

WVA NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT: DR. PATRICIA TURNER



Looking to the future – Ongoing partnerships and collaborations

Dear Colleagues,

This is my final message to you as WVA President. I took on this position at the end of March 2020, just as the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic was being recognized around the world – a historic time and certainly not something that I had expected to contend with. For veterinarians and the communities that they live and work in, the past two years have been filled with challenges and unknowns, sickness and suffering, isolation and restrictions, and a reworking of how veterinary medicine is practised in communities to safeguard human and animal

health. This has also been a time of great opportunity for veterinary medicine – to find new ways to interact with clients, such as developing and extending the use of telemedicine; new ways to connect with each other as well as subject matter experts, through more frequent high quality virtual and hybrid educational webinars, workshops, and meetings; as well as rethinking aspects of how veterinary educational material can be successfully delivered electronically and integrated by veterinary students. While there is a deep desire to return to certain aspects of our former lives, many of these positive innovations and ways of working will be beneficial to retain moving forward, because of the efficiencies that they bring and the potential of reaching new audiences, but also to maintain momentum on collaborations surrounding major global issues such as climate change, antimicrobial resistance, and One Health.

These past two years have been a stark reminder of the intimate interconnections between people, animals, and the environment, and that governments around the world can no longer afford to ignore One Health issues. The WVA has forged new partnerships and strengthened others to ensure that the voice of veterinarians is heard and that veterinarians are recognized as frontline workers able to support food safety and security, public and community health, the human-animal bond, animal welfare, and so much more! These have been important developments and partnerships that must continue if we are to effect permanent change and reduce the likelihood of future pandemics and other disasters.

It has been a humbling experience to lead the WVA through this time. The current WVA Council members and working group expert volunteers have rallied together and have been incredibly creative and productive over the past two years. Using email and many, many online meetings, these individuals have maintained their focus, launched new projects, reviewed and distributed award and scholarship

applications to many deserving individuals, associations, and institutions, and developed new policies and position statements to provide guidance for member associations. The WVA's Secretariat, led by Dr. Zeev Noga, has provided essential support and continuity for all the various activities and discussions of the organization, safeguarding the resiliency of the WVA.

I am profoundly grateful for all the efforts, ideas, and support from Council, volunteers, association members, partners, sponsors, and the Secretariat to ensure that the WVA has been able to adapt, continue, and expand its activities during the pandemic. This has reinforced to me the importance of professional unity to effect global change, but also to recognize the limits of what veterinarians can do alone and the need to find and engage the right interdisciplinary partners to achieve mutually beneficial and synergistic outcomes.

I look forward to seeing many friends and meeting new colleagues at the upcoming [WVA Congress](#) in Abu Dhabi!

**Yours respectfully,
Dr Patricia Turner
World Veterinary Association, President**

The WVA needs your expertise and opinion in preparing a cohesive global message on our role as veterinarians for the global public good. As Constituent & Observer Members of the WVA, we welcome your input in our discussions! Don't be left out of the process!

PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFO-NEWS TO YOUR MEMBERS

If interested in learning more, please contact:

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