

# XVI World Buiatrics Congress

August 13–17, 1990  
Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

*“Herd and environmentally induced management problems must become his major fields of additional activity, nutrition his specialty, herd infertility his expertise”*

Dr. E. Mayer

The XVI World Buiatrics Congress was held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, South America on August 13-17, 1990 in conjunction with the VI Latin American Buiatrics Congress. Dr. Rene Dubois was the Director of the Congress. Over 900 participants, including 800 veterinarians from 50 countries attended. Salvador, an enchanted city on the tropical coast, is the capitol of the state of Bahia which was the first capitol of Brazil, discovered by Portuguese sailors in 1500.

**The Congress was officially opened on Monday morning, August 13, by Dr. Nilo Coelho, Governor of the State of Bahia who was also President of Honor of the Congress. Dr. Juna Figueroa, President, brought greetings from the World Veterinary Congress which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August 1991.**



*Dr. Nilo Coelho, Governor of the State of Bahia, declaring the Congress open, supported by Dr. Harold Amsutz, Past President WAB, left, Dr. Sebastian Torres-Sindan, Vice President, National Syndicate of Animal Health, and Dr. Rene Dubois, President of the Congress*

Over 200 papers on buiatrics (cattle diseases) were submitted for the Congress, with 180 presented and 66 posters in 8 major topics: reproduction, parasitic diseases, field surgery, Zebu and buffalo presentation, management for meat, dairy and fiber production, and several miscellaneous topics. Simultaneous translations were provided in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

The Congress inaugural keynote address was delivered at the opening scientific session on Tuesday, August 14 by Dr. Eli Mayer, The Institute for Veterinary Clinical and Epidemiological Research, Haifa, Israel and Vice President World Association for Buiatrics (WAB) entitled “The role of the veterinary profession and its adaptation to the challenges of ameliorating bovine productivity in the Southern Hemisphere on the dawn of the third millennium.” His remarks were focused on areas situated south of Latitude 30° North where geophysically the countries have little in common, ranging from deserts, limitrophe arid areas, temperate, sub-tropical to tropical zones, which have totally different veterinary and management problems. Africa with 14% of the world’s cattle population produces only 7% of world meat; Asia with 29% produces 6% and South America, with 20%, only produces 14% of world meat. The conditions are even worse in milk production, with Africa, milking 11% of the world’s dairy cows, producing only 3%, Asia with 23% only 9%, and South America with 11% only producing 6% of the world’s milk.

Dr. Mayer revealed that over 800 million people consume daily food rations which are inferior to the critical minimal limit. He emphasized, “there is a lot we, as a profession and as specialists, could do in the field to increase



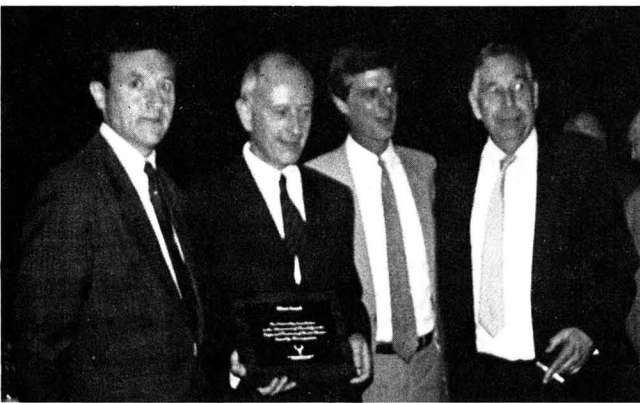
*Dr. Breukink, Utrecht, Holland presenting the Gustavo Rosenberger Award to Dr. Jose Carlos de Souza Filho*

*This extensive report on the XVI WAB Congress is included in this publication in order to acquaint AABP members with the World Association for Buiatrics in preparation for the next Congress which will be held in Minneapolis, MN on August 31-September 4, 1992 in conjunction with the 25th Annual Meeting of the AABP.*

animal productivity in general and bovine productivity per animal in particular.” But let us be realistic. Changing the low genetic potential of the bovine population in the developing countries, increasing agricultural production through intensification and irrigation and increasing the production of existing arable land by 73% (as determined by FAO) demand both time and financing on a huge scale that only governments could do, over a period of 10-15 years. However, he warned that governments are elected and will not embark on such long term projects which obviously, under present politics, would not fit into the pattern of short term quick results geared towards their reelection.

**However, the situation is not hopeless but called for strong courageous leaders and opposition leaders “to sit down and decide together on what no party can politically afford to do alone during its term in office; the development programme which will demand over ten years for tangible results to be achieved, as a national priority totally outside the sphere of political debate, being both planned and realized by a common decision and under a shared responsibility. This should be the blueprint for all developing countries—do not let the Dorado of ancient lore become another Atlantis, another ‘lost continent’.”**

Dr. Mayer maintained that infectious diseases are by far the major threat in the developing countries and cause the largest losses in productivity. He was hopeful that genetically produced cheaper and safer vaccines would play a major role in disease control. Many of these countries have a dangerously insufficient number of veterinarians with too many of them being white collar office dwellers, mainly in Africa. He strongly recommended the reading of the Pritchard Committee Report on “Future Directions for Veterinary Medicine.” He called for a drastic change in the curriculum of veterinary schools to meet modern demands.



