication with the consent of the authors.

The meeting endorsed the proposal to continue the present cooperation with HMV for the next two years and to invite the Board to prepare a recommendation for future cooperation, to be discussed at the 2005 GA-meeting. In the mean time, the Board has the opportunity to publish its newsletters in the ‘yellow pages’ which are included in the issues of HMV and which will be distributed to all WAHVM members.

23. There was ample time for reports by the representatives of the National Societies. Dr. Blancou informed the meeting that his National Society organizes two meetings and publishes one bulletin per year. The next meeting will be held in Alfort on 23rd October 2003 to commemorate Nocard. The Society was successful in persuading the veterinary school at Alfort to provide regular courses on the history of veterinary medicine for the students.

24. In the absence of any other business, the President closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to the members present for their contributions and patience during the meeting; he was looking forward to meet everybody again next year in Torino, Italy.

These minutes were prepared by Dr. P. Leeflang

Date of ratification:

Dr. P.A. Koolmees, President

Dr. G.E. Weissengruber, Secretary.

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List of Attendance

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. P.A. Koolmees</td>
<td>President, The Netherlands</td>
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<td>Dr. P. Leeflang</td>
<td>acting Secretary/Treasurer, The Netherlands</td>
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<td>Dr. M.A. Marquez</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. M. Cordero del Campillo</td>
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<td>Dr. G.E. Weissengruber</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. G. Forstenpointner</td>
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<td>Drs. A.H.H.M. Mathijsen</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. M. Galloni</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. F. Dinçer</td>
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<td>Dr. Atilla Ozgur</td>
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<td>Dr. Turel Ozku</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. R.H. Dunlop</td>
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Present number of voting rights in the WAHVM: 56
Number of rights represented in this meeting: 30
Quorum: 14.