*The Pfizer Award was accepted on behalf of the recipient by Prof. Dr. J. Espinasse, WAB President, supported by Dr. Pierre Lekeux, Secretary WAB; Mr. R. A Behrenhausen, Vice President, Marketing & Product Development, Pfizer Animal Health, and Dr. Eli Mayer, Vice President WAB*

In conclusion he stated, “let us not forget for one minute that the *conditio sine qua non* for this target of ameliorated bovine productivity is HEALTH. Eradication, vaccination, quarantines, etc., are the domain of veterinary services, but the clinician is the reliable early warning system, and as far as the various parasitoses and their control are concerned, they are in his hands and they alone cause a loss of 10-20% of bovine productivity.”

Dr. Bennie I. Osburn, Associate Dean for Research, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California gave the keynote address on “Biotechnology and Its Future in Bovine Medicine.” He recalled that the most significant technological advances that resulted in improvement in disease control in the last century include vaccinations and antibiotics. However, diseases and the related animal production continue to cause an estimated \$15 to \$16 billion a year loss in the United States alone. New methods are needed to significantly improve upon these disease losses. Dr. Osburn discussed the application of recent advances in the area of molecular biology, immunochemistry and genetics to disease control, vaccinations and the immunomodulators that may improve animal health. He cited the relatively new procedure known as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which offers great promise for expediting the time required for diagnosis. A single virus can be identified in a sample of blood using this method.

The new approaches used in biotechnology have produced some innovative vaccines and it is now possible to develop subunit vaccines. In some instances, it is possible to detect genes in either viruses or bacteria that remove the virulent properties of these particular microorganisms.

**Dr. Osburn concluded, “rapid advancing technological procedures directed at subunit proteins and genetic material are increasing the specificity of diagnostic procedures. The use of novel marker systems which can be amplified through bridging molecules has increased the sensitivity of these systems. Many of these procedures are resulting in animal-side tests. This is greatly increasing**



*Dr. Harold Amstutz discussing the 1992 Congress with Dr. Pierre Lekeux & AABP President Thomas Fuhrmann*

the use of tests making it possible for veterinarians to make diagnosis in the field. New, improved vaccines produced through rDNA, gene deletion or synthetic peptide technologies are providing new approaches for safe, effective vaccines."

The practitioner's viewpoint was presented by Dr. Keith Sterner, Ionia, Michigan and immediate past president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. In his keynote address on "The Future of Bovine Practice" he declared that, from his vantage point, he could see specific challenges that must be dealt with and a limitless number of opportunities that ensure a bright future. He felt that "our charge must be to help educate the consuming public with regard to the real threat to food safety, namely microbiological contamination...it is our professional obligation to work to assure the ultimate wholesomeness of foods of animal origin for consumers."

Dr. Sterner maintained that our affluent societies demand that the days of painful procedures performed without anesthesia or analgesia draw to a close. Animal welfare is an integral component of improved productivity and consumer confidence. He believed that one of the universal roadblocks to effecting change remains in our communications skills, adding "in food animal veterinary medicine, we have been reluctant to recognize that perhaps our greatest challenge is to effect change on the parts of managers and workers on any given livestock operation." He concluded, "Finally, with a certainty, the practice of veterinary medicine in the ensuing decades will be vastly different due to developments in food safety, biotechnology, animal welfare and changing demographics. It is certain that our future is bright and filled with opportunity for those willing to meet the challenges."

A highlight of the Congress was the presentation of the 1990 Gustav Rosenberger memorial Award to Dr. Jose Carlos de Souza Filho, a recent graduate of the School of Veterinary Medicine, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil. The 24 year old veterinarian has dedicated his academic



Dr. Keith Sterner presenting his keynote address on the future of veterinary practice

life to cattle practice especially in the areas of reproduction and production. Dr. Jose Souza is currently working in a beef cattle herd on a genetic improvement program with pure bred Zebu cows and crossbreeding with European breeds. He participated in research in various areas of cattle diseases during his student years. His career objectives are to learn how veterinarians deal with cattle production and reproduction in other regions of the world and try to apply the technologies to Brazilian conditions.

The \$5000 Award, presented every two years, was established in memory of Prof. Dr. Gustav Rosenberger, Hannover, West Germany in 1988. He was the Secretary-Treasurer of the World Association for Buiatrics (WAB) for many years and a highly respected clinician and author.

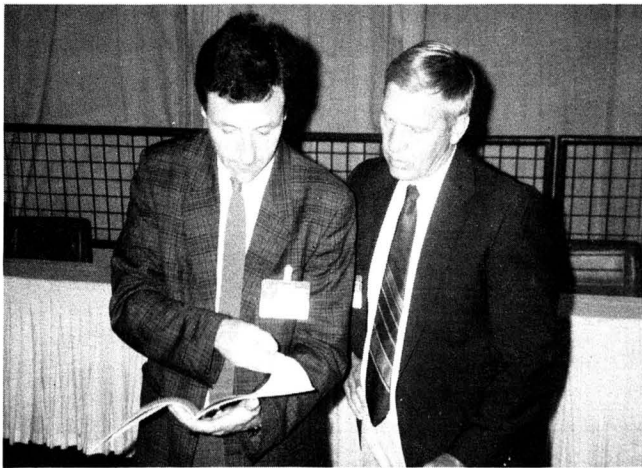
Dr. W. I. Morrison, Senior Scientist of the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases in Nairobi, Kenya was named the first recipient of the newly established Pfizer Research Award at the opening ceremony. The \$10,000 award and plaque are presented biennially for outstanding contribution during the past five years in the area of bovine diseases caused by microorganisms and who is proposed by a Board Member, Delegate or Correspondent of WAB.

Dr. Morrison and his colleagues have carried out research on *Theileria parva* which showed that cytotoxic T-cell responses play an important role in immunity to the parasite.

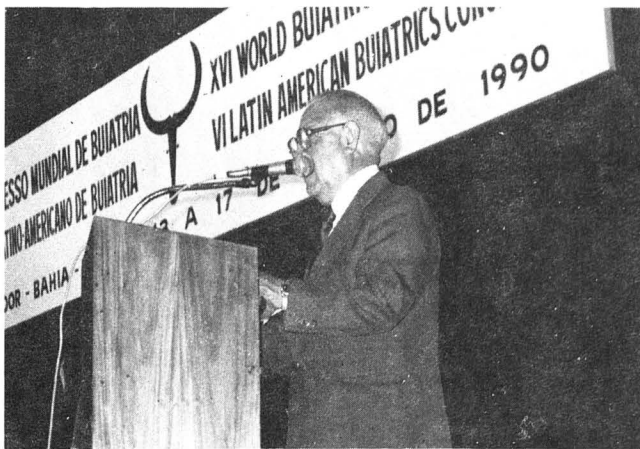
Prof. Dr. J. Espinasse, Toulouse, France, President of the World Association for Buiatrics (WAB), presided over the Annual General Meeting on Friday, August 17. The Hungarian Buiatrics Association with 300 members, was accepted into membership in WAB. The number of Directors was increased to a maximum of 15 members. Dr. Harold Amstutz, Executive Vice President of the AABP represents the United States on the Board of Directors and is the immediate Past President of the WAB.

The 1992 Congress will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota in conjunction with the 25th anniversary meeting of the AABP on August 31-September 4.

The 1994 Congress will be held in Bologna, Italy and the 1996 meeting in the United Kingdom.



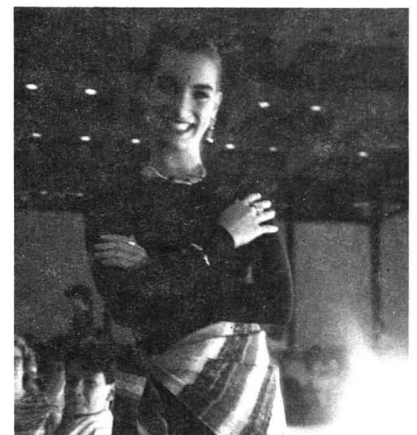
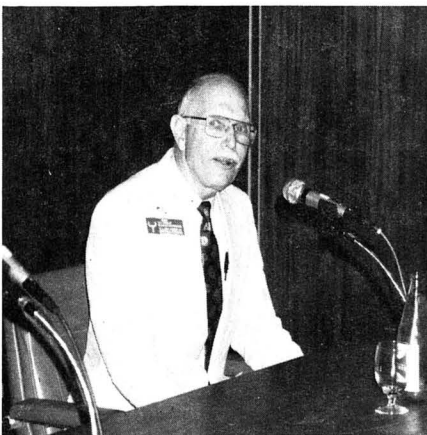
Dr. Osburn discussing his keynote paper with Dr. P. Lekeux



*Dr. Juan Figueroa, President, brought greetings from the World Veterinary Congress.*



*Preparing for the next Congress in Minneapolis: Dr. Harold Amstutz, Dr. P. Lekeux, Dr. Robert Dunlop, Dr. Keith Sterner and President Thomas Fuhrmann*



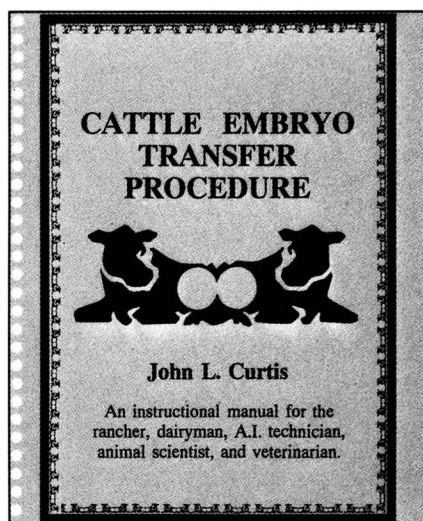
